

March 2019



Global Training Network

Our Itinerary

- March 16-31: Rwanda ministry
- May 16-26: Rwanda ministry and Graduation
- May 27-31: Mongolia ministry
- June 1-16: Nepal ministry
- June 23: Sonoita Bible Church
- Oct 18-31: Rwanda ministry (tentative)
- Nov 1-15: Nepal ministry (tentative)



Where in the World Is Bob THIS Month?



I'm spending much of March in Rwanda. I'm teaching back-to-back courses entitled 'Biblical Preaching,' and 'Teaching the Christian Faith.' This represents an accelerated pace for a wonderful group of pastors and Christian leaders. Ordinarily there would be six months' time between these two courses. However, our Rwandan students have nearly completed a larger three-year Bible curriculum led by several of our GTN colleagues and me, and are set to graduate in May. The pastoral skills program which I've been leading was added to the curriculum while it was under way. We decided to accelerate that program in order to complete it also by graduation time late in May.

This means I will be returning to Rwanda in May to complete the final course with these Godly leaders. It also means that they will have a lot of extra work to do during the next three months. They are a very serious-minded group, and I believe they are up to it. When this course is completed, they will have more Bible training than 95% of majority world pastors. We continually challenge them to train others with the materials and knowledge they have received. Our passion is that this fruit will multiply! Please pray for our Rwandan pastors as they do God's work in a difficult corner of the world!

Perfect Peace During March Mayhem

"God invented March in case eternity should prove too brief." So says, Patrick McManus, my favorite short-humor author. From his perspective as a sportsman, in March, ice fishing is a mere memory, while fly fishing and deer hunting are far-away dreams. Thus, March is the longest month of the year by far, something over 1000 days by McManus' reckoning. I can't help but agree with Pat. I've often wondered if, when Peter wrote that "a day is as a thousand years," he wrote not just under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, but also under the influence of March. As a boy growing up in Urbandale, Iowa, March meant streets lined with dirty ice, cold wind rattling through bare trees, school grinding relentlessly on, and spring endlessly delayed. There was always the possibility that, having come in like a lion, March might just renege on the deal and go out like a lion too... but not for about a thousand more days. For me March was the "Let's-Get-On-With It!" month.

Fast forward (please!) to 2019. Now, I am a mature(?) man, and yet today I find myself feeling the same way about March. The world is so filled with mayhem on so many levels that I'd best not dwell on it here. There isn't enough space.

Our lives have been a bit mayhem-ish too. We are in the middle of a "downsizing" move. We've been residing in temporary quarters provided by a generous friend as we navigate the space between the sale of our old home and the closing of the purchase of our new one. Our furniture is in storage. Our finances are chaotic. So is our schedule. In the middle of it all, I'm off to Rwanda! Don't misunderstand. I'm not complaining, but I confess that I find myself strongly desiring a return to normalcy (whatever that is). So once again I inwardly upbraid the month of March. "Let's Get On With It!" my inner voice cries out. March, true to form, never answers. It just shuffles along.

Do you ever wish the pace of things was . . . different? Wouldn't it be nice if you could just fast forward through difficult days and run the more joyous ones in slow motion?



Perfect Peace During March Mayhem *(Continued)*



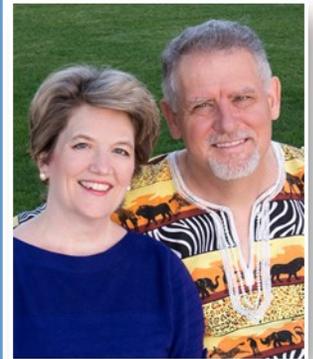
Yes, it would. But that's not our choice to make. The truth is, God has set our days at 24 hours each. No more. No less. The glacial pace of March is mere perception. To borrow (and tweak) an old Shakespearean line, "The fault, dear reader, is not our Marches, but in ourselves."

When feeling discontented (the official emotion of March) one need only ruminate on the perspective offered by God in His Word:

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in

the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days, Psalm 90:12-14.

We are not the first humans who ever wanted to step on the accelerator and experience life well above God's speed limit. Psalm 90 was written by Moses, perhaps during one of the 40 Marches he spent shuffling around with the Israelites in the wilderness. Does anyone doubt that they would have loved to speed that journey up? Never-the-less, when Moses prayed, "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom," he tacitly admitted that God has already numbered our days. Our numbering should reflect, not fight against His timing. He also recognized that each day provides opportunities to grow in wisdom if we can stop arguing with God long enough to see them. When we stop lamenting the inexorable pace of life, we can instead apply our hearts to seize the true riches of each day. Moses seems to also recognize that no answer will be forthcoming to his pleading question, "How long?" He wisely instead asks God to satisfy us, not with the kind of knowledge and control that rightly belong God alone, but with an assurance of His steadfast love. Such assurance enables us to rejoice in all of our days. If Moses could find contentment during 40 years of wandering through the desert with a constantly complaining group of former slaves, we can find peace in each of our days, even in the thousand days of March.



Our Praises and Prayer Requests



- Praise God for the profitable sale of our Gilbert home.
- Praise God for our new (smaller) house set to close March 29.
- Praise God for comfortable temporary housing provided by generous friends.
- Praise God the translation of our Rwandan class materials is complete in time for classes to begin.
- Please pray that the last minute details of our move will go smoothly.
- Please pray for Eileen while I am teaching in Rwanda during the second half of March.
- Please pray for effective ministry in Rwanda.
- Please pray my head cold will cease and desist before I travel.

March Matching Fund

One good thing about THIS March is that two of our wonderful partners have challenged us with a combined \$7000 matching gift. Can you help us match this gift between now and May? These funds will help underwrite our training events throughout 2019. Please see the giving section below to participate. Our students in Rwanda, Nepal, and Mongolia will praise God for your part in bringing them life changing Biblical training.

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. You can choose between "Give Now" (for regular support) and "Matching Fund" (for ministry expenses).



Support also accepted at:

Global Training Network
PO Box 6507
Peoria, AZ 85385

(Please include a note indicating that your gift is preferenced for the **Edmondson Matching Fund #43502**, or #435 for regular support.)



Come visit us at

www.inhispriponline.org

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