

August 2019



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

Our Itinerary



- Aug 9-17: Malawi Ministry**
- Sept 8:** Floris Baptist Church, Floris, IA
- Sept 22:** First Baptist Church of Page, AZ
- Oct 6:** Faith Fellowship Community Church, Bullhead City, AZ
- Oct 13:** Palm Springs Baptist Church, CA
- Oct 18-31: Rwanda Ministry**
- Nov 1-15: Nepal Ministry**
- Nov 16:** GTN 15th Anniversary Celebration
- Nov 24:** Maranatha Baptist Church, Globe, AZ
- Jan 9-17: Myanmar Ministry**



itinerary in recent newsletters. Never-the-less, it's true. As described above, a nearly last-minute cancellation created an opportunity for me to work in southern Africa if I could travel on short notice. God enabled us to clear our schedule. It will be a short trip from August 9-17. I will be working with Scott Countryman training about 100 pastors and other leaders at Capital City Baptist Church in Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi. Your prayers are needed and appreciated. In addition to my usual requests for safety, health, and effectiveness, I have a couple of specific requests. First, I will be leading a class of 100 using a pastoral skills curriculum designed for interaction with a class of no more than 25. I plan to have more breakout sessions than

In His Grip

The Unsettling Nature of Faith

It must have been thrilling, and frustrating. The Israelites relied upon a pillar of cloud and fire to guide them through the desert. *"By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night."* (Exodus 13:21) They were guided by the manifest presence of God Himself! The problem was that the pillar didn't guide them in predictable ways. They could travel by day or by night. God's choice. Nor did they travel every day. The pillar often settled in one place for a long time. The tabernacle would be erected and the people would settle in to wait. Then, one day, the pillar would lift from its place and it would be time to go. They knew neither the schedule nor the next destination. That was the frustrating part. No one could make definite plans. For forty years the Israelites spent



each day ready to move out on short notice. Things have not changed much since those ancient days. I am unfortunately an example. Last Friday a colleague e-mailed me. He was going to Malawi in about two weeks. His training partner had to cancel. He was desperate to find a last-minute replacement. Could I help him out? Now due to a break in our schedule, we had been praying for just such an opportunity. We had also been praying for the chance to return to Malawi and work with people we have come to love. God's leading here was as obvious as a moving pillar of fire. **NEVER-THE-LESS a little part of me resisted the idea because it required me to change my plans!** I said "yes", but I admit to mixed emotions. A visit to meet our newest grandson would have to be delayed. Meetings with our partners and potential partners would have to be put off. Plans to begin rewriting some of our curriculum would have

Where in the World Is Bob THIS Month?

I'm going back to Malawi! Some of you may be surprised at this announcement since Malawi has not been on my

usual to ensure everyone can participate. Please pray for good participation and learning. Second, please pray for our support needs. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, I had to postpone some needed appointments with potential partners. We have recently lost some donors due to changing circumstances in their lives. Their financial support came to more than \$400 per month. We are thankful for their continuing friendship and prayers, but we now find ourselves about \$550 per month short of our full support. We need to make up this deficit. Please pray with us about that. God always provides when His people pray and obey. I am excited to see how God will continue to provide both the resources and wisdom needed for this ministry.



The Unsettling Nature of Faith *(Cont'd)*

to wait. My trip preparation checklist would have to be expedited. Money would have to be spent that looked pretty good just sitting there. The sudden change of plans was...unsettling. It's not the first time. I've often found that decisions made in obedience to the Lord stir things up in uncomfortable ways.

Therein lies the great lesson. **The life of faith IS AN UNSETTLED life.** If you do a google search for quotes about faith, you won't be edified. You will get a lot of preachy bromides about faith as an antidote to fear (You know, Jesus was afraid in the garden. Was that from a lack of faith? Hmm?), glib snippets from celebrities whose fame seems to be

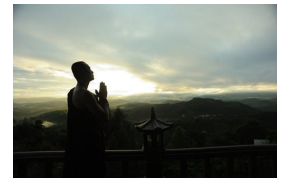
their main qualification, and, of course, endless admonitions to 'believe in yourself.' Blah Blah Blah. Scripture teaches us that faith is "the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) But what is the nature of this evidence? I would suggest that the evidence of unseen truths to which Hebrews refers is in the things believers DO because of what we BELIEVE. **Spiritual truths are NOT visible. Deeds coming from belief in those truths ARE.**

Faith actions tend to stand out. They go against the flow. They defy the values of the world around us. Therefore, they are frequently uncomfortable. They don't follow the path of least resistance. **Mark this: acting on what you believe is very often unsettling.**

TAKE HEART MY FRIENDS! When following God seems to disturb the status quo, you may take it as a reminder that we are not yet home. We are on a journey to a far better place, a place of rest and resolution and reward, a place where all of our fears and misgivings and anxieties will be banished! BUT WE ARE NOT THERE YET! We are still in the desert of spiritual warfare with enemies around us and a mission to accomplish! You can't win a war insisting on convenience. This is neither the time nor the place to settle down and get comfortable. Could it be that God in His mercy wants to remind us of this? Could it be that God allows us what our friend and author, Hud McWilliams, calls a "discipline of disturbance" so that we will remember that, like the Israelites, we are followers of God in a spiritual desert. This is NOT our home. Being too comfortable here is illusory and destructive. We will rest soon enough. 'Unsettled' is our inevitable state until we are settled in heaven. So when God says, "Go," there's only one thing to do... GO!!!



Our Praises and Prayer Requests



- Praise God for the birth of our 8th grandchild, Riley Daniel Edmondson.
- Praise God the trial went well for our recently arrested partner in Nepal. He is still awaiting the verdict.
- Praise God for an opportunity to train in Malawi in August.
- Please pray as I train 80 to 100 leaders in Lilongwe, Malawi, August 9-16.
- Please continue to pray for a 'not guilty' verdict for our Christian partner in Nepal. (See above.)
- Please pray for our monthly support needs, currently \$535 per month below full support.



Welcome to this World!

We are proud to welcome our 8th grandchild into the world. Riley Daniel Edmondson was born to Savannah and Daniel Edmondson in Cameron Park, California on July 23. He was welcomed by his mom and dad as well as his two older brothers Micah and Watson. We plan, by God's grace, to meet him later this month!



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.

A new page will appear with an 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 Edmondsons #435.)

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

Come visit us at

www.inhispriponline.org

