

May-June 2019



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

Our Itinerary



May 16-26: Rwanda ministry and Graduation

May 27-31: Mongolia ministry

June 1-15: Nepal ministry

June 23: Sonoita Bible Church, AZ

July 28: First Baptist Church of Page, AZ

Sept 8: Floris Baptist Church, IA

Oct 6: Faith Fellowship Community Church, Bullhead City, AZ

Oct 13: Palm Springs Baptist Church, CA

Oct 18-31: Rwanda ministry (tentative)

Nov 1-15: Nepal ministry (tentative)

Nov 24: Maranatha Baptist Church, Globe, AZ

In His Grip

...In Light of These Things

My good friend was arrested last week.



His crime was teaching theology to pastors. In Nepal. Proselytizing is illegal. Now, teaching pastors is not proselytizing by any reasonable definition of the word. However, there are some in the Nepali

government with radical Hindu beliefs who interpret this law in such a way that it includes virtually any public Christian activity. My friend fell afoul of such an official. He is now out on bail awaiting a trial that could exonerate him or send him to prison. It gives one pause. I am affected personally since Eileen and I are planning to visit Nepal in June and will be engaged in teaching pastors and other Christian leaders about Christian marriage and family life. We are one of several GTN teams who will be training

Christian leaders in Nepal in the next six weeks. None of our teams are changing our plans. This seems to be a serious but isolated incident. We believe that through your prayers we will remain safe.

What does this mean for you? **I won't waste ink telling you that persecution is coming to our shores. You already know it's true.** It's not just the 'ho hum' attitude of our media where violence against believers is concerned. It is also the anti-Semitism and anti-Christian bigotry being commonly expressed now in our country. Increasingly, some people's livelihood is threatened if they are open at all about their Christian beliefs. These things are now beyond debate.

The question is not, "Will we suffer persecution?" We know that answer. **The real question we face is, "In light of these things, how should we live?"** I have six suggestions:

Don't get angry. Yes, it violates our sense of justice. Yes, it is wrong and grossly unfair, but remember that old truism parents often teach their children. "Life isn't fair." Paul taught us that we should expect to be persecuted if we seek to live Godly lives. Jesus warned us that as servants we are not above our master. They persecuted Him. They will persecute us. (2 Tim 3:12; John 15:18-25)

Do get involved. Throughout church history, persecution has frequently had a purifying effect on the church. Rising hostility to faith causes some to fall away. But it causes many others to strengthen their commitment. When we see the lines being drawn more clearly between the friends and enemies of the gospel, it forces us to decide which side of that line we are on. For many that means becoming a lot more deliberate about their commitment to serve, give, and be in community with other like-minded believers. Oh Lord, may it be so!

Don't make it political. May I say it kindly? Conflating faith with politics, while not unique to Americans, is one of our common failings. Don't misunderstand me. It's not that political matters are unimportant. They clearly are. It's not that all political philosophies are equal. They are not. There are those among us called to serve God in the political realm and we honor them. But the power of politicians to solve our ultimate societal problems is highly overrated. The older I



Where in the World Are Bob and Eileen This Month?

May and June are big travel months for us. We'll be on the move! On May 16, I plan by God's grace to depart for Rwanda. I will be teaching there alongside GTN vice president, Dr. Jim Baugh. At the close of our time, we plan a great celebration as 27 students graduate from a three year program of theological and practical training. From Rwanda, I will head to the nation of Mongolia for a brief exploratory visit. The goal is to discuss and decide on the possibility of visiting there for regular pastoral training in the future. Please pray for guidance! When I leave Mongolia, I will make my way by a curious route to Kathmandu, Nepal. There, Eileen will join me, by God's grace, and we will spend some happy times in two districts teaching about Christian marriage and family life. Then we come home and do our laundry sometime in late June. In addition to visiting a new country and facing a new situation in Nepal, this trip involves some interesting routing. Our travel agent loves a good challenge. I will visit a number of new (to me) international airports including Brussels, Istanbul, Entebbe, Beijing, Chengdu, Hong Kong (with Eileen), and last but not least Genghis Khan Intl Airport in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia! This being the case, before I come home I may be asking myself the question in the title above.



