



PRELIMINARY THEOLOGICAL CERTIFICATE (PTC)



2013- Annual Report

Introduction

In 2013 we were excited and encouraged to see the ICBS/PTC course commence in Harare Zimbabwe. Whilst Zimbabwean pastors previously attended the PTC courses held in Malawi, AE Zimbabwe had never hosted a program. This was a great blessing to Team Leader, Guide Makore, his team, the pastors who attended and the lecturers from Sydney.

Courses were also planned for Malawi, South Africa and Kenya. Regrettably, due to restructuring in AE South Africa (AESA), the planned training was cancelled. AESA has stated its very strong intent and desire to resume theological training in the future.

In summary, 10 courses were conducted and 220 students were trained. This report incorporates summarized feedback from the respective ministers who taught, mentored and coached the pastors in the various countries.

It gives me such pleasure to announce that in 2014, the inaugural PTC course will be launched in Kigali, Rwanda, thanks to a 6 year commitment from a retired Sydney Minister!

We are always immensely appreciative of the generosity of many partners in Christ who make this strategic teaching a reality: the ministers who give so generously of their time to travel to Africa to teach, our brothers and sisters in Africa who coordinate the courses and recruit the delegates, Moore College who provide the rich material, our AE Team in Sydney (incl. "AE Ambassador" Stephen Liggins) who provide the logistical and administrative support and you our special supporters who believe in this important work. YOU CAN and have helped transform pastors in Africa, through your joyful giving!

Please continue to partner with us in 2014, through your prayers and financial support, ensuring together...WE CAN deliver this training, under Gods wonderful provision.

Be encouraged by the following quotes of students and a lecturer. Their words speak loudly and boldly of the need and significant value of strong and clear theological teaching:

Pastor Bernadette Sonkho: *'Since my enrolment with the ICBS program my approach to the teaching and preaching of the word of God has changed. My church members and the people I minister to receive a Jesus Christ centred message.'*

Rev. Shadreck Chinyama: *'I am bold enough to share the treasures of God's truth at any level of society without fear.'*

Dan Anderson (2010 Moore College BD graduate), AFES Staff Worker: *'I went to Malawi convicted that we have a great treasure of theological education in Australia. I frequently heard of the hunger for sound biblical teaching throughout Africa. Based on the biblical principle that there should be equality among the household of believers (2 Cor. 8:13-14), I'm convicted of the responsibility Australian Christians have to share this wealth. What I wasn't prepared for, was to witness the mighty work the Holy Spirit among African*

Christians. Many students I taught far outshone us in hunger for God's word, spiritual maturity and discipline, and joy in prayer. I was deeply blessed during my fellowship with the students. It's my prayer that as we continue to share our theological heritage, they will encourage us to fan into flame the passion for evangelism and godliness that too often appears on the verge of flickering out in our superficially affluent country.'

I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas as we all celebrate the gift of Jesus!

In Christ



Peter Cheel
Executive Director ANZ
African Enterprise
www.africanenterprise.com



Notes from the field

Zimbabwe

Pete Stedman

“ AE Zimbabwe hosted two lecturers and two helpers from Australia.

Two PTC subjects were taught in Zimbabwe for the very first time. Mark Bonicci from Christ Church, Penrith, lectured BT1. Mark was assisted by Zimbabwean-born (and Australia-living) David Shekede; Pete Stedman from Norwest Anglican lectured BT2, assisted by Adrian Ahern (lay-member from St Andrew's, Roseville).

The trip took place 10 days after the general elections in Zimbabwe in which Robert Mugabe was returned to power. This raised some questions about the safety of the trip, however, both the elections, as well as the political climate of the country throughout the trip was calm. Owing to the element of risk, lectures took place at a Baptist conference centre (UBC) just outside of Harare, which was located between a police station and an army barrack. The airport was only 10 minutes away, in case a quick departure was required!

The lecturing facilities were of a good standard. Similar to Malawi; there were blackboards (and whiteboards!) available. Similar to Malawi, there were regular power cuts – known as 'load shedding' to locals. The food and accommodation (for students) was of a good standard. AE Zimbabwe and Team Leader Guide Makore, in particular did an excellent job.

