

February 2019



Global Training Network

## Our Itinerary



**Feb 8-10:** GTN Leadership Gathering, Phoenix, AZ

**Feb 24:** Grace Baptist Church, Chino Valley, AZ

**March 16-31:** Rwanda ministry

**May 16-26:** Rwanda ministry and Graduation

**May 27-31:** Mongolia ministry

**June 1-16:** Nepal ministry

**Oct 18-31:** Rwanda ministry (tentative)

**Nov 1-15:** Nepal ministry (tentative)

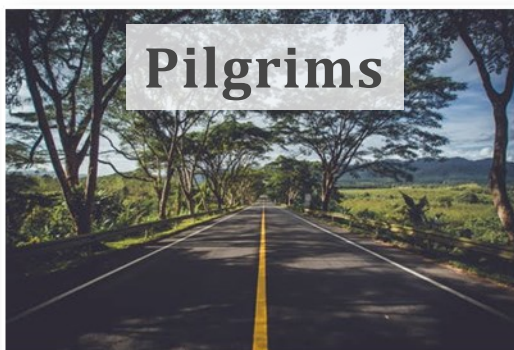


**Eileen and I are moving, but not far.** We are downsizing. Smaller house. Smaller mortgage. Smaller honey-do lists. Since our current house is scheduled to close a full month before our new house will become available, we will spend a few weeks in guest quarters provided by friends. Part of that time I will be training in Rwanda. When I return we plan to move into our new digs and begin turning a new house into a home.

Although we are used to being away for weeks at a time, there is something different about actually having no "home base." We feel like...pilgrims.

Actually, the Bible has a lot to say about pilgrims. Abraham was honored for his obedience to God after God asked him to leave his home and head for a new country that God would eventually show him. Abraham spent considerable time with no place to call his own and no knowledge of his destination. He

had no timeline. He had no control. He is the very model of pilgrimage. In I Peter 1:17 we are urged as believers to live our lives as pilgrims with reverent fear. Abraham is our archetype. If



we put ourselves in his sandals, we gain some insight into what it means to live life as a pilgrim in holy fear. Several important "Pilgrimage Principles" have occurred to me more strongly than usual in recent days.

**We are not yet home, so hold things loosely.**

No matter where you live or how long you have lived there, understand that, like Abraham, you live in temporary quarters. You are not home, never have been, never will be on this earth. The things you possess are all temporary. You will not own them forever. In fact, you don't "own" them now. They are God's. He has loaned them to you for a short time. His intention is that you should use the things with which you have been entrusted to serve His purposes. Since none of us knows the future, the time to do so is now. Your home, money, possessions, (Continued on page 2)



## The BIG Picture

(The following is adapted from a recent article by GTN president, Paul Madson.)

**Remember when you first learned about the character of God?** Or your identity in Christ? Or Inductive Bible Study? Do you remember how it changed you? And how

thankful you were to learn these soul-satisfying truths? Pastors throughout the Majority World need solid teaching on these subjects (and countless others). They not only need it, they *want* it... and will travel for hours (often by foot or bike) to obtain it.

According to Ephesians 4, God has called pastors to "equip the saints for the work of service." Central to that equipping is helping them to understand biblical teaching. Throughout Scripture, we are warned about the importance of "not being deceived" by false teaching. It isn't just a sidebar in Scripture; it is ubiquitous (Jude 3-4; 1 John 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 Tim. 1:3; 6:1-5; Matt. 7:15). Sadly, it is all too common for unsuspecting and ill-taught Christians to fall for the latest wave of doctrinal error.

GTN exists to both *equip* and *encourage* indigenous pastors and leaders throughout the Majority World to better understand and be centered upon what the Bible teaches. As one African pastor told me a few months ago, "Before GTN came with your training I did not understand these basic truths. It has truly changed my life and my ministry."

What were we teaching? Topics included:

- Identity in Christ
- The Character of God
- The Macro story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation (Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation)
- The Importance of Character (Continued on page 2)

**Pilgrims** *(Continued)*

time, strength, abilities: these are not forever. Hold things loosely and use them to advance causes that ARE eternal.

**Understand what is eternal and what is temporary.** While none of our things are eternal, some things in our lives ARE eternal—namely, God, His Word, and people. When Eileen and I decided to downsize, we soon realized that it was important for us to stay in the same area. Many of our ministry partners are in Arizona. We have made many friends here, and we love our church. There are less expensive places to live, but the friendships we have made here have eternal significance. God and His Word go with us wherever we go. People do not. Without any “Abrahamic” call from God to go elsewhere, we’ve chosen to continue the relationships with which God has blessed us here. Most things are temporary, but people are eternal. So hold onto things loosely, but hold onto people tightly.

**Make a decision and get going.** Sentiment is nice but it can bog you down. There have already been a lot of emotional moments for us in this move. At times we have asked ourselves, “what are we doing?” At other times we have felt sorrow about leaving a home we have really enjoyed. Such feelings are natural. But emotion can paralyze you if you let it. As stewards of God’s resources, downsizing

was the right financial decision. By God’s grace we are marching forward in spite of occasional mixed feelings. I’ve no doubt Abraham felt far more than a twinge or two after leaving Ur, but it didn’t stop him. If you are a pilgrim (and you are), don’t let sentimental attachments to the merely temporary stop you from making a decision and marching forward with God. We are on our way to our home in heaven, but we are not there yet. Paradise awaits—and reward, but not here and not now. This isn’t the place to sit down, or to pause and look back, or to waste time on small things. As author John Piper puts it, “Life is too short, too precious, too painful to waste on worldly bubbles that burst. Heaven is too great, hell is too horrible, eternity is too long that we should putter around on the porch of eternity.”

The thing about pilgrimage is this: it isn’t a command. It is a fact. God doesn’t URGE you to BE a pilgrim. He REMINDS you that you ARE a pilgrim and urges you to live like one in reverent fear.

**The BIG Picture** *(Continued)*

- Servant-Leadership

- How to Study the Bible for Yourself (Observation, Interpretation, Application)

This past year, God has allowed us the privilege of training over 12,000 pastors and leaders around the world. The potential impact that comes from training indigenous pastors is no small thing. **Oftentimes, a pastor has one of the most influential voices in their community.** As we move forward in 2019, we are asking God to expand our training efforts to even more pastors...in more places in this new year. But we can’t do this alone. We need partners who will come alongside us and support this work through their faithful prayers and generous gifts. *Together.* That’s how God has planned for His Kingdom to expand across the earth.

**Our Praises and Prayer Requests**

- Praise God I have scheduled an exploratory visit to northern Mongolia in May.
- Praise God for an invitation to minister in Romania.
- Praise God we have sold our house and are downsizing.
- Please pray as we navigate this move. Ministry travel plans in March will interfere to some extent.
- Please pray for effective, Spirit-led ministry trips to Rwanda (twice) and to Mongolia and Nepal this spring.

**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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