



Teach to Preach

Latest News

Pastor Training International

April 2022



Welcome to the latest PTI newsletter where we bring you news from PTI's ministry around the world and matters for praise and prayer. Thank you for your support. Thanks to your prayers we have had an encouraging start to 2022, and with the lifting of Covid restrictions we hope to travel and hold more conferences in-person very soon.

15th – 18th February

Busega Conference

Although the conference started with a few technical difficulties, it went well and there were many encouragements. The training was mainly led by two Ugandan men: Emmanuel Magambo and Bosco Bukeera; PTI's head of Africa, Gerald Tanner, tuned in via Zoom. Gerald reported, "The group were committed, enthusiastic and serious about learning how to rightly handle God's Word." There was a good question and answer session. This covered a variety of issues including how to conduct family devotions, how to interpret certain passages that are tricky to understand, church membership, and how to apply the principles effectively and sensitively.

The group were very keen for PTI to hold another conference with them before the end of the year. In the meantime, they committed to hold regular local pastors' groups. Here, they will support each other with helping one another with preparation of sermons and reviewing recent sermon recordings.

Three staff members of Living Word Uganda (a student and graduate ministry) attended on the Thursday morning. They were incredibly positive about what they saw and heard and would like to explore an informal partnership with PTI in the training of pastors, which we welcome.



7th – 9th January

Entebbe Conference

In November last year, Lt Col Paul Koyoa ran a conference for military personnel in the Ugandan army and air force, to equip them to run Bible studies and evangelise within the military where they will act as unofficial chaplains. One of the key goals to come out of the November training was to run more training conferences, so we kickstarted the year with a conference

in Entebbe with 26 attendees including local pastors, military personnel and a local evangelist. There were many encouragements from the conference; the attendees were enthusiastic about the training and resources they received, Lt Col Paul Koyoa successfully led his first training sessions, and there were engaging question and answer times focusing on Biblical exposition and ethical challenges.

The future focus for PTI

Covid has provided PTI with the opportunity to step back and to evaluate the training we have been doing, and to see where it has already had a lasting impact and is leading to a more faithful preaching of God's Word.

Encouraging feedback

Over the past year PTI has held advisory meetings with brothers and sisters from Africa, South Asia, and South East Asia, to discuss how we may do the training better.

The encouraging feedback from each of these meetings was that PTI's training is needed, and is good because

it is focused on the skill of how to faithfully preach God's Word. They also appreciated that the training involved practical workshops requiring all those partaking to prepare sermon outlines and then to be given constructive feedback. However, they pointed out that one week's training per year was not long enough to embed this approach to preaching God's Word into many of the pastors. Another piece of advice they shared was that it would be better to use suitable local trainers to provide the training to rural pastors as they know the culture, language and educational abilities of those being trained. So, it was suggested that PTI should focus on training those who

could then go on to train pastors in rural communities.

Workshops led by suitable locals are better

Also, during the Covid pandemic when UK trainers have not been able to travel, we noticed that we have been able to continue the training in some locations by either using local trainers or a mixture of local trainers along with a UK trainer contributing via Zoom. We also noticed that the workshops went better when being led by local people who could speak their language.

Conclusion

So, from both our experience and from the advice we were given, PTI could see the benefit of using local people to do the training, and hence PTI will now be redoubling its focus on seeking to train local men who in turn can train others.

Pilots

To begin with, PTI is seeking to do several pilots over the next two years in three locations, Uganda in Africa, India in South Asia and with pastors from Myanmar in South East Asia. We trust that these pilots go well, and we learn good lessons from them which we can then apply to other locations.

Please pray with us as we begin this training and look out for specific reports about the training of trainers, and of conferences being conducted largely by nationals. We trust that over time this will lead to more pastors being trained. Please pray for the establishment of preacher's clubs in all the locations we work in and the ability of this training to continue.

An exciting time ahead

Of course, with more than 2 million pastors needing this training there is much that needs to be done. To begin with, the training will be done largely by UK trainers working alongside a national, until some have learnt to preach in an expository way and are equipped to train others. We trust this will be an exciting new phase for PTI.

Our Ministry Support and Communications Officer has left PTI. Anna Grace has done wonderful work since July last year and actively putting in place several policies related to Safeguarding and GDPR, and has given PTI a regular presence on various social media platforms. Please pray for her as she takes up her new role and pray that we might soon be able to put arrangements in place to cover what she has been doing. We wish Anna Grace well in her new work and thank her for all she has done whilst with us at PTI. She will be missed.



DEPUTATION

Over the past few months Simon Percy has conducted deputation meetings either in person or over Zoom. If you would like to invite him then please get in touch. Call 0208 980 6125 or email admin@pastor-training.org

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube to get PTI updates as they happen. Also please visit our website www.pastor-training.org



Prayer Points

Thank God for:

- The training that has taken place over the past two years despite the pandemic. Some has been over Zoom, some has been done by local people in-country and a UK trainer over Zoom, others have been carried out entirely by local people.
- The opportunity PTI has had to hold advisory meetings with contacts in Africa, South Asia and South East Asia. We thank God for the wise advice they have given PTI.
- The clear, structured and helpful way Bill James (Principal of London Seminary and also a Trustee of PTI) chaired these advisory panel meetings.
- The easing of the pandemic, which gives us opportunities to travel again and conduct training in-country.

Please pray for:

- The training being planned in twenty locations this year. Some will involve travel to those locations, others will require Zoom connections and people on the ground.
- Our trainer who is seeking to get a visa for India in order to continue the work there.
- The arrangements for additional local men to partner with us as trainers in Uganda, India and Myanmar. To enable the training to expand in those locations and wisdom as they train up others.
- Development of the training to make full use of learning by virtual means.
- Please pray for adequate finances over the coming weeks to fund the planned conferences.