BT1 was offered to a new cohort of students in the PTC programme. BT2 was offered to serve and equip pastors who had previously been travelling to and completing subjects in Malawi and South Africa. Disappointingly, there were only three students who signed up for BT2 – out of a possible pool of 10 Zimbabwean students. Whilst there were other students at this course who had completed subjects in Malawi and South Africa, they had not completed BT1 (a pre-requisite for BT2) and so needed to complete BT1 first (which they did with Mark

and David). The numbers for BT 1 were very encouraging; 40 students were introduced to PTC for the first time – It looks like there will be great interest in further subjects, as well as opportunities for more new Zimbabwean students in the future. Compared to Malawi, the overall academic ability of the students (and their educational backgrounds) is of a higher standard. A number had studied theology in various capacities before. Positively, this meant difficult concepts were grasped more easily; negatively, there was more push back in areas of contention.

Whilst in Zimbabwe, some serious thought was given to future pathways for students who excel at PTC and who would like further and deeper theological training. Anyone who has lectured in Africa will be aware of the challenges associated with further study for appropriately gifted students. Recently one of the top students in Malawi gained a full scholarship to George Whitfield College (GWC). Whilst this was a great blessing to Isaac, his church (and the PTC lecturers in the future who may well be able to partner with Isaac in the running of courses) the cost to Isaac leaving his family, church and community for three years is not insignificant.

That being the case, a more local solution was investigated. Mark, David, Tendai (a local graduate of GWC) and I held a meeting with John Bell. John is the Senior Minister of Central Baptist Church, Harare and the chairman of the Board of Harare Theological College (HTC), a reformed evangelical theological college. It was great to form a connection with him, as well as inform him of the PTC training in Zimbabwe. He was delighted to meet us, and is interested in considering any future opportunities for our top students to find their way into HTC programmes (degree or diploma).

One other great blessing on this trip was to have Tendai Chihaka join us. He is a Zimbabwean who lives and works for Trinity Morningside Church in Durban). Tendai – a graduate of GWC in Cape Town sat in on the lectures and was able to communicate difficult concepts in the local language. For anyone teaching here in the future – it would be wise to contact Tendai to ascertain his availability to travel up to Zim to assist. To have both David Shekede and Tendai assist and translate difficult concepts into Shona was a great blessing.

Lecturers in future might want to consider leading the devotions for the students (or at least, modelling a few sermons in devotions). In Zimbabwe the devotions ended up being somewhat divisive, as pastors taught and preached and spoke in tongues in ways that made other pastors stop attending the devotions. This was unfortunate and also somewhat contradicted the very things the lecturers had been teaching.

Finally, it is worth noting that Zimbabwe is a very expensive country (at least compared to Malawi and South Africa). It may well be prudent to assume another A\$1500 in costs compared to a normal PTC trip.

Late Breaking News

On the Tuesday of the second week, we heard from Peter Cheel at AE Australia that Jason Ramsey's trip to South Africa had fallen over. After a few rushed meetings and skype's back home, it was decided that Jason would fly to Zimbabwe to extend the teaching. We spoke to the pastors, and 40 said they'd stay the following week for NT1, whilst 20 said they'd stay the week after for OT1! So after an original trip where we planned to commence PTC with Intro over 2 weeks, we now have approximately 20 students half way through PTC, with another 20 having completed two subjects! The option of teaching for a month at a time (with lecturers doing two week blocks each) has proven a success and deserves further future consideration."



Soccer skills put to the test!

Jason Ramsay

“I was able to lecture approximately 35 students for two weeks in Harare, Zimbabwe. Some aspects of the program were conducted ‘on the run’ owing to the late change in my schedule. Initially, I was booked to lecture in East London, South Africa. However, when that trip fell through, I was able to change my tickets to Harare, where Mark Bonicci had been lecturing a group of new students in Introduction to the Bible. Many of them were able to stay on for another two weeks and complete two additional subjects; New Testament 1 and Old Testament 1. It was excellent to have the assistance of David Shekede in the first week and Antony Dandato in the second week.

As I only arrived on the Monday night, David lectured for the first day and he and I lectured for the rest of the week. In the past, I have lectured New Testament 1 in one week, but it has recently undergone a revision which has lengthened the course. I believe it is no longer feasible to cover the material in one week. While we managed it, it was very hard work and left little time for reflection. However, the students performed well; some students excelled and only 5 out of 35 failed.

In the second week, Antony and I lectured Old Testament 1. It is considerably shorter than New Testament 1. The students were attentive and hard-working, participating well in lectures. Their level of English was quite good. For many of the students, this was their 4th straight week of lectures, so they did very well to understand and learn the material. Only 1 person failed their exam.

