

January 2022

GLOBAL TRAINING  
NETWORK

### Our Praises & Prayer Requests



- Praise God for our final online international class January 3-7.
- Praise God for strong giving to end 2021.
- Praise God for another new year in which to serve Him!
- Please pray about our now cancelled January ministry in Nepal. Pray that we will be able to schedule online training there instead.
- Please pray for provision for Books for Kurdistan.
- Please pray for good health for Bob and Eileen as we serve in a demanding ministry.



## Out of Control?

During one of our online classes this month, the students shared about all the painful, frightening and sometimes traumatic events occurring around them in the countries where they live. I added to the discussion myself. It seemed that everything we brought up that morning had one factor in common: our lack of control. That's a lot of what makes these things scary. There was nothing we could do. That sense of helplessness is a pandemic of its own in our world. Recent polls almost universally reveal that Americans (historically known for optimism) are increasingly pessimistic about both the current state of affairs and the future. Somehow the polling rings true. When I go shopping, people seem more...grim. Few (if any) smiles can be seen, even when there is no facemask to hide them. In spite of ubiquitous Christmas decorations in our neighborhood, I sensed little of what we used to call, "the Christmas Spirit." I can't help thinking that much of this "National Mood Disorder," as the Washington Post recently called it, stems from the sense that things are just "out of control," and there is nothing on the horizon to suggest a return to normal. These things result in a profound sense of uncertainty, a lack of assurance, a sense of insecurity, and pessimism.

We need perspective. One hard truth with which we, as adults, need to come to grips is the fact that, whether times are good or bad, we have very little control over the events of our lives. We didn't control the circumstances of our birth. Nor do we know the day or



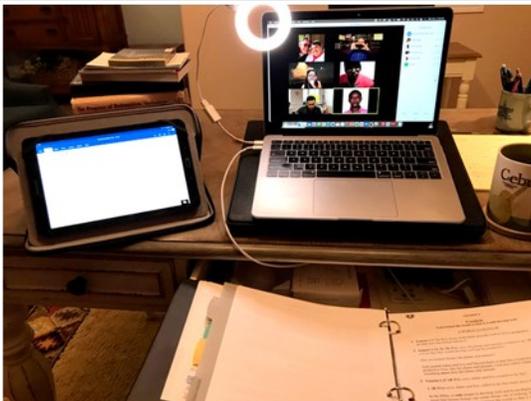
manner of our death. We don't know what an individual day will bring. We don't control the people around us. We don't know how long it will take to drive across town in traffic. We don't control the cost of the fuel we put in the car to make that trip. Everyone talks about the weather, but no one can really do anything about it. I have had two different versions of the flu this winter. Could I have controlled this? All I can say is, I tried. While there are aspects of our daily experience we can and should control, the notion that we are ultimately in control of our overall life is largely an illusion.

Fortunately, there is a more reassuring truth on which we also need to have a firm grip: Nothing is out of God's control.

*"Are not two sparrows sold for a*

## Where in the World Are the Edmondsons THIS Month?

January is a busy month for Bob and Eileen. Following a trip to Arkansas for Christmas with grandkids, we hit the ground running with an



international Zoom class starting January 3. The 4:00 AM daily start time (necessary because of the different time zones involved) was a bit challenging on these cold mornings, but we soldiered through. This was our last class with this group of students. Several of them have completed all six Timothy courses with us and will be receiving Advanced Trainer Certificates. One of our graduates has been joining us from his home in Myanmar. His participation has involved a degree of personal risk in that troubled country. Never-the-less, he had perfect attendance!

As I write, we have just learned that our planned training ministry in Ilam and Biratnagar, Nepal, scheduled to start this Wednesday, has now been cancelled due to a surge in the Omicron variant of Covid-19 in Nepal. The government there is implementing various restrictions on meetings and travel, with plans to add still more in the coming days. As I wrote above, we have very little control over the course our lives take at any given time. Fortunately, God is in control of these things. To say that I am disappointed in this development is to understate things, but I will seek God in prayer and await His guidance regarding further online training for our friends in Nepal.

**Out of Control?** *(Cont'd)*

**penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.**" Matthew 10:29-31 (ESV)

With these words, Jesus offered reassurance to His disciples who were inclined to fear events in their world. Jesus' mild and humorous statement that "you are of more value than many sparrows" was meant as a subtly ironic reminder that human beings are very precious to God. While Jesus is the Son of God, His favorite self-description was "Son of Man." He cares that much for you and me. Let that sink in.

Why is there an ongoing pandemic raging through the world? Why do economic and political matters seem to be on a rollercoaster ride to the unknown? The short answer is "I don't know." A better answer is; I don't NEED to know. I'm not God. All I need to know is that God has got this. All I need to know is that there is a caring benevolent creator who knows all of the answers, who is in control and who **"works all things together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose."** (Romans 8:28)

When I KNOW this, I know that things will be all right in the end...and that is all the *reassurance* I need.

But reassurance was not the final aim of Jesus' statements. He gave His disciples a command: **"Fear Not!"** They didn't know it yet, but these men would soon stand in the face of adversity,



opposition, and persecution with only their faith in God to sustain them. The command to fear not was more than a mere comforting bromide. It was, if you will forgive me for being so blunt, a command to "Remember who you work for! Put on your big boy pants and don't quit on me!" This is the practical outgrowth of Godly reassurance. It's not just about feeling better. It is about continuing in the courage

that God's presence and care provides! This is no time for believers to be paralyzed by fear. This is no time for us to hesitate. The men who heard Jesus' words would go on to carry the gospel into a world every bit as chaotic as

our own. And through their faithful courage in Christ, that world was changed. They are *our* cloud of witnesses. As we enter the new year, should we also enter into the grim pessimism and fear of our times, or should we be guided in our actions by a better voice? Should we wait for things to change or should we BE the change? You be the judge. 



**Our Itinerary**

- Jan 3-7: International Zoom Class
- Jan 9: Ponderosa Bible Church, Payson, AZ
- Jan 19–Feb 7: Nepal ministry—**Postponed Due to Omicron**
- Feb 18-21: GTN Leadership Gathering
- Feb 27: First Baptist Church, Nogales, AZ
- May 5-30: Rwanda ministry



**Books for Kurdistan**

Our Books for Kurdistan effort is off and running. Just under \$2000.00 has been donated so far. Our goal is to raise \$10,000.00 in 2022. This will cover the cost of translating and printing at least two books on pastoral skills for our current and future students at the Hope Bible Institute in Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan. This is a vital part of our training in an almost completely unchurched part of the world. We challenge you to help us help our students toward Biblical literacy as God enables you. Giving details are below....

**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:**

[gtn.org/edmondson](http://gtn.org/edmondson)



Under "Ministry Designation" select either "Bob and Eileen Edmondson (435)" or "Books for Kurdistan (43503)."

**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 or "Books for Kurdistan" #43503.

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