



# PASTOR TRAINING INTERNATIONAL

*Teach to Preach*

## Ethiopia

16th October –

2nd November 2019.

Trainers: Ken McIntosh  
and James Sercombe.



This was PTI's thirteenth trip to Ethiopia. The population is considerably larger than most African countries – currently about 107 million, and it's reckoned that about 20% of that number are evangelical Christians. New churches are constantly being planted and so the number of Pastors needed is increasing all the time. However, the vast majority of Pastors, current and new, have little or no theological training. This is why PTI visits the country.

James and I were met in Addis Ababa by our friend Mulugeta Ashagre. He is the General Secretary of the Ethiopian Christian Brethren church (ECBC) and has been our host each year. The first PTI conference was in Jima, some 250 miles SW of Addis. As the road is not good, we flew there with Ethiopian airlines. This was the fourth time we met with the 50 Pastors and full time Christian workers coming from 11 evangelical denominations. They had come from all directions, as far away as 160 Km. This year the main theme was how to preach from Old

Testament narrative. Together and in groups we worked through the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50 as our example. James and I were encouraged as always by their keenness to listen. They heard our sample sermon outlines each day and then tried some of their own. One of the students said at the end how much they had all been helped by this approach to preaching the Scriptures. The same student said how he had been preaching for 15 years before PTI came, but after the four conferences his preaching was now quite different. These brothers and sisters have become really dear to us after four years. Again, we knew the help and presence of God as people prayed.





The visit to Jima also involved preaching at a local church on Sunday as well as visiting different people in the evenings. James and I continue to be humbled by the hospitality, generosity and warmth of these people who have little in terms of worldly goods, but who are rich spiritually.

The second week's conference was held at the ECBC headquarters in Addis. 79 students from 16 different evangelical denominations came to these 5 days. The facilities were stretched as most of them slept on site. Some had come as far as 300 Km, but the average distance travelled was about 150 Km. We repeated the teaching material of the first week. In addition to preaching the story of Joseph we looked at various Old Testament themes – the Temple, Law, Priesthood, People of God, Sacrifices, Land, Kingdom of David, and saw how they were all fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. The final session each day was more devotional and considered our walk with God - keeping our hearts guarded, time spent in prayer, Bible reading and fellowship. One Pastor said at the end how all the studies had helped them understand the Old Testament better. Once and again we knew the help of the Holy Spirit as we opened the Scriptures. Thank you for praying.

It's an exciting time to be an Ethiopian Christian. The Lord continues to bless and grow his church. But that growth is not unchallenged. Ethnic and religious tensions continue to rise in the country. Please pray that the Lord will restrain such evils and that his church will demonstrate the unity and love which Christ brings to his people. Pray for those in government, especially the Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed, and pray that the Lord will continue to build his Church.

Ken McIntosh

