

August, 2020



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

Our Itinerary



- Aug 9: Calvary Crossroads, Wenatchee, WA
- Aug 16: East Wenatchee First Baptist Church, WA
- Aug 24-28: International Online Training
- Aug 30: First Baptist Church, Quartzsite, AZ
- September: Nepal Online Training (tentative)
- Sept 28-Oct 2: International Online Training (tentative)
- Oct 8-17: Malawi (tentative)
- Oct 18-24: Rwanda (tentative)
- Oct 25-Nov 7: Nepal (tentative)



The Virtue of the Virtual Venue

Every week I receive updates from the U.S. embassies in the countries where we serve. So far, we are unable to travel to any of them because of restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus. Two nations are now showing promise for in-person training events in the fall, and others may follow in the coming weeks, but for now, the only way for us to carry on

international training events is online. We do have some opportunities for online training. Our partners in Nepal have been gathering leaders around their phones and computers for a series of two hour devotional / prayer gatherings. Last night I spoke online to encourage about 100 of these leaders. Our Nepali partners are organizing them into smaller groups with the aim of beginning week long online classes in September. I plan to teach one such class on a repeated basis. I am also using social media to create an online class involving English speaking students from multiple countries. I am working with a GTN colleague. Together we plan to make our way through the Timothy Leadership Training curriculum, finishing early in 2021. Our first class is scheduled for August 24-28.



Virtual training has its drawbacks. It is not as interactive or relational as in-person training. This matters much in the cultures where we serve. Accountability for class assignments is also much more difficult. The technology is another limiting factor in places where WiFi is unavailable or unstable and cell phone data cards are expensive. All of this means that students don't learn as well online. Having said this, our initial efforts have been promising and we are thrilled to have this means of making at least some connection with students to encourage and equip them. This is our calling and passion! We thank God that we live in a day in which it is possible to teach students from multiple continents at the same time. It turns out there is virtue in the virtual venue.

Pray as Never Before

We are living in unprecedented times. Oh there have been pandemics before. Many have been worse, but never has the world responded with the level of fear, self-inflicted economic hardship or legal / social pressures we are seeing now. Similarly, our country has experienced social unrest before, even civil war, but there is something very different and worrying in what we see unfolding in our city streets now. There are many other public issues of great concern to all of us. Too many to dwell on here.

The church in America and around the world is greatly affected by these events. As you probably know, in some places churches are being ordered by local and state governments not to meet. Some are defying such orders believing that this is a choice between obeying men or God. Others are obey-



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Looking to the Future

Eileen and I have developed our tentative ministry goals for 2021. We will be sharing these goals with you in our newsletters from now through the end of this year. They fall into several different areas. Our first area concerns our training events. Our first goal in this area is to lead 18 training events in five countries including Myanmar, Philippines, Malawi, Rwanda, and Nepal in 2021. We also have a goal to complete the six courses of Timothy Leadership Training ONLINE with one group of English speaking students from multiple countries. Please pray with us as we work to carry out these goals.

Pray as Never Before (Cont'd)

ing the government and settling for virtual fellowship, a poor second best. Both groups are criticizing each other on social media, creating a miserable display of disunity for the world to see. The overall damage to the church caused by the covid-19 pandemic and its attendant pandemic of fear, cannot yet be assessed. Most of us don't know what to make of all of this and just want it to end.

How can we respond to these world changing events when we aren't sure what all of this means? Well, let's consider two things of which we are sure. First, there is spiritual warfare going on around us. In Daniel 10 we learn that Daniel's prayers were heard in heaven and an angel was sent to answer him, but the angel was delayed for three weeks because he was opposed by an evil angel called the Prince of the Persian Kingdom. From this we learn that, in some mysterious way, the affairs of nations are part of an ongoing conflict between good and evil in the spiritual realm. Daniel also understood that no one rises to great power without the permission of God (Daniel 2:21). Since Satan continually opposes God's plans for the human race, we can safely conclude that he opposes God's plans in this area. Therefore high politics are also matters of conflict in the spirit realm.

Please don't misunderstand me. I'm not making a political argument. I'm making a prayer argument. This is the second thing of which we are sure: God answers prayer! It's not my job to tell you how to vote. It is my job to tell you that now is the time pray as never before. I'm convinced that somehow the pandemic, the

protests, the politics and the public discourse (if it can be called that) are all connected and there is a spiritual battle going on. The best place for us to join that battle is not on social media. It is on our knees. When Daniel prayed, God gave him insight into current and future events. When Nehemiah prayed, God enabled him to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. When Elijah prayed God withheld rain. When he prayed again, God restored it. When the early Christians prayed, God sent an angel to bust Peter out of jail. When Paul prayed from his prison cell, God sent an earthquake, the jailer was converted, and another church was launched. Brothers and sisters, now is the time for us to discover for ourselves what God can do when we earnestly pray!



Over the next few months, things are going to change around us, perhaps dramatically. Can prayer help to shape these events in a good way? Paul thought so. *"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity,"* 1 Timothy 2:1-2. Do you believe that God can answer the concerted prayers of Christians for our nation in these troubled days? I do. If you do too, then why not make an extraordinary effort over the next few months in your homes and in your churches? Too often we traffic in un-lived truth. This would be a great place and a great time to start living the truth of dependence upon God through prayer.



Our Praises and Prayer Requests



- Praise God for tentatively open doors in Malawi/Rwanda this fall.
- Praise God for upcoming "virtual" international training.
- Praise God for His provision.
- Please pray for our churches and students around the world.
- Please pray for one another and our country in this season.
- Please pray for our upcoming virtual training events.
- Please pray that we can soon resume travel to all of our countries.

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)

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