The location for lectures at the UBC Conference Centre was suitable. The accommodation for lecturers at the Cresta Lodge was very comfortable, although it did mean there was less opportunity to eat meals with students.

Guide Makore was very helpful, especially given the short time to organize another two weeks. The notes were printed and ready for distribution and the exams and materials were ready in plenty of time.

Zimbabwe would appear to be a location worth persevering with for the PTC courses. There are many students eager to study God’s word and see their churches grow in love and knowledge of our Lord.”

MALAWI

Luke Collings and Alan Wood

“The subjects taught were Old Testament 1 (primarily by Alan Wood) and Doctrine 2. In addition, exams for Old Testament 3 and New Testament 4 were supervised.



The grounds of the Centre for Christian Ministries

Teaching and Students

The classes were held at the Anglican Centre for Christian Ministries (CCM) in Lilongwe. The location was quiet and it was easy to conduct lessons without interruption. Two classrooms in the centre were given over for our exclusive use during this period, which was adequate for our needs. The rooms were equipped with chalkboards.

A regular teaching day was divided up into three periods of approximately 1.5 hours each. Two of these periods were before lunch and one in the afternoon. As a general rule, Old Testament 1 classes were held in the mornings and Doctrine 2 in the afternoons.

27 students were enrolled in Old Testament 1 and 15 in Doctrine 2. The majority of the Old Testament students had previously completed at least one unit of the ICBS. While Old Testament lectures followed the ICBS notes fairly closely and allowed extra time for group review, Doctrine lectures adopted a more flexible approach. Students were asked to read the notes ahead of time so that they could fully engage in discussion during the lecture. The students came from a range of church traditions, with the majority falling under the broad banner of either Presbyterian or Pentecostal. The students were very keen to discuss the practical application within their various ministries. Where there were disagreements between students over points of doctrine, it was managed in a respectful and godly manner. Both the practice and final exams went smoothly, however, due to the recent changes, allowing students access to a bible in the exam, sourcing sufficient exam-appropriate versions was a challenge. Thanks must go to the staff of CCM for their support.

The exams for Old Testament 3 and New Testament 4 were supervised and four students sat each exam. While this was accommodated, it meant that one teacher had to invigilate, which resulted in a loss of 6 hours of potential teaching time. This may not always be practical in future sessions, particularly when considering the relatively small numbers of students who elected to take these exams.

Practicalities

We stayed at the Area 3 Lodge, which was located conveniently close to CCM as well as local shopping facilities. We were very grateful for the personal and professional support given by the AE Malawi team, particularly Team Leader, Enoch Phiri. There exists a high level of support for the ongoing partnership between Moore College and AE Malawi. The importance of this partnership was stressed by Enoch to the students on more than one occasion.

George May

“We taught Doctrine 1 and New Testament 2 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

The subjects

Doctrine 1 is an ICBS Level 1 subject. We had 28 students, of whom 6 failed and 22 passed (1 x Distinction, 8 x Credits, 13 x Passes). For some students it was their first subject. Many were sitting for their third, fourth or fifth subject.

New Testament 2 is an ICBS Level 2 subject. We had 17 students, of whom 1 did not sit the exam, 3 failed and 13 passed (3 x Distinctions, 2 x Credits, 8 x Passes). Most of the students had completed 6–10 subjects.

I taught Doctrine 1, while Nathan taught New Testament 2 and Carol assisted in both groups. The NT group seemed to be well advanced, while 2 or 3 in the Doctrine class suffered due to a poor level of English. The students who did not pass usually did very poorly in the essay questions.

Students

The students in these classes came from a variety of evangelical (mostly Presbyterian) and Pentecostal (e.g. Assemblies of God) churches. Most were pastors, but there were also a number of prominent lay leaders and AE Foxfire trainees. They were all very appreciative of AE, MTC External Studies, lecturers, and AE supporters! They enjoyed the courses, describing them as ‘big time eye openers’, changing their lives and ministries and developing their understanding of and preaching of the Bible. I would like to pass on their appreciation to all involved, as requested by some of the students. They would all like to undertake further subjects and do them more rapidly.

The teaching program



We taught on weekdays from 9am to 4pm. We taught the two groups concurrently, which meant that we were able to devote lots of time to lectures, workshops, exercises and research topics at the rate of one unit most days and two units on some days. This meant

that there was a good deal of one on one time with the students. It was also a great benefit having Carol as part of the team, in particular, to relate to the women on the course. A practice exam was completed on Friday 20 September. Following this was the highlight of the first week, the compulsory football game played between 2 teams of pastors and students in the grounds of the maximum security prison!

