

January
2020



Our Itinerary



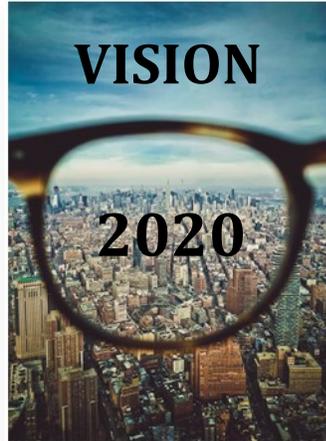
- Jan 9-17: Myanmar Ministry
- Feb 7-10: GTN Leadership Gathering
- Feb 23: First Baptist Church, Nogales, AZ
- Feb 27-March 14: Nepal Ministry
- April 7-25: Philippine Ministry
- April 26-May 1: Malawi Ministry
- May 3-9: Rwanda Ministry
- August 2: Mesa Baptist Church



One thing I love about the ministry of training indigenous leaders in the majority world is the *clarity of the vision*. We know what we are trying to accomplish. It is easy to explain. As enter 2020 we have the very same clear vision as when we started in 2009. With each year we establish new goals in order to carry out this continuing vision. Here is a peek at what lies ahead this year.

Our Vision Our purpose is to encourage and equip indigenous pastors, church planters, and other Christian leaders throughout the majority world. By 'majority world' we mean the countries of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. We call this the 'majority world' for two reasons. First, this is where the vast majority of the world's population resides. (Fun fact: If the world were a village of 100 people, 60 of the 100 would be Asian.) Second, this is where the majority of Christians

reside. Today, 75% of the world's Christians are non-western. They live in the majority world. Now here is the shocker: 80-90% of Christian leaders in the majority world are serving with little to no formal biblical theological training at all. Think of it! *The majority*



of Christians in the world are led by leaders who know very little of the Bible. After a recent training event which included classes on Bible interpretation, a leader told us, "I used to think that the Bible was a collection of sayings and stories with no particular theme. Now I understand that it is a unified story of God and man, of sin and salvation, of the past and the future!" What a revolutionary difference it

makes when a pastor learns how to interpret and teach the Bible! When leaders receive basic education in the concepts of Scripture, as well as how to interpret and teach those concepts, whole villages are changed for Christ! Our students lead



known as BURMA, Myanmar is often nicknamed 'The Golden Land' due to the number of golden pagodas that can be seen in the cities, villages and countryside. Buddhism, the state religion of Myanmar, includes a wide variety of animistic practices. Buddhism recognizes no God. However, it does recognize and admire the demonic world. Most homes include spaces dedicated as 'spirit houses' for the purpose of interacting with the spirit realm. In spite of these things, in recent decades the gospel has made progress in Myanmar. A significant and growing community of Christians now exists. As you might expect, there is an enormous need for training among their leaders. The leaders themselves recognize their own need and have extended invitations for us to come and help them. This is a golden opportunity in the 'golden land.' We will be ministering in Myanmar

Myanmar: The Golden Land

through most of January with GTN staffers Richard and Jane Spencer, Rick and Kathy Ragan, and Ron Rushing. We will be working in two teams conducting training events in Yangon, Mandalay, and Myitkyina.

You can help! We have two basic needs as we minister in Myanmar this month. First, we need your constant prayers. As you can see above, ministry in this country involves spiritual warfare. Where there is great opportunity for ministry, there is invariably great opposition in the spirit realm. We are not frightened. However, we are very much aware that we only move forward on our knees. So we ask you to go forward with us on your knees. Second, we need your financial help. Ministry in Myanmar is fairly expensive—more so since we will be doing a fair amount of travel with-

VISION 2020 (Cont'd)



hundreds of people to Christ each year as a result of their training. They plant churches and launch new ministries. They learn to warn their people against false teaching. In fact, our students achieve far more with the tools we bring them than we ourselves could ever achieve in their countries. We work to bring them these tools. *This is what drives us.*

Goals for 2020 In order to carry out our vision, we have to continually evaluate our work and set goals. In 2020, our goals are ambitious! We are setting out to do the following:

*Offer pastoral skills training to leaders in Nepal, Rwanda, Malawi, and the Philippines.

*Launch regular training in Myanmar and (by God's grace) Mongolia.

*See our students lead at least 600 souls to Christ.

*Travel together as a couple on 75% or more of my trips.

*Make personal visits to 50% of supporting churches and individual partners.

These goals involve six countries, more than in any other year. We will be training *new* groups in Myanmar, the Philippines, Nepal, and possibly Mongolia. Our 'result' goals include 600 souls for Christ. Yet the actual results could be much higher! We are trusting God for our most productive year yet!

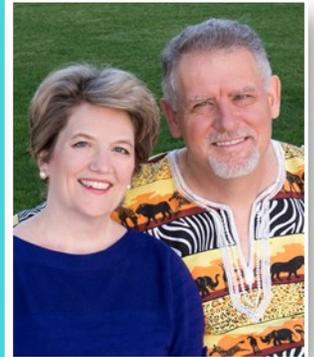
We Need Your Help! This will be physically rigorous, spiritually challenging, relationally taxing and financially expensive. This is spiritual warfare. **WE NEED YOUR PRAYER! WE ALSO NEED YOUR GIVING!** We have strong monthly support. However, the aggressive goals we have set will require some significant "over and above" giving. We are

thankful for you, our partners. In this ministry we have always gone forward as a team! If we are to succeed in this new year, we must do so again. I am confident in the Lord that, as you have given in the past, so you will do now. God is still doing great things, and we all still have the privilege of partnering with Him together in 2020!

Myanmar: The Golden Land (Cont'd)

in Myanmar itself to carry out our various training events. Moreover, this is the first of five countries where we will be ministering in the first five months of 2020. After Myanmar come Nepal, the Philippines, Malawi, and Rwanda. In spite of a good level of personal support, for which we are very thankful, our travel funds remain low due to the increasing cost of travel as a couple and our aggressive travel schedule. We are asking God to provide for the work to which He has called us. In 35 years of ministry, we have never yet launched into any kind of ministry convinced of God's leading without experiencing God's provision to carry out that work. We are headed to Myanmar and beyond in 2020 with full faith that God will provide for the ministry to which He has called us and that He will do so through our many partners.

May God bless us all as we partner together!



Our Praises and Prayer Requests



- Praise God for the gift of His Son!
- Praise God for providing for our Myanmar trip this month.
- Praise God for many ministry opportunities in 2020.
- Please pray for God's provision for our 2020 travel as those funds are low right now.
- Please pray for productive ministry in Myanmar.
- Please pray for Dilli Ram, our Nepal partner who is scheduled to have a final hearing on charges of illegal evangelism January 14.

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.)



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

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