...In Light of These Things (Cont'd)

grow, the more I realize that the problems of our culture are an order of magnitude beyond the political realm. Indeed, politics (and they have become ugly!) are just one reflection of our real problems which are spiritual in nature.

Do recognize the true enemy. This goes beyond political philosophies. This is a battle between good and evil in the spiritual realm. There is no political fix for what is happening to us. It's time to recognize that problems in the spiritual realm must be fought in the spiritual realm. *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."* (Eph. 6:12)

Don't despair. The whole idea of spiritual warfare often brings fear and despair. But there is an alternative to despair. Jesus taught the parable of the persistent widow for a specific purpose: so that people would **PRAY** and **NOT LOSE HEART**. (Luke 18:1ff) We grieve over the evil in the world. We feel pain when we think of



all that is lost because the genius of human minds is continually turned to selfish and often destructive ends. But we need not despair. There is another day coming. Another world—a better world just over the horizon. We can and should fix our eyes and hearts there.

Do pray. Have you ever heard someone say, "Well, all we can do is pray"? This sentiment is common. Praying is often the last resort, but if we really understood what happens when we pray, praying would become our **FIRST** resort. *"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds"* (2 Corinthians 10:4).

We are calling on the God who parts the sea, who causes walls to fall, who redeems souls for eternity! He can answer our prayers. I think He sometimes is just waiting to see if we are really serious. When we start coming together and calling with confidence on Him, there will be no room for despair. We will have the enemy where we want him. He can't beat an army of prayer warriors advancing on our knees. When prayer becomes our reflexive response, we will **KNOW** that the ultimate victory is ours.



Our Praises and Prayer Requests

- Praise God our financial shortfall in monthly committed support has been reduced from almost \$1100 at the beginning of the year to just \$260 now as a result of several new partners and increased support from several others.
- Praise God we are in our new downsized digs in Queen Creek. We've eliminated a significant amount of debt and are happy with the new place. (Especially since I finally found the hardware for my book cases and was able to unpack my library.)
- Praise God we are on schedule in our prep for a long upcoming ministry trip in spite of the move and many appointments with current and new partners.
- Please pray for our partner in Nepal who is out of jail but awaiting trial on a charge of encouraging proselytizing after teaching pastors from the Bible.
- Please pray for us as we go to Nepal to train pastors from the Bible.
- Please pray for a great finish to our matching fund drive and for our final \$260 of committed monthly support to come in.



Come visit us at

www.inhispriponline.org

Matching Fund Update: A New Challenge!

There is good news about the Edmondson matching fund drive. Each year one or more of our partners has been giving a significant gift to our ministry fund in March challenging the rest of us to match it in order to fund our ministries through the rest of the year. As you may remember, this year one of our wonderful partners added \$2000 to our original \$5000 matching challenge gift making a total of \$7000 with the goal of doubling that by the end of May. I'm happy to report that at the end of APRIL, that goal has been more than met already with a total of \$15,300, so far. **Here's the NEW challenge:** ANOTHER of our partners

called last week to say he and his wife wish to give \$4000 as an additional matching challenge gift. This will be a total of \$11,000 in matching gifts with a goal of doubling that to \$22,000 by the end of May. When this gift arrives our total will stand at \$19,300. So we are only \$2700 short of the new goal. **Remember, the purpose of this matching challenge is to help fund training conferences in the majority world throughout the rest of 2019.** I am energized by the generosity of so many. I'm ready to go and God is providing the needed funds! **We are within sight of the goal.** We can do this! Let's go for it!



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 preferred for the **Edmondson Matching Fund #43502**, or #435 for regular support.)

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