

June, 2020



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

Our Itinerary



- June 14:** First Baptist Church, Duncan, AZ
- Aug 2:** Mesa Baptist Church
- Aug 9:** Calvary Crossroads, Wenatchee, WA
- Aug 16:** East Wenatchee First Baptist Church, WA
- Aug 30:** First Baptist Church, Quartzsite, AZ
- Sept 13:** Sandy Ridge Community Church, UT
- Oct 8-17:** Malawi (tentative)
- Oct 18-24:** Rwanda (tentative)
- Oct 25-Nov 7:** Nepal (tentative)



Media: “Be Afraid! God: “Fear Not!”

Are we on the second or the third apocalypse this year? I can’t keep track. It seems we move from one ‘crisis’ to the next. Some are actual. Many are exaggerated. On any given day, you can scan the news and social media websites and discover that we are on the brink of a pandemic disaster, or economic collapse, or environmental catastrophe, or societal breakdown or political chaos. The subtext is always the same: “Be afraid. Be very afraid.”

To this onslaught of ominous opinions, God replies with simple assurance: “Fear not.” He said it plainly to Israel in Isaiah 41:10: “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” In Romans 8:38, Paul reminds Christians of God’s sovereign power which is simply bigger than any of our fears: “And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from



God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love.” (NLT) He promised us in John 16:33, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” In my early years as a Christian, I imagined this last verse as referring largely to persecution. No doubt persecution is in view, but the application is more broad than that. Lately, I’ve heard people say in various ways, “The world has gone crazy! When is it going to stop?” Sometimes it is

said in jest, sometimes with darker emotion, but one can usually discern in such comments an underlying fear that things are spinning out of control and we don’t know where it all

(Continued on page 2)

If I Can’t Go There, I’ll Train Here



Although unable to travel to any of my regular destinations to train leaders, in May God provided opportunities to train people right here. I spent a good deal of time this month tutoring GTN colleague, John Lasley. We worked our way through the Timothy Leadership Training curriculum. It was my privilege, at the end of our time together, to certify John as a TLT Advanced Trainer. To accomplish the same goal by attending the regularly scheduled Timothy Institute Training events would have taken



John more than a year even without coronavirus cancelations! John is already at work using this new tool. He plans to use the curriculum with his students in Uganda and elsewhere. From my perspective, any time you can work to multiply your own efforts, that is time well spent!

In addition to my work with John this past month, I’ve been leading a weekly Zoom class with Mesa Baptist Church dealing with Christian stewardship. This has been rewarding and

(Continued on page 2)

Media: “Be Afraid!” God: “Do Not Fear!” (Cont’d)

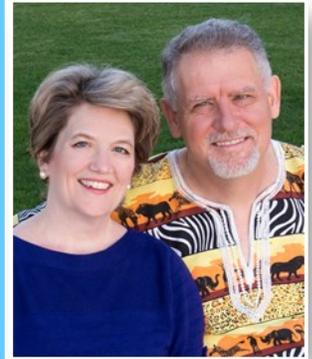
will lead. “NOT SO!” says Jesus. Yes, in this world you will have trouble; All kinds of trouble, but “take heart! I have overcome the world.” This pronouncement is meant to give us reassurance, not that Jesus will step in and end the trouble we are going through today, but that we are, in fact, ‘going through’ it—on our way to a better tomorrow. His declaration that He has overcome the world is a promise that His cross has defeated sin and all of the evil that results from it. Evil may play out, but it’s on its way out. For those who trust in Jesus, the chaos of this world is a



temporary condition. In the end, God will right all wrongs and reward all rights. These truths have not changed. No virus can shut them down. No riot can drown

them out. No economic upheaval can diminish their value.

I recently saw a cartoon in which a man was watching the news on television. A wild eyed talking head asked, “How can we stop living in fear?!” The man smiled, reached for his remote and, click! Question answered! Problem solved. Stop listening to those whose business model is based on the axiom that ‘crisis makes for clicks.’ Instead, listen to the calm and reassuring voice of him who said, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-8. Let not your heart be troubled.



Our Praises and Prayer Requests



- Praise God our Matching Fund has grown to \$24,000.
- Praise God I was able to spend significant time tutoring another GTN trainer during May.
- Praise God our Wednesday night Christian stewardship class is going well.
- Please pray for our churches and students around the world.
- Please pray for one another as we get back to work after this pandemic.
- Please pray that we can reschedule our classes in the Philippines.
- Please pray for me as I work on a writing project for GTN in June and July.



Thank You, Matching Fund Partners!

Our 2020 Matching Fund Challenge ended on May 31. The original generous \$8500.00 in gifts grew to \$24,000. Our goal (set before the Coronavirus hit) was \$25,000. With all that has happened, I am thrilled with these results. We are in a good position to cover the costs of our training events for the remainder of the year and a bit beyond. To all who participated, Thank You!

If I Can’t Go There, I’ll Train Here (Cont’d)

has enabled me to connect more closely with other members of my church. My next scheduled international travel is not until fall. I do hope to re-schedule one or more classes in the Philippines during July, but the situation there remains uncertain. In the meantime, I will continue to connect with ministry partners new and old. Thank you for your prayers and continuing support!

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:

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PO Box 6507
Peoria, AZ 85385

(Please include a note indicating that your gift is preferred for the Edmondsons #435.)



Come visit us at

www.inhisgripionline.org

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