

July-August  
2021



GLOBAL TRAINING  
NETWORK

### Our Itinerary



**July 16-24: Kurdistan Training** (Northern Iraq)

**July 30: Zoom Q & A Philippines**

**August 8: Mesa Baptist**

**August 9-11: Zoom Class—Rwanda**

**August 22: Floris Baptist, Floris, IA**

**August 29: Chino Valley Community Church**

**October 1-24: Rwanda Ministry**

**Nov 18-Dec 1: Kurdistan Ministry** (Northern Iraq)



## Where in the World Is Bob THIS Month?



July and August are looking like very busy ministry months for us. God has changed our plans in an exciting way. We were on track to minister in Rwanda once again. I had hoped to visit an area which was closed to us during our last visit. However, as of now, the entire country of Rwanda is experiencing severe restrictions due to a surge in Covid-19 cases. Our classes have been cancelled there. It turns out that God has other plans for us. He has opened a door for me to work in Iraqi Kurdistan (Northern Iraq). By God's grace, I plan to depart on June 16, meet Dr. Jim Baugh (GTN Executive Director of Staff Development) in Istanbul, and together minister in Northern Iraq for one week. I will not be posting any of this on Facebook until after we have left Iraq. I also request that you not post about this online. The state department is currently recommending strongly against travel to Iraq due to various risks related to terrorism and, of course, Covid-19. We are going anyway, but we plan to keep things pretty low key. Your prayers for our safety are appreciated, but I

especially want to ask that you pray we would glorify God and make His Word clear in all circumstances while we are there. After Kurdistan, Eileen and I will be taking a more sedate trip to an undisclosed location to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary (August 1). Then I get to preach in three of our supporting churches during August and meet with various supporters and visit family members in Iowa. While there, we will also be working on plans for a somewhat longer Kurdistan trip scheduled for late November. So, it looks like we will be in the major hotspots from Iraq to Iowa. Among the things I love about this ministry, I can honestly report that it is never boring. 



## Building the Future

I've been building a barbecue grill island in our back yard. It has been a fairly complex project involving careful design, a bit of engineering, mortar work, wiring, carpentry, tile work, and continual communication challenges between myself and my lovely and longsuffering assistant who speaks 'Male' admirably, but only as a second language, 'Female' being her preference. It has also been consuming, requiring both time and focus. Here in the desert, in the summer months we must start work by 5:00 AM before the heat drives us

indoors. (Sometime around 9:00 AM.) Often I find myself awake at 3:30 or 4:00 AM thinking about the next part of the project and how best to accomplish our tasks for that day. Projects are like that for me, especially multifaceted ones. When I'm not directly working on them, I have them on 'the back burner' of my mind. Frequently this active/passive thought process produces improvements in design and building methods. My lovely assistant also improves the project by making very useful suggestions and helping me remember

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Building the Future *(Cont'd)*

little things like wearing my safety gear, drinking enough water, and measuring twice. I think the project consumes her a little bit too. While we are tired and ready to be finished with this part of our overall backyard project, it is also very rewarding to see things come together.

Herein lies an important lesson. The work of God involves building something much more important than an outdoor kitchen. We work to build the future. While our task of building is both current and continual, the true nature and quality of our construction work will only be revealed in heaven. The Apostle Paul was consumed by this building project. He poured his life into it. I think he intended us to be consumed by it as well.

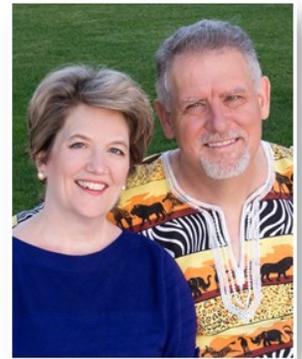


*According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer*

*loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.* (I Corinthians 3:10-15)

This thing we are building is not merely an object. It is a living temple for our God. (Ephesians 2:22) It is people. When the Holy Spirit indwells each new believer, that person becomes one more brick in a massive living structure in which God dwells. We have a part in this eternal building project. Our work involves introducing people to Jesus Christ and presenting them as mature believers to the Lord. We build disciples. As we pour our own lives into theirs, they become more and more beautiful pieces of a rising, glorious, living edifice—a suitable dwelling place for our Savior. This is important work and worth all the focus we can muster!

What if we were so consumed with the project of building disciples, we woke up early in the morning thinking about how to make progress in our construction work today? What if disciple-making was always on the 'back burner' of our minds? What if we worked together in spite of small difficulties because our common goal of building this living temple was simply too important to us to do anything else? Yes it is complex work. Yes it is consuming AND tiring. But yes, it is also highly rewarding! If you think such kingdom work is rewarding now, Just wait until we stand before Jesus in the not-too-distant future. ∞



### Our Praises and Prayer Requests



- Praise God for ongoing online work with the Conservative Baptist Seminary of Asia in Quezon City, Philippines.
- Praise God for new opportunities to train in Kurdistan!
- Praise God we live in a nation that still works to secure our freedoms.
- Please pray God will open up doors in Nepal, the Philippines, and Malawi.
- Please pray for our students in Rwanda who are shut down again with rising Covid cases.
- Please pray for believers in Myanmar as they suffer under the new military regime.

## 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:**

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Just click on "Give," then scroll down until you can click on our picture. A new page will appear with an online giving form.



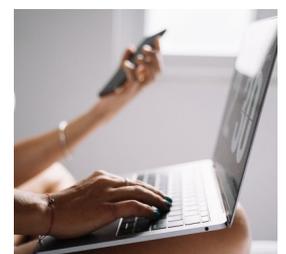
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(Please include a note indicating that your gift is preferred for the Edmondsons #435.)

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