

January 2021



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK



# In His Grip



Thank You

We are grateful to all of our faithful partners, old and new! Thanks to you our ministry is heading into a new year filled with exciting possibilities in a very solid financial condition. We praise God for your partnership!

## Our Itinerary



**Jan 17:** Valle Vista Community Church, Kingman

**Jan 21:** Myitkyina, Myanmar Online Training

**Feb 7:** Valley Baptist Church, Yuma

**Feb 19-22:** GTN Leadership Gathering (Virtual)

**March 15-19:** International Zoom training

**March:** Rwanda Ministry (tentative)

## The Power of Serving in Simplicity

I have often observed believers who think themselves unable to serve Christ in any really significant way because they lack the gifts, talents, training, skill, etc. Yet I have also often observed that it is simplest acts of kindness in Christ's name which bear the strongest testimony. One of my online students recently shared a testimony concerning his work in central India. I shared his story in a prayer update, but I want to share it again here.

In India the Covid pandemic has led to such severe restrictions that millions of people there have lost their jobs and have no means of providing food for their families. As a result, many hundreds of thousands are returning in desperation to their native towns and villages. They are destitute and traveling hundreds of kilometers mostly on foot or bicycle. Located in the heart of central India is a town which shall remain unnamed. It has become a great crossroads. Thousands of dispirited pilgrims shuffle through this town each day in both directions on their way to an uncertain future. Pastor

Loma (not his real name) leads a large ministry there. They have begun raising funds to feed people and help them on their way. As a result of our Timothy class, "Caring for God's People," Pastor Loma trained his leaders to do pastoral care, instilling in them a sense of responsibility to show kindness to all, regardless of their religion or response, and to carry out their ministry conspicuously in the name of Jesus. One day a man approached the area where food was being distributed. Looking weak and worn, he pedaled a bicycle on which were seated his wife and



small son. He had carried his family by this means all the way from Hyderabad, 500 km distant. His feet were blistered. His legs were cramped. He could barely walk at all. Spontaneously, ministry workers helped him to sit down and began to massage his tortured legs and to treat his blistered feet. Then they fed him and his family the first full meal they had tasted since their journey began. Suddenly the man began to sob uncontrollably. When he eventually regained a semblance of composure,

## 2021: A Better Perspective

Let's face it. 2020 was pretty grim. That being the case, I would like our first newsletter of 2021 to be especially encouraging! We'll start with some fun facts and move on to some deeper and more important truths.

Did you know that...



- When you were born, for a moment you were the youngest person on the planet?
- Blind people smile though they have never seen anyone else smile?
- Spiders can't fly?
- Every year squirrels plant thousands of trees simply by forgetting where they put their acorns?

- The man and woman who did the original voices of Mickey and Minnie Mouse got married in real life?

Personally, I'm very encouraged that spiders can't fly. But I'm encouraged by more important things than these. 2021 will be our 12th year in this ministry. It has been the most productive work I have ever been privileged to do. In

carrying out their application plans our students...


- Have led thousands to Christ.
- Dozens of churches have been launched.

*(Continued on page 2)*



### The Power of Serving in Simplicity *(Cont'd)*

he cried out, "No one has shown my family any kindness at all on our long journey until today! I am a Hindu priest, but today I have seen Jesus!"

Let this be an encouragement to those of you who think that you have no opportunity to make a big impact for Christ. Don't underestimate yourself. You were created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand for you to do. Don't underestimate God's ability to use you. Don't underestimate the power and beauty of simple kindness in the name of Christ. 

### 2021: A Better Perspective *(Cont'd)*

- Thousands of other believers have been trained, by our trainees, multiplying the effect of the original training.

Although 2020 was a slow year due to the worldwide pandemic, we still managed to travel to Myanmar, Nepal, and Rwanda to conduct trainings resulting in several hundred salvations among other results. We were also able to carry on several virtual training events through Zoom. Furthermore, you have continued to generously support this ministry in spite of our temporary slow-down. As a result, we are in a strong position to take advantage of new opportunities in 2021. We plan to continue with the online training we began in 2020. But new opportunities for in-country training are on the horizon as well. I already have two trips to Rwanda on the calendar with a third in the planning stages. At some point this year,


by God's grace, we hope to minister once again in Nepal, Malawi, the Philippines, and Myanmar. Further opportunities may develop in several African countries as a result of the online efforts of GTN staff. In short, after a frustrating season of travel restrictions, 2021 could turn out to be one of the best years we've had yet! As important as these facts are, there are still more important truths for our encouragement. The world may change around us but nothing can change the following:

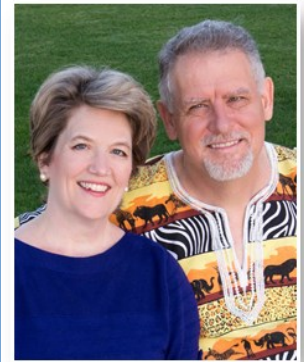


- Our guaranteed status before God. "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life" (John 5:24). As the ground shifts beneath our feet, this means everything!

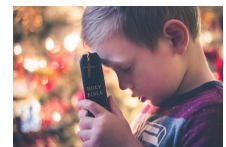
- Our mutual calling. "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). God didn't call us to be potted plants. We have the privilege of engaging in work which changes lives for eternity!

- Our bright future: "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:4-7). It's great to look back and see all the grace God has shown us. But it's even better to look forward and realize that an eternity of yet more grace lies ahead. The best is yet to come!

Some look to the future and see only the dark clouds of uncertainty. It need not be so. It is true that we have no absolute promise of security, prosperity, or even freedom, but in truth we have never had such iron-clad guarantees. We must look beyond these shifting cultural winds and live our lives in light of better promises. We are who we are in Christ. We have important and rewarding work to do in His name. As we carry on this work we may anticipate a bright, pleasant, joyful, and secure future filled with grace and goodness in the presence of our Lord! In light of these things, I sincerely wish you a Happy New Year! 



### Our Praises and Prayer Requests



- Praise God for more than 1500 led to Christ by our students in 2020.
- Praise God for a successful training event in Rwanda in December.
- Praise God for solid year end giving in support of our ministry.
- Praise God Eileen and I have both recovered from Covid-19.
- Please pray for upcoming online training for Myanmar pastors.
- Please pray as we engage with a new group of pastors in Kigali, Rwanda.
- Please pray for the health and safety of students in Nepal, Rwanda, Malawi, Philippines, and Myanmar.
- Please pray for an active travel/training schedule in 2021.

## 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](http://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.



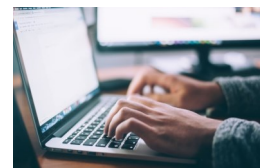
**Support also accepted at:**

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(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.