

March 2021



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

### Our Itinerary



March 15-19: International Zoom training

May 8-30: Rwanda Ministry (exact dates tentative)

June 14-18: International Zoom training



## Combatting Family Violence Online



In March we will be in the states, but we will also be in several different countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Rwanda, Zambia, Uganda, Philippines, and several different U.S. states. These locales, and perhaps more, will be represented during our online international Zoom class starting March 15. The title of this class is “From Harm to Harmony, Overcoming Violence in the Family.” It may surprise you, but this is one of the most important and productive courses we teach. In non-Christian cultures, and even in some that have a measure of biblical influence, family violence is an enormous problem. What is more, the quality of married life and the harmony of a family is one of the strongest testimonies to

the truth of the gospel. I was amazed at the result in one African country where we taught this course. The pastors reported six months later that they had worked with more than 300 families in their churches concerning harm and violence in their homes. I was further amazed at the testimonies of change from wives and other family members. There have been similar results each time the course has been taught. Frequently the sharing is deep and emotional. We invariably see the power of God unleashed to bring life changing grace into families. Please pray that God will unleash His power to change things during our March online gatherings!



## The Year of Living Safely



It has now been a year since the Wuhan Coronavirus, popularly known as Covid-19 asserted control over all our lives. Now, lest I be misunderstood, let me state from the outset my recognition that for some in our midst this virus is serious, life-threatening business. There are those with known risk factors such as age or pre-existing medical conditions for whom COVID safety is a matter of life or death. There are also some with no known risk factors who never-the-less succumb. The danger, though statistically small, is real. Therefore each of us has a responsibility to thoughtfully evaluate our own risk as well as

the risk we may present to others. Further, we owe those who have lost loved ones in this pandemic our heartfelt sympathy and support.

Having said this I have a modest cultural question: **When did safety become our highest value?** When did we become willing to pay so high a price to feel secure? Churches have been restricted and closed. Businesses have been shut down and forced into bankruptcy. Schools have been shuttered. People have been warned to avoid human contact as much as possible. In short, the basic functions of a civilized society have been curtailed, all in a quest for the holy grail of total safety.


The sad fact is that **total safety is an illusion. Further, the unexamined quest for total safety almost always leads to a different (and often worse) set of dangers.** The human cost of anti-Covid measures imposed on us can be counted in the rising number of suicides, increased drug use, skyrocketing use of pornography, rising divorce rates, crime, poverty, and even other medical problems stemming from the overuse of masks. These things have been given scant consideration at best in the frenzied effort to gain SAFETY!! Does not common sense dictate that at the very least some sort of cost/benefit analysis is in order?

**You can never avoid all risk. You can only choose a set of risks with which you are willing to live.** Face it. You accept some risk every morning when you sit up and put your feet on the floor, step into the shower, slip into a car, or stroll across

## The Year of Living Safely *(Cont'd)*

the street. Should we obsess about the risks involved in ordinary living? If so, there are greater risks than this one! According to the National Safety Council, you are statistically 16 times more likely to die of heart disease than Covid-19, 14 times more likely to die of cancer. You stand a greater chance of death by accidental opioid overdose than by Covid-19. The risk of death by Covid-19 *if you catch it* averages out between 1 in 97 and 1 in 99.75 while the risk of death by *any* preventable cause (diseases, accidents etc.) is 1 in 24. Why should we

make such numbers the lord of our lives? To govern our existence by fear of statistical risk is foolish. On the other hand, to ignore risks entirely is foolish, too. Certainly there is wisdom in minimizing risks where we can, but there is a difference between prudence and paranoia.

Here are two perspectives to help us: **1) Our lives are in the hands of a benevolent God.** Our very existence depends on a delicate balance of many environmental factors: six inches of topsoil, 60 miles of breathable atmosphere, a relatively narrow range of temperatures, etc. In reality none of these is random. They were all created and are maintained by a kindly God filled with common grace. *Our daily safety is in these very same hands.* **2) Some things are worth the risk.** Since we cannot avoid risk, but must choose which risks we will accept, it makes sense to accept some risk to gain a desired and important end. As Eileen and I return to regular international travel (There are some exciting opportunities! Stay tuned.), we will take the appropriate medical precautions. Even so, there is risk of contracting Covid-19 or some other illness. It has happened before. But people place their trust in Christ and their eternal destiny is changed *every time we bring training to majority world leaders.* This is well worth the danger of getting ill. **The purpose of a person's life has to be higher than simply living to a ripe old age and dying safely in one's own bed.** To accept risk in order to gain a more important end is to live life to the full! "A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for" (John A. Shedd). Safety is important, but it's not always *most* important. I for one am happy to see a year of living safely come whimpering to an inglorious end. 

## IT'S HERE:



### The Edmondson Matching Challenge!

Recently two of our wonderful partners made a significant donation of \$7500 to help Eileen and I do this work! They have challenged the rest of us to give beyond our regular support and match this special gift. This challenge is aimed at helping us train more groups of leaders in the Majority World. It began March 1 and runs through May 31. We need your help! As countries lower their travel barriers, we want to take full advantage of every opportunity. However, in the post-Covid world, travel is more expensive due to reduced flights, testing, and quarantining requirements etc. All of this makes us grateful in advance to God and to you for your faithful financial partnership with us. Details can be found in the giving section below. Let's rise to the challenge!



### Our Praises and Prayer Requests



- Praise God for expanded training in Rwanda in 2021.
- Please pray for travel restrictions to be lifted in the countries we serve.
- Please pray for the success of our matching fund challenge in March-May.
- Please pray for the health and safety of students in Nepal, Rwanda, Malawi, and the Philippines.
- Please pray for Myanmar believers in the midst of national protests over a military take-over.
- Please pray for our March online class dealing with overcoming violence in the family.
- Please pray that we will be an encouragement to our many partners during these days.

## 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 a link for **Matching Gift** to the right, or, for regular giving, scroll down to the 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 **Edmondson Matching Fund #43502**, or #435 for regular support.)

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

Come visit us at

[www.inhisgripionline.org](http://www.inhisgripionline.org)

