

April 2019

GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK

Our Itinerary



May 16-26: Rwanda ministry and Graduation

May 27-31: Mongolia ministry

June 1-16: Nepal ministry

June 23: Sonoita Bible Church

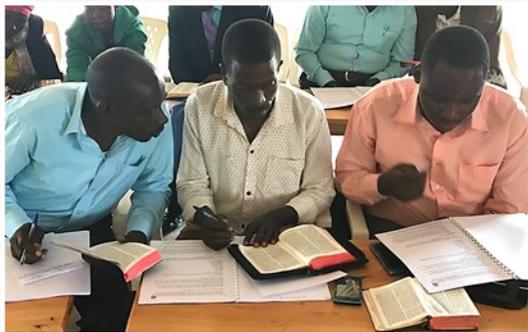
Oct 18-31: Rwanda ministry (tentative)

Nov 1-15: Nepal ministry (tentative)



Aiming for Internal Combustion

Throughout my ministry, I've always been thrilled when I see someone grasp a biblical truth. The best measure of that grasp is when they begin to apply that truth by decisions which are biblical but were not specifically taught in a sermon or class. I call this change in thinking and motivation, "internal combustion." It happens when the fuel of biblical truth is ignited by the spark of the Holy Spirit in a heart. My aim with our international students is to go beyond answering situational questions to help them grasp broad biblical principles so that they can apply them themselves (without looking to a missionary for guidance) AND teach others to do the same. I'm aiming for internal combustion. Here are two examples:



After "Harm to Harmony," our class on overcoming family harm and violence, Pastor Lambert taught several families about harm and violence issues from a biblical perspective. He shared that two of the families he worked with subsequently enrolled their daughters in school. This is hugely significant in several ways. First, here are two young girls whose lives will be forever changed because they will receive an education

denied to most girls in their region. Who knows what will result! Second, for a family to place such value on daughters represents a real defiance of cultural norms and a huge sea change in their family life. Third, no one taught them directly to do this. Rather, the course taught them truths from Genesis which changed their world view. Specifically, they learned that men and women are both made in the image of God and have equal value as a result. More than this, they are made uniquely in the image of God as male or female and therefore have unique value which should be respected and prized. Having grasped these truths, they then rightly concluded that girls have as much right to education as boys. Merely pushing them to educate their daughters would never have produced such willingness to step outside of cultural norms. However,

About Mongolia...

Since I was a boy, "outer Mongolia" was simply a metaphor for something a great distance away. I've known little about it until I began to correspond with a family in modern Mongolia. This has led to an invitation to come and explore the possibilities of doing leadership training there. I am scheduled to travel to Mongolia as part of a three-country ministry foray in May and June. This is a unique opportunity and I need your prayers for guidance. To that end, I want you to know a few facts about this landlocked Asian nation. Mongolia is sandwiched between Russia to the north and China to the south. Although it does not share a border with Kazakhstan, it is only 23 miles distant. In total area, Mongolia is slightly smaller than Mexico and is one of the most sparsely peopled nations on earth with a population of only 3.1 million. Forty-five percent live in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. The number of professing Christians in Mongolia is only 2.3% with 1.72% identifying as evangelicals. Twenty-three out of twenty-nine identifiable people groups remain unreached. This means that, of a total population of 3.1 million people, approximately three million need to hear the good news of Jesus. Mongolians are fairly diverse in their religious views. The largest religion by percentage is Buddhism at 38%. While this number dwarfs the total population of Christians, Christianity is growing in Mongolia at a rate of



7.9% annually, triple the average global growth rate of 2.6% (source: joshuaproject.net). This is the country I will be visiting at the end of May to explore the possibilities of ongoing ministry there. There is a human side to these statistics which I don't yet know. I have learned little as yet of the lives of the people with whom I may be partnering or of the leaders I may be training. I am going to Mongolia to learn. Your prayers are greatly appreciated!

