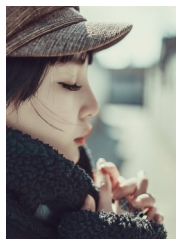


February 2022



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

Our Praises & Prayer Requests



- Praise God our “Books for Kurdistan” project has generated \$6000 in contributions so far with another \$1800 pledged for 2022.
- Praise God for the easing of Covid restrictions now underway.
- Praise God for a new opportunity to minister in Rwanda in early March.
- Please pray for our (currently delayed) return to Nepal.
- Please pray for our expanding ministry in Rwanda.
- Please pray for solid preparation for planned ministry in the Philippines this summer.
- Please pray for good health for Bob and Eileen as we serve in a demanding ministry.



In His Grip

Need I Say More?

Someone opined that, “When all has been said, most preachers are still saying it.” Actually, some truths are so transcendent, so sublime, that they can never be fully expressed in *any number* of words. Such truths must be expressed in actions. Take the subject of Christian love for example. One simple act of selfless love on the part of a Christ-follower may communicate more effectively than fifty preachers waxing eloquent. There is no shortage of such sermons, but often there is a shortage of such actions. How sad when words fall short and then actions do too.

I often find my own actions falling short of *my own* words in this area. When someone cuts me off on the freeway, or disrupts my privacy in an attempt to sell me solar panels or pest control, my attitude frequently lacks anything resembling love. Sometimes it’s an effort just attaining to the much lower bar of mere civility. “Was I polite enough?” I ask my wife. (She generally says nothing but looks perplexed.) However, there have been moments when the Holy Spirit has overcome my introversion and besetting sin of impatience, and has produced genuinely loving actions. I know it is the Holy Spirit because afterward I wonder, “*What just happened?*”

As a Bible student, I used to travel thirty miles to a church where I served as a part time youth

pastor. I would flog my rattling old Plymouth over the backroads of Iowa twice a week, and more often when there were “special meetings” to host visiting evangelists. As I arrived at one such special meeting a man named Paul entered with an unsaved friend. This man’s leather jacket and multiple tattoos proclaimed his membership



in a notorious motorcycle gang. In those days, loud motorcycles were not ridden by genial middle aged boomers with disposable income and time to kill on the weekends. They were the province of young, sinewy, unsmiling rebels who stayed just close enough to a loose interpretation of the law to avoid being locked up, possibly in solitary. This man was an advanced example of the type. He had “dangerous” written all over him figuratively and, in a couple of places, literally. He looked no-nonsense mean. I sat some distance from

him. When the invitation was given, to no one’s surprise, he didn’t respond. After the meeting Paul approached me and asked me to drive his friend home. My eyes said, “Are you kidding me!?” My heart said, “Ain’t no way!” My unenthusiastic voice said, “Sure.” (I was on the pastoral staff. There was no way out.) Few words were spoken through most of the trip. I never even asked the man his name. He smoked a cigarette and I held tightly to the steering wheel

Buckle Up

When it comes to missions, flexibility is the name of the game! February didn’t



turn out at all the way we planned. We had scheduled a ministry trip to Nepal for the latter part of January and first part of February. Our partners in Nepal were forced to cancel due to increasing government restrictions in response to the Covid Omicron Variant. We quickly shifted gears and scheduled an additional trip to Rwanda for early March as well as a much overdue visit to Alaska to reacquire ourselves with our daughter, son-in-law, and grandkids there.

Now that Covid restrictions are beginning to ease around the world we anticipate a busy spring and summer (and fall and winter). Our ministry in Rwanda is expanding with at least three trips on tap for this year and one additional regular training event there. We hope to go to Both Nepal and Kurdistan twice this year. I have also been asked to do a masters level class on Integrative Theology in the Philippines in June. In summary, as Covid fades, our ministry looks like it will get very busy. We are at the starting line revving the engines and preparing to pop the clutch. So, buckle up!

Need I Say More? *(Cont'd)*

while silently praying that he wouldn't kill me just for fun. At length he cleared his throat and asked an unexpected question: "When you pray, do you use, like... any special words or something?" Surprised, I stammered, "No. Y-You just talk to God. He... likes it when we talk to Him." He digested this bit of brilliance. At




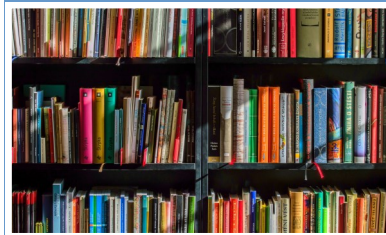
length, greatly daring, I asked, "Is there something in particular that you want to talk to God about?" He coughed, "Uh, No... No." Changing tactics, I asked, "Are you going to the meeting again tomorrow night?"

This was as close as I got to actually "witnessing" to this man. "No," he replied. "I would but my bike ain't runnin' and I don't have no ride." Then it happened. Out of nowhere I heard a voice that sounded like my own saying, "Well, I can't go tomorrow night because I have to do something on campus, but you can borrow my car." This offer seemed to surprise him almost as much as it did me. I couldn't believe my ears, and I immediately considered whether or not I should have my head examined. To my immense relief, he refused, saying, "Uh, no. I couldn't do that." Since the offer was out there now, I resolved to make the best of it. I assured him I wouldn't mind at all, wondering, as I did so, about the moral implications of lying while attempting to get an unsaved guy to an evangelistic meeting. We arrived at his house and he got out of the car. With a brief word of thanks, he was gone. I spent a moment just savoring the feeling of being still alive. Then I asked myself, "What just happened?"

The next day Paul called. "What in the world did you say last night?" he asked me incredulously. "Not very much," was my honest reply, "Why do you ask?" "Because," he explained, "Right after you dropped him off, he got on his knees and asked Jesus to be his savior! He said that you persuaded him!"

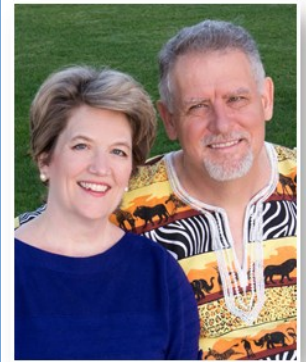
The Holy Spirit prompts us at times to act in love well beyond our natural tendencies. When we follow the prompting, the results can go well beyond those of mere words. God uses ordinary people in these moments. So, I want to urge you to do three things: **First, be present with people**, both believers and un-

believers. Don't isolate yourself from them. The reason God has left us here on this earth is for other people. **Second, be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.** He is active, but His is a still and small voice. It effectively separates spiritually sensitive people who sense His presence and prompts from merely busy ones who become insensitive to Him. You can miss His voice if you are not listening for it. **Third, when the prompting comes, obey it.** Afterward you may wonder, "What just happened?" Rest assured; God has something purposeful in mind. Your act of obedience and love may speak more effectively than the most eloquent preacher out there. I could go on writing about this, but...need I say more? 



Books for Kurdistan

Our "Books for Kurdistan" effort continues to grow. Current donations total \$6000 with another \$1800 pledged through 2022. We are on track to translate and produce our first book for this year dealing Christian Stewardship. Thank you for helping us provide books in Kurdish for our current and future students in Kurdistan!



Our Itinerary



- Jan 19-Feb 7:** Nepal ministry—Postponed Due to Omicron
- Feb 18-21:** GTN Leadership Gathering
- Feb 27:** First Baptist Church, Nogales, AZ
- March 3-14:** Rwanda ministry
- May 5-30:** Rwanda ministry