

December
2019

Our Itinerary



Dec. 15: Chino Valley Community Church

Jan 9-17: Myanmar Ministry

Feb 7-10: GTN Leadership Gathering

Feb 23: First Baptist Church, Nogales, AZ

Feb 27-March 14: Nepal Ministry

April 7-25: Philippine Ministry

April 26-May 1: Malawi Ministry

May 3-9: Rwanda Ministry

In His Grip

The Thanksgiving Season

As Christians, when we think of the holidays, we call them the Christmas season. In the past few years, there has been a good deal of controversy about this. The world around us has sought to denude Christmas of any meaning beyond that of a mere fairy tale. Many Christians have responded by stubbornly insisting, "It's Merry Christmas, not 'Happy Holidays!'" I would like for us to go beyond this 'made for social media' controversy. This year, I am thinking of the holidays as "Thanksgiving Season." It's not just because Thanksgiving is such a great



holiday, although it really is. It's also not to de-emphasize Christmas. In fact, it is quite the opposite. I'm thinking of this as Thanksgiving Season because I'm convinced that thankfulness is the essential attitude we need to cultivate as Christians in this time and place. Here's why:

- Lack of gratitude is a central feature of spiritual downfall. "For although they knew God, they *neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him*, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened" (Romans 1:21 *emphasis mine*).
- I don't like saying it, but American Christianity is in just such a state of

New Classes in Rwanda and Nepal

Eileen and I have just returned from a month of ministry in Rwanda and Nepal. In Rwanda, we launched Timothy Pastoral Skills Leadership training with a group of 25 new students. It rained every day, but nothing could dampen the enthusiasm of our new students. This is a very sharp group of pastors and wives. We made a good start with them, leading them through the first two Timothy courses dealing with "Caring for God's People" and "Christian Stewardship." I am looking forward to hearing the reports they will make on our next visit after carrying out their self-designed six month application plans. It's going to be awesome.

After two weeks in Rwanda, Eileen and I flew to Nepal where we launched Timothy Training with two more groups. The first was in Lalitpur, a suburb of Kathmandu. There we worked with 35 new students, taking them through the 'Pastoral Care' class. Our second group was in the small southern Nepalese town of Simara. There we led a group of 16 earnest students through the same course. Both groups adapted well to the inductive method we use with Timothy training. Both groups wrote interesting six month application plans. I look forward to hearing the results in six months.



Most of our students were new to us. We therefore made pro-life presentations in both Rwanda and in Lalitpur, Nepal. We gave away 100 12-week fetal models to the Christian leaders present. In addition, our translator in Lalitpur has now translated the presentation into Nepalese and posted it on a



Christian Facebook page with more than 60,000 followers. God blesses when we speak up for life.

We continue to pray for our partner, Dilli Ram, who has been accused of violating the nation's anti-conversion law. His final hearing was cancelled at the last moment due to a local election. His new hearing date is January 14. Please pray for a clear "not guilty" verdict and an end to this long period of waiting.

For our part, a month of ministry has gone extraordinarily smoothly. God has kept us healthy and safe. There were no major obstacles in any of our classes. We remained safe in spite of the increasingly anti-Christian atmosphere of Nepal. Moreover, we have launched pastoral skills training in three locations and are thrilled as we await the fruit this will bear by God's grace! Thank you for your generous support which has made these classes possible! May our partnership continue to bear much fruit!

The Thanksgiving Season *(Cont'd)*

spiritual downfall. Never in the history of the world have Christians have enjoyed more resources and advantages than here in the U.S.A. Yet the church here is shrinking. The gospel is not advancing, and the influence of the Bible in our culture is waning. Where is the stark difference between Christians and the world around us visible? Where are the believers who serve and stand and speak up when it really costs something to do so? It seems that the world is having more of an impact on us than we are on the world.

- These are stressful times. Our culture seems to no longer embrace a common set of values. This has resulted in toxic politics on every level. We also now face continual controversy about the most trivial things. We look around and ask, "What has happened to my country?" If ever there was a time for the church to stand tall for Christ it is now!

The need for revival that begins in the house of God is beyond reasonable dispute. Well, where does that



begin? If you read Romans one (the passage I referenced above), you discover that the spiritual downfall of all mankind began with us passively ignoring the greatness of God seen in all He has done. This was first manifested in lack of gratitude. Things went downhill from there.

Look around. What do you see around you today? What do you see in your own life? Are we glorifying God as we ought? Are we showing real gratitude and glorifying our great God in our words and actions? Or are we being slowly drawn away by the cares or enticements of this world? These are uncomfortable questions with uncomfortable answers.

Perhaps it is time to get back on the path at the point where we got off. It is time to begin boldly giving God glory again! It is time for us to start being profoundly thankful for all that God has done for us! What better season to do so than the holiday season? God has given us the gift of His Son! Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we have hope that all that is wrong in the world will, one day, be made right! Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we have the power to overcome anything in our lives that would drag us down toward destruction. If anything should make us thankful, it is God's indescribable gift!

So here is my prayer for all of us: As you celebrate this Christmas, may it be a blessed season of heartfelt Thanksgiving!

Help Us Launch Our Biggest Year Yet!

2020 may be our biggest year yet. We are scheduled to train multiple groups in five different countries. A sixth country is also possible. Right now we have trips scheduled each month from January through May with tentative dates for several other months. These are great opportunities! The potential impact is enormous, but **we will need your help** to follow through on these open doors. **We are asking God to provide \$30,000 over and above our regular support by the end of the year.** This will build up our ministry fund to insure that we are able to carry out the training events which change so many lives. You are our partners. **We need your help. Please consider a generous year-end gift to our ministry and help us launch a banner year.** Thank you in advance for what we know you will do! Giving instructions are below.



Our Praises and Prayer Requests



- Praise God for the launching of three new classes in Rwanda and Nepal.
- Praise God for a successful GTN 15th Anniversary gala.
- Praise God for scheduled ministries through the first half of 2020.
- Please continue to pray for Dilli Ram, our Nepal partner who still awaits a final hearing on charges of illegal evangelism. Hearing has been postponed again to January 14, 2020.
- Please pray for our upcoming ministry in a new country: Myanmar.
- Please pray for strong year-end giving.

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.

A new page will appear with an online giving form.



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 Edmondsons #435.)



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