

June 2021



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

Our Itinerary



- June 13: Sonoita Bible Church
- June 27: First Baptist Church of Page
- June 14-18: International Zoom Training
- June 28-July 2: International Zoom Tutoring (tentative)
- July 15-26: Nyanza, Rwanda Training
- July: Philippine Zoom Training (tentative)
- August 22: Floris Baptist, Floris, IA
- August 29: Chino Valley Community Church
- October 1-25: Rwanda Ministry



Rwanda Report

Eileen and I were blessed to spend almost the entire month of May training leaders in Rwanda! We worked with two groups. Both were new to us, in areas which were also new. The first was in Gisenyi. Overlooking beautiful lake Kivu, Gisenyi is a border town. Our hotel was only a few hundred yards from the Democratic Republic of Congo. We were warned not to stray into the wrong areas because... "those guards are crazy." We worked with a group of 36 pastors and Christian leaders; all eager learners. Our subjects were Christian Marriage and Family as well as Pastoral Care. Our partner,



GTN staffer Steve Larson, taught Biblical Counseling and the Gospel of John. We also made a pro-life presentation, giving away 3-month fetal models. We make this presentation to every new group we encounter. Believe it or not, many Christian leaders in the majority world have never heard or understood that abortion takes a human life. Since these are people of influence, we can't help but



believe that offering these leaders pro-life teaching ultimately saves lives. While in Gisenyi I was asked to preach in a large African Nazarene church. What a joy to worship and share

Where in the World Is Bob THIS Month?

In the immediate aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is difficult to make long-term plans. Let me clarify. It's actually easy to make such plans. The difficulty lies in KEEPING them. July is an example. We planned to minister in Bangladesh, Kenya, and Burundi. Unfortunately, these plans came unraveled. Our trips to all three countries had to be cancelled, due, in part, to uncertainty about Covid restrictions and the rise of new variants in the Far East. They told us when we

started on this journey 12 years ago that flexibility is the name of the game. They weren't kidding. We have adjusted our plans and now are engaged in three online efforts which will keep us busy during June and July. First, I have an International Zoom class dealing with Biblical Preaching in mid-June. Since some of my most promising students are unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts, I have offered to tutor them later this month. During June and July I will also be recording 15 presentations dealing with the doctrines of the church and of last things for students at the Conservative Baptist Seminary in Quezon City, Philippines. When the pre-recorded sessions have been aired, we will have one lengthy Zoom gathering to interact on these doctrines and answer questions. Our aim is to return to live classes there as soon as the government ends its quarantines. In addition to these digital doings, I am also preparing to return to Rwanda in July. We have been praying that the church at Nyanza will be open then, and it looks like our prayers have been answered. We plan to resume our Timothy Training there which has been twice interrupted by Covid. So where in the world are we this month? Well, we are here in Phoenix; but online we are in Nepal, India, Myanmar, the Philippines, Rwanda, and Zambia. This reminds me of one more prayer request: "Please Lord, don't let this be the new normal! Amen."



Rwanda Report *(Cont'd)*

God's Word with these wonderful believers. Our departure from Gisenyi was timely. On May 22, Mt Nyiragongo, just across the border from Gisenyi, erupted. Many villages near Goma,




Congo were destroyed. Dozens lost their lives. Thousands fled across the border into Rwanda, creating chaos in Gisenyi and elsewhere. We knew nothing of any of this, having departed just a few hours before the eruption.

Our second group of students was in a place called Bihembe. The location in an isolated camp was ideal. We stayed with the students, enjoying our meals together and sharing fellowship beyond class hours. The students loved their time together as evidenced by their singing which grew more and more joyous throughout the week. Our subject again was Pastoral Care while our partner, GTN staffer Steward Toliver, led a highly technical class on Biblical Interpretation. He did a wonderful job communicating some difficult concepts, The students really sank their teeth into it. Two of our students had taken several of our online courses. It was my privilege to present them with TLT Basic Trainer Certificates. Since this was also a new group, we did our pro-life fetal model demonstration here as well.

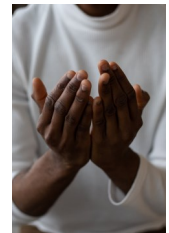


What sweet fellowship we had! Before the week was over we worshipped God together, taking communion and singing praises in a special service. Once again I was asked to speak. In an attempt to enter the 21st century, I carried my sermon notes in my iPhone. I was rewarded by having to preach the second half of the message without notes after they just...disappeared from the screen! Maybe I should stick to paper.

Eileen was a great asset. She contributed importantly to the class discussions. Key leaders also told us that her partnership with me along with our public support for one another taught "lessons without words." She also kept me organized and healthy. At one point a head cold made a sneak attack on me. Eileen counter-attacked with massive bombardments of vitamin C and Zinc. The virus went into panicky retreat. (I neglect these things when alone.) As for Covid, we were tested 4 times during this trip and came out clean(!) All in all on this trip we began a productive relationship with more than 60 new leaders with whom we plan to work over the next three years! To God be the glory! 



Our Praises and Prayer Requests



- Praise God for a successful month long ministry trip to Rwanda.
- Praise God for two online training events in June!
- Praise God for a new opportunity to train in Kurdistan this fall!
- Praise God for a great response to our annual matching gift challenge!
- Please pray God will open up doors in Nepal, the Philippines, and Myanmar.
- Please pray that our church near Nyanza, Rwanda will be allowed to open.
- Please pray for Myanmar suffering under the new military regime.

BEST MATCHING DRIVE EVER

Thank you for your generosity! This year's matching fund drive was a huge success! All together, you gave \$33,725 beyond regular giving to help us train more leaders in the majority world. This is the largest response we have ever had! Travel is opening up now and we have several ministry trips in the planning stages including a first-time ministry in Kurdistan in November. Your faithful giving is what makes these pastoral trainings in such difficult places possible! Praise be to God!

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.gtn.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.



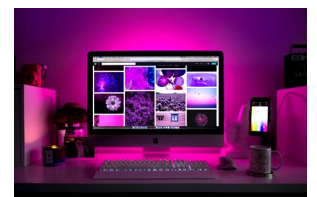
Support also accepted at:

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(Please include a note indicating that your gift is preferred for the Edmondsons #435.)

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