The final exam was held on Friday 27 September, which was followed by a presentation ceremony, with speeches of appreciation and afternoon tea.

Location & Materials

We stayed at the Longonot Guest House in Lilongwe. The facilities were quite adequate. The course was run at the Anglican Diocese of Lake Malawi College for Christian Ministries, which was a very suitable location. The College was most helpful and cooperative and it felt a bit like home with the many gum trees in the grounds!

The course materials and workbooks were printed in Lilongwe.

AE Malawi

Enoch Phiri, AE Team Leader, Dorothy and the AE staff were most helpful all the way through, greatly facilitating the smooth running of the course.

Dorothy took us to Lake Malawi and its surrounds, which was a refreshing break in the middle of the fortnight. We were greatly encouraged by and appreciative of her hospitality. The staff were extremely supportive and helpful; a key reason for the success of the program.

Some things to consider

We were very happy with how the course was run and with the selection and motivation of the students. We greatly enjoyed teaching and getting to know the students.

There are a few things to consider:

- Many of the students expressed a desire for more courses to be taught each year. Some suggested 4 courses per year, others 6 so that they could complete the three levels of the ICBS in three years. Generally, the comments indicated that the students thought it took too long to cover the level 1 subjects. We took note of this and indicated that we were limited by funding.

- Some students requested to receive the course material several weeks in advance to ensure they had adequate time to prepare, in advance of the course.
- Many students expressed a desire to proceed to Level 3 subjects.



Pastors sit for the Final exam

Overall, it was a very positive and encouraging training time. We enjoyed the teaching and came away blessed by what God is doing in Malawi - the warm heart of Africa. It would be great to be able to continue involvement in the program.

KENYA

Edward Mungai



Presentation of certificates

Preliminaries

The testimonies and impact of the PTC program in Kenya among the pastors and church leaders was powerful. The Senior Pastor of Breakthrough International Church, Rev. Moses Ngeu said;

“PTC has sharpened my skills and knowledge as a pastor. There is a lot of information that has been conveyed to us by the different facilitators. This is my last unit and I can assure you that I am a much better pastor than when I started”



Rev. Moses Ngeu; a light moment on his birthday .

Senior Pastor of Full Gospel Church, Rev. Daniel Messo, described PTC as:

“A tool for making pastors and church leaders more effective in their ministry”

Rev. Messo message to supporters of PTC;

“So much within this course, such that you desire to know more of the Bible. I enrolled for a degree course this year in Kisumu town with the help of a few friends and relatives. I credit this to PTC, due to the impact and rekindling of my desire for more Biblical education. I just needed more! PTC is helping many pastors who are not able to afford the high cost of education in our nation. It’s an answered prayer for many. Thank you Moore Theological College, African Enterprise and the many partners of this program for investing in us. It’s never in vain.”



Doctrine 1

Molo is a new centre which AE established this year. Doctrine 1 was the first PTC course to take place in this town. African Enterprise Kenya conducted a mission in Molo town in 2010 so it was special to be able to build up the pastors with quality teaching in this town. Approximately 40 students expressed an interested in this course and 31 enrolled. AE Kenya invited students from

other towns who had not previously completed this unit. All the students from the local town were day scholars. The unit was taught at the Christian Community Church.



Students pose for a photo after completing Doctrine 1

Biblical Theology One

This unit of study also took place in Molo town and 24 students attended. It is anticipated that this number will grow significantly in 2014, through further promotion of the course. The course is gaining a solid reputation for its quality, support materials and the excellent teaching by Rev. Paul Sampson.



Rev. Paul Sampson during the lectures

Nairobi, 6th to 10 May 2013, New Testament One

This was a joint course for students from several towns; including Molo, Kisii, Kisumu, Mwingi, Embu and Nairobi. 35 students attended the course and 32 sat for the exam. The course was conducted at the Subiaco Centre, in Karen.



Rev. Daniel Messo from Kisii, at the Nairobi course



Rev. James Mburu from Molo receives his certificate



Students at the ceremony

Kenya's 2013 PTC program was very successful. The support and sacrifice of the resident facilitator, Rev. Paul Sampson is deeply appreciated. We expect greater stories, testimonies and additional students in 2014.

Thank you for the continued support."



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