

September-
October 2021



GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK

Our Itinerary



Sept 13-17: Multi-national online class: Teaching the Christian Faith

Sept 30-Oct 25: Rwanda Ministry

Oct 31: Palm Springs Baptist Church

Nov 7: Maranatha Baptist Church, Globe

Nov 14: Faith Fellowship Community Church, Bullhead City

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



Morning Madness

I admit it. I struggle with morning priorities. But it's not my fault! The fault lies with all the opinions I've read and heard over the years concerning how to manage mornings. I struggle to sort them out.

- The nutritionist: "Breakfast is the most important meal of the day."
- The fitness expert: "Morning is the best time to work out."
- The productivity expert: "Start Fresh! Start Early! You do your best work in the morning!"
- My spouse: "Let's take a nice walk before it gets too hot out."
- The preacher: (In his best Charlton Heston voice) "Reserve your mornings for GOD-UH!"



I can't argue with any of these opinions, but neither can I make everything priority #1. Hence, my dilemma. I've asked God if he could please stop the earth's rotation briefly each day (He's done it before.) to give us a few more morning hours to cover everything. I just keep hearing, "My grace is sufficient for thee..."

"Opinions are like belly buttons," said the wag. "Everybody has one." Today, those opinions are amplified by the power and speed of

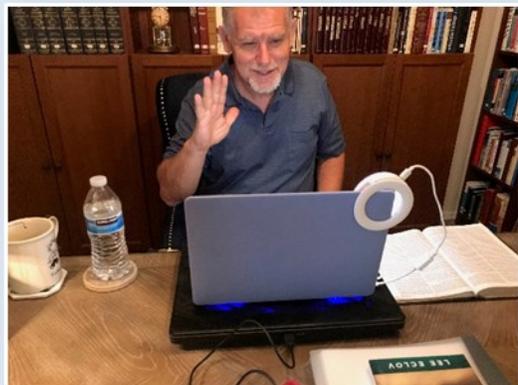
the internet. The online universe has not delivered on its promise to give us more and better information. What it HAS given us is an ever-growing "opinioniverse" in which some opinions are well-informed, some less so, and some are downright ludicrous. However, all claim to be the only correct perspective. We feel that we must pay attention to these various "experts." The result is daily pressure to perform. (Just ask any young mother who does a Google search on any matter related to "parenting.")

How do you sort it all out? I suggest two perspectives which can help us.

First. Understand that you are not answerable to everyone with an opinion. You are answerable to God. In the parable of the stewards (Matthew 25:14-30), the master entrusted resources to his servants and then left them to manage those resources. The decisions concerning that management were in their hands with the clear understanding that when the master returned, each would give an account of his stewardship and its results. This is an important and practical passage. God has

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Where in the World Are the Edmondson's This Month?



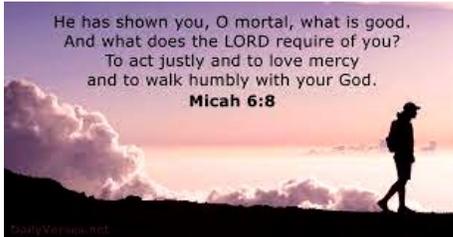
What a busy summer it has been! As we wrote in our last newsletter, we had the opportunity to minister for the first time in Kurdistan (N. Iraq). It was better than we expected. I had originally planned to merely assist my colleague, Jim Baugh, who was scheduled to teach a class on missions. However, at the last minute, Jim was unable to travel due to a problem at the lab processing his Covid test. Though unfamiliar to me, I had to teach his material since it had already been translated. By God's grace, I was able to do so and it was a successful week. I have been invited back and plan to go again in mid-November. God kept me safe throughout the trip although I got a little dehydrated during the 122 degree heat. During August we also visited many of our partners and prayer supporters in the Midwestern U.S.

September has now arrived and, with it, cooler weather (except in Arizona). Eileen and I are ministering from home this month. I will be conducting a multi-national online class for students on Teaching the Christian Faith. I

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Morning Madness (Cont'd)

entrusted to each of us many different kinds of resources. Our time, our work, our possessions, our residences, our finances, our families, and even our bodies. These things are not ours. They are his. We are given the task of managing these things and we will give an account to God for that management. —Not to online opinion makers, not to our favorite authors, not to our friends or relatives, but to God alone.



MATTERS LESS than whether we follow that path doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly. So then, what can I do in the morning that represents justice, kindness, and humility?

The answer is that any of these activities can be done with that godly spirit. I still have to sort out what is the best stewardship of that time. However, I DON'T have to worry about gaining the approval of "experts." After prayer for

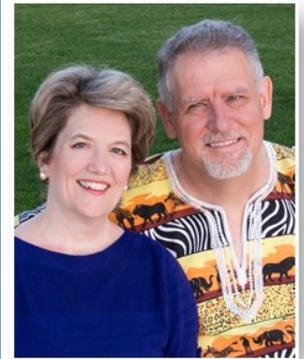
Second, ask yourself, what does God want from me? Micah 6:8 says, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" God has three priorities for us. Each provides a measuring stick for our activities and priorities, even for our relationships. **DO JUSTICE. LOVE KINDNESS. WALK HUMBLY.** That's it. As we navigate the sea of opinions around us, it is useful to realize that the path we choose

wisdom (James 1:5), and getting good information, I get to choose what seems the wisest course. That's stewardship. Thank you for your opinion, it informs me, but in the end I only have two considerations: 1) what is the best stewardship of the time and other resources God has entrusted to me, and 2) how can I follow that course with a frame of mind that would please Him? By the way, Eileen points out that God's morning guidance is clear in Micah 6:8: "WALK humbly." 

Where in the World Are the Edmondson's This Month? (Cont'd)



am excited to have a new student from Tanzania. At the same time, I am saddened to have no response from a student from Myanmar (Burma) which seems to be edging closer to a civil war. I am looking forward to fellowship and training time with the pastors who can join us. We continue to meet with supporting churches and individuals this month. We also plan to make a short trip to California to meet our ninth grandchild and second granddaughter, Eleanor, Lorraine Edmondson. Good times! In the last week of September, Eileen and I will be ministering in two different places. By God's grace, I plan to head off to Rwanda for nearly four weeks, returning late in October. At the same time, Eileen will be heading back to Iowa to help care for her father as he recovers from major back surgery. Sometimes as I'm falling asleep, I think to myself, "Imagine. There were people who were actually bored today." 



Our Praises and Prayer Requests



- Praise the Lord for our new grand-daughter, Eleanor Lorraine Edmondson.
- Praise the Lord for our many partners and prayer supporters.
- Please pray for our upcoming multi-national Zoom class on teaching the Christian Faith (Sept 13-17).
- Please pray for our upcoming training events in Rwanda and Kurdistan.
- Please pray for Eileen's 86 year old dad as he has major back surgery later this month and for Eileen as she goes to give care during his recovery.

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)

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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.



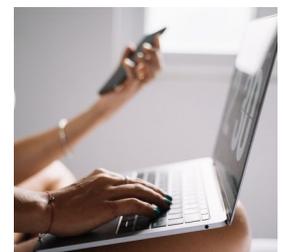
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