Aiming for Internal Combustion *(Cont'd)*

when foundational truths from Scripture were taught, by God’s grace their world view changed. This changed their values and they became motivated to live life differently. Internal combustion!

Pastor Emmanuel, a young newlywed man, having taken the same course as well as our course on Christian Marriage, began to feel the urging of the Holy Spirit to have regular conversations with his young wife about important matters affecting their marriage. It was a new idea to them both. He sat down with her one night to discuss the future of their family, child-rearing and other matters.

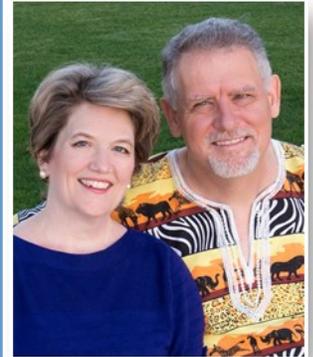


He stopped when he saw his bride looking searchingly at him. He asked what was the matter. She began to weep, and, laying her head on his shoulder, said at length, “My father never talked to my mother about anything. I never saw them sitting together like this. Not once! He handled the money and only gave her enough to buy food. He made the decisions without asking for her thoughts. When she had a need or problem, he didn’t seem to care. And I thought this was normal and that as a girl and then as a woman, I would just have to suffer it. Then I became a Christian.” She paused, and suddenly with renewed tears, she cried, “I didn’t know all the ways Jesus would set us free!”

Here is a young couple who identify as Christians and, more importantly, who are learning to function as a Christian family marking a change in the history of their entire family line. Again, at no time during

either of these courses did we specifically teach the students to schedule a regular time for conversation with their mates. Rather we taught them what marriage IS, straight from the creation account as well as several New Testament passages. We taught them God’s design for unity in a home centered around a lifelong marriage process of “becoming one flesh.” They drew their own conclusions. The Holy Spirit put the spark to biblical truth and BOOM! Internal Combustion strikes again!

What is it worth to see families begin to live out Christian values? How much money is too much to pay to see people begin to value their daughters as much as their sons? How much trouble is too much to see marriages established on a biblical model which will forever change the lives of children yet unborn? I don’t know, but I know we haven’t reached those limits yet. For myself, I’ll go as far as I have to go, work as hard as I have to work, pay as much as I have to pay for as long as it takes to see God’s *internal combustion* changing people forever!



Our Praises and Prayer Requests

- Praise God for successful classes on Biblical Preaching and Teaching the Christian Faith in Rwanda.
- Praise God that our students led more than 300 people to Christ while carrying out their application plans.
- Praise God for a great start to this year’s Matching Fund Drive.
- Please pray for us as we downsize to a new home in Queen Creek.
- Please pray for me as I prepare for a return trip to Rwanda as well as Mongolia and Nepal in May and June.
- Please pray as we work to increase our committed support.



Matching Fund

In March two of our wonderful partners challenged us with a combined \$7000 matching gift. We are off to a good start! Can you help us match this gift between now and May? These funds will help underwrite our training events throughout 2019. Please see the giving section below to participate. Our students in Rwanda, Nepal, and Mongolia will praise God for your part in bringing them life changing biblical training.

Ministry Partnership

Your financial partnership is essential as we carry out our God given ministry. Please follow the instructions below or on the enclosed response card (US mail version).

“Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account... And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:17, 19)

You may give online at:

www.globaltrainingnetwork.org

Just click on “Give,” then scroll down until you can click on our picture. You can choose between “Give Now” (for regular support) and “Matching Fund” (for ministry expenses).



Support also accepted at:

Global Training Network
PO Box 6507
Peoria, AZ 85385

(Please include a note indicating that your gift is preferenced for the **Edmondson Matching Fund #43502**, or #435 for regular support.)

Please call GTN at 623-217-3867 if you need any assistance.

Come visit us at

www.inhisgriponline.org

