



Newsletter

MARCH 2018

PTI strengthens the church in many of the poorest places in the world, by teaching pastors to expound the Bible more effectively. Our fundamental purpose is therefore to *Teach to Preach*.

WELCOME to the March edition of the **P** newsletter. The two articles give much cause for optimism, under God's sovereign hand. It was great to return to Burkina Faso after a lengthy break and it is also humbling to see the progress that has been made by both the Barefoot Doctors in Myanmar and the Karen pastors in Thailand. Please keep praying for them and for PTI as we seek to strengthen these important ministries.

- Existing countries
- Potential new countries
- Conflict is preventing training

Save the Date! 12th May 2018
PTI & CBW Supporters Day
More details to follow!

Burkina Faso, January 2018



Following a break of four years, PTI ran a conference in Bouroum Bouroum, in south west Burkina Faso. Senior trainer Peter Maclure was joined by Ian Flanders, who produces Bible teaching radio programmes - in French - that are broadcast throughout much of francophone Africa. About 170 participants attended each day.

Pastoral matters discussed included the sensitive subject of violence and abuse within some Christian families. Local church leaders who understand the cultural context dealt with the situation using biblical principles.

This conference followed the first-year of the new five year PTI curriculum. Modules included a Bible Survey; What is a Christian?; Reading the Bible and preaching workshops. Good translators were available but the process inevitably reduced how much we could say.

All the teaching sessions went well; there was great attentiveness, and good participation, especially in the question and answer sessions. Teaching notes were provided in advance, most in participants' preferred language, an example of the conference's good overall organisation.

We were also privileged to witness the dedication of the New Testament in the Dagara language, which is spoken by



a people group of some 300,000. The translation work began about twenty years ago and there was huge excitement as the first 4,000 copies were handed out. We all praised God that the New Testament is now available in the heart language of the people.

In the capital, Ouagadougou, we attended a service at a church which ministers to students and civil servants. After an excellent message challenging us all to die to self and to live for Christ, we thanked God for raising up mature local leaders who can preach so effectively. We returned grateful for the vision of PTI and for the prayerful and generous support that made this visit possible.

by Peter Maclure and Ian Flanders, PTI Trainers

For more information about us, our vision under God, and our plans to considerably expand the current work, please visit our website www.pastor-training.org follow us on Facebook

If you would like to give to support us, either through prayer, financial giving or volunteering your time, please contact **Simon Percy** on 0208 504 0709.



Myanmar and Thailand, January 2018

Barefoot Doctors - Kalnin Centre, Chiang Mai, Myanmar

The Barefoot Doctors is a three year medical training scheme for Myanmar church workers. They learn medical skills in Chiang Mai, that they put into practice in rural Myanmar and which also lets them share the gospel in mainly Buddhist areas. This year PTI provided a week of Bible training, as it has done several times before.

Simon Percy and new trainer David Barr covered an Overview of the Bible in four parts, practical sessions on how to read the Bible and correctly interpret the Word of God, and a module entitled What is a Christian? The classes were lively, and participants threw themselves into the teaching, participating well in the practical sessions.

The small class of twenty enabled us to get to know each Doctor personally. Many had come from very rural areas of Myanmar and for some it was the first time they had travelled to a large city. They are very keen and they want to return to Myanmar better able to serve the church and spread the gospel. Many were learning entirely new skills, indicating how weak training can be in Myanmar. They recognise this so requested two weeks of Bible teaching next year.

Karen Pastors in Teemuly village, Western Thailand

The conference was run by Simon Percy and Johnny McClean, a UFM missionary from Bangkok who is fluent in Thai. This made a big difference as few participants spoke English.

This was the second year at Teemuly. We saw the progress they had made when one pastor asked if we should understand Matthew 5:29-30 (gouging out the eye or cutting off the right hand if they sin) literally - or figuratively? And how should we decide?

Subjects covered included Reading the Bible 1; a Bible Overview, including how the nation of Israel and the Temple point to the work of Jesus; and The Role of a Pastor. Those who read Thai were given God's Big Story and commentaries on Deuteronomy and Job.

After the conference the pastors requested the training be continued within their denominational group, so it becomes part of their annual training programme.

■ by Simon Percy, PTI Trainer

Prayer points

Everything by prayer... with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6)

MARCH 2018

Thank God that:

- PTI has recommenced training in Francophone Burkina Faso
- The conference went well and that those who attended were so appreciative
- PTI has again partnered a Barefoot Doctors programme in Thailand
- The Doctors have requested an additional week of Bible training next year
- Johnny McClean was able to join Simon with the Karen in Teemuly village
- His ability to speak Thai enabled the training to go exceptionally well
- The Karen now want to make this an official part of their denominations programme

Please pray for:

- The Ministry Board this month as they interview new trainers, reflect on recent training and consider how the work might best be developed
- Gerald Tanner and Simeon Woodcraft as they work with the Emmanuels to deliver training in Uganda this month
- Alastair Stevens and Jonny Dowds as they prepare to return to North East Zambia with Peter and Lemmy
- Merv and John as they prepare four training sessions around India
- The books that have been sent to those conferences to arrive on time
- The Lord to guide PTI as it develops the training, that it may be as effective as possible

Proposed conferences for 2018, God willing

March 1-4	Uganda, Bombo	Gerald Tanner, Emmanuel Magambo
March 5-8	Uganda, Migadde	Gerald Tanner, Emmanuel Magambo
March 5-9	Uganda, Karamoja	Simeon Woodcraft, Emmanuel Okwanlinga
March 12-16	Uganda, Busoga	Gerald Tanner, Emmanuel Magambo
March 13-16	Uganda, Mbarara	Simeon Woodcraft, Emmanuel Okwanlinga
April	India, Darjeeling	Merv N, John O
April	India, Mirik	Merv N, John O
April	India, Siliguri	Merv N, John O
April	India, Kalimpong	Merv N, John O
April 1-4	Zambia, Mpika	Alastair Steven, Jonny Dowds
April 24-27	Zambia, Nakonde	Alastair Steven, Jonny Dowds
May	Nepal, Dharan	Merv N, John W
May	Nepal, Kathmandu	Merv N, John W
May	Nepal, Pokhara	Merv N, John W
May	Nepal, Surkhet	Merv N, John W

