

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 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 September edition of the **P** newsletter!

PTI has been active in Nepal for some years now and progress is being made there, slowly but surely, under God's guiding hand. After five years as Director of Ministry, Simon Percy reflects on the state of the church in the developing world and asks us to pray about the major strategic decisions that PTI needs to make about its future.

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

Nepal, 28 May-8 June 2018



Kathmandu

The Kathmandu conference was hosted by Pastor Puran and Kathmandu Capital Church and attended by local pastors, church planters and elders, as well as others from the far west of Nepal. The teaching on the Trinity was especially well received and many pastors said how blessed they had been, with many wrong ideas corrected.

Dharan

Dharan is a very hot area on the Ganges plains adjoining India. Over 120 attended, which made the group workshops a little unwieldy, but God graciously helped us. The younger pastors, especially, enjoyed and really engaged in the preaching workshop sessions on Philippians. Again, the teaching on the Trinity was very much appreciated and other sessions involved preaching through Acts and looking at how God uses persecution to build His church. Many found this challenging, especially in the light of the anti-conversion law recently passed in Nepal.

One evening we got chatting to a young ex-Gurkha soldier, a believer who had planted a church while stationed in


Folkestone. He asked if we could do some mock interviews, as Gurkha 'officers', for the potential recruits at his Gurkha training school. He also wanted us to share the Gospel with them as few are believers. So 'Brigadier' John and 'Major' Mervyn spent a few hours talking to more than 30 nervous young Nepali men, doing mock interviews and trying to weave the Gospel in as well. Who knows what fruit will echo into eternity through that meeting?

Pokhara

We then travelled to Pokhara. Some pastors had walked for three days to their nearest road and then spent 48 hours on several buses to get to the conference. After four days with us at the conference they then had another five day journey home! We were humbled by their desire to learn from the Word of God so that they could then teach others.

We trust that good foundations for Biblical expository preaching have been laid through these conferences and will be used to edify God's people throughout the Himalayas.

by Merv and John, 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.



Looking back and looking forward



I became the Director of Ministry at PTI five years ago now, and it has been a great privilege to serve in the role. During that time I have had the opportunity to visit churches and pastors on four continents and to see at first hand how the Lord has been building his church in the majority world, where now more than 80% of Evangelical Christians in the world are to be found.

In most places I found Christians who are fervent in prayer and are passionate to plant churches where churches do not currently exist. They are also brothers who live by Carey's maxim 'Expect great things of God, attempt great things for Him.' It is humbling to meet so many like this and a tribute to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

However, wherever I have visited I have noticed the same concerns - how few of these pastors have a clear Biblical understanding of what God has called them to do and be, and how few know how to correctly interpret the Scriptures. This has confirmed that the training PTI offers is vital if the churches



in these countries are to become mature in Christ, and able to discern truth from error.

Over the past five years I am very grateful for the many churches who are now regularly sending their pastors to provide this vital training through PTI. I am also very thankful for the hard work Dr Keith Ferdinando has done to produce the curriculum and for guidance on how best to carry out this training. But much remains to be done and it is important we stay focused as a mission. That is why in September the Trustees and the Ministry Board will meet prayerfully to work on a strategy for the next five years. Please pray for the Lord to guide our deliberations so that more of this essential work may be done and that the desired outcomes result.

■ by Simon Percy, Director of Ministry, PTI

Prayer points

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

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Thank God for:

- All that PTI has been able to achieve over the past five years
- The additional people now involved with the work
- The opportunities Chris and Simon had to share with those attending the EMW conference in Aberystwyth
- The pastors and their churches keen to get involved with PTI's training

Please pray for:

- The Trustees and Ministry Board as they meet and prayerfully set the strategy for the next five years
- Ken McIntosh and James Sercombe as they prepare to go to Ethiopia in October
- The Lord to provide someone who can give us a regular presence on social media
- The Lord to provide someone who can write and implement the various policies the Charity Commission now requires

Proposed conferences for 2018, God willing

October 15-19

Ethiopia, Jima

Ken McIntosh, James Sercombe

October 22-26

Ethiopia, Addis

Ken McIntosh, James Sercombe

October 31- **November** 2

Myanmar, Mandalay

Maciek Stolarski, Andre Beck

November 5-7

Myanmar, Yangon

Maciek Stolarski, Andre Beck

November

India, Andaman

Merv Neale, Rob Owens

November

India, Jaipur

Merv Neale, Rob Owens



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