

# 2017 TPI Summer Newsletter



Participants at the Kitale, Kenya TPI Institute – July 2016

## 2017 TPI Summer Institute Schedule

July 17-21: Kakata, Liberia  
John Balmer, Nick Prieto,  
and Oliver Kpaan

July 24-28: Freetown, Sierra Leone  
John Balmer, Bob Ferguson,  
and Raymond Gobum

July 31-Aug 4: Cyangugu, Rwanda  
John Balmer, Wally Gilmer,  
and Emmanuel Rutunda

Aug 7-11: Fizi, DR Congo  
John Balmer, Sam Mathai,  
and Nepa Wa Msambelwa

Aug 14-18: Kasungu, Malawi  
John Balmer, Sam Mathai,  
and Glyn Mittawa

Aug 21-25: Kabwe, Zambia  
John and Jennifer Balmer,  
and Bilex Mutale

## Looking Back at the Inauguration of TPI

by John M. Balmer, Jr.

This year marks our **15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Training Pastors International (TPI)** since the inauguration of TPI when Jennifer and I started the ministry on March 15, 2002, as a result of the burgeoning need for pastoral training in the Majority World. Two years previous to that date (2000), Dr. Stephen F. Olford of Olford Ministries International, who was my mentor since I wrote my Th.M. thesis at Dallas Theological Seminary (1982) on his preaching ministry and served with him in his pastoral training ministry, commissioned me to launch TPI when I was the Associate Director of the Stephen Olford Institute of Biblical Preaching in Memphis, Tennessee. Then I came to Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia (2000) to head up the Missions Program on the grad and undergrad levels and also oversee the Global Center for World Missions. During my tenure there, Dr. Jerry Falwell, Sr., the founder of Liberty University and Thomas Road Baptist Church, challenged me to start TPI and offered his help to launch this critical

ministry of training indigenous pastors in Africa.

We started training pastors with TPI in Ghana in June 2002, and now, we are training pastors in 20 countries in Africa, soon to add our 21<sup>st</sup> country this summer in Sierra Leone, and have also launched TPI in Asia (India and Nepal) in 2016, and have trained pastors in 7 other countries for a total of 28 countries, including Africa, Asia, Latin America, the former Soviet Union, and the Caribbean. Since 1993, the total figures to date for our pastoral training mission in Majority World countries encompasses the following statistics, which includes nine years of training pastors before we started TPI: **we have conducted 149 pastoral training institutes, trained 28,292 pastors, evangelists, church planters, and national missionaries, and awarded 15,040 certificates by taking 46 Mission Trips to these 28 countries.**

As we look to the next 10 to 15 years, the greatest need in missions today is the

training of indigenous pastors in Majority World countries since about **95% of the world's pastors in these countries have little to no Biblical training as a foundation for their ministries.** Unless you complete the church planting movement cycle by doing (1) evangelism, (2) church planting, and (3) training pastors, it will produce a retardation of the church planting movement in that country, the Majority World churches will not be able to carry out the Great Commission in their countries, and will instead end up in a malaise of false teaching in many different forms as is the case right now around the world. With that in mind, we are planning to conduct 6 TPI institutes in Africa this summer (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, and Zambia), and 4 TPI institutes in Asia in the Fall (India [2], Nepal, and Myanmar).

We thank God for those who are partnering with us in prayer and support to make this a reality so we can offer this pastoral training to these pastors.

# TPI Summer Mission Trip: July 14 to August 29, 2017

We are planning to conduct 6 pastoral training institutes for approximately 1400 national pastors in Africa.

John and Jennifer Balmer from Lynchburg, Virginia, will be conducting six institutes in West Africa (Liberia and Sierra Leone), East Africa (Rwanda), Central Africa (DR Congo), and Southern Africa (Malawi and Zambia). John will be joined by (1) Rev. Nick Prieto in Kakata, Liberia; (2) Pastor Bob Ferguson in Freetown, Sierra Leone; (3) Pastor Wally Gilmer in Cyangugu, Rwanda; (4) Pastor Sam Kunju Mathai from Mumbai, India, in Fizi, DR Congo and Kasungu, Malawi; and



*John and Jennifer praying for those who came forward during a church service in Chennai, India.*

(5) Jennifer Balmer in Kabwe, Zambia. We will also be joined by our local coordinators: (1) Pastor Oliver Kpaan from Liberia; (2) Pastor Raymond Gobum from Nigeria; (3) Pastor Emmanuel Rutunda from Rwanda; (4) Pastor Nepa Wa Msambelwa from the DR Congo; (5) Pastor Glyn D. Mittawa from Malawi; and

(6) Pastor Bilex Mutale from Zambia.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER A SPECIAL GIFT TO HELP THESE PASTORS GET THIS TRAINING BY OFFERING TO PAY FOR THEIR TUITION, which is \$30 per pastor? You could be launching a pastor's ministry and blessing a pastor's life!

## Financial Needs

There is a need to help us train these 1,400 pastors at \$30 a pastor = \$42,000, of which we so far have raised about \$15,000, which leaves us a balance of \$27,000.

We have personal travel expenses in our travel to/in Africa (\$15,000 - \$18,000), which we are still raising as well.

Opportunity to Train an African Pastor  
→ 30 + 30 + 30 Plan = 3 Pastors Trained

& Countless People Edified & God gets the Glory! (\$30 a month for 3 months = \$90) That **\$90 would train three pastors in Africa**. If we can find **300 people** to do this, we could cover most of the remaining funds for our TPI Summer institutes.

Make check out to TPI, include these funds in the envelope provided, and mail it to us.

### TPI MINISTRY STATS

**46** Mission Trips to **28** countries in **24** years  
**149** Pastoral Training Institutes conducted  
**28,292** indigenous pastors trained and **15,040** certificates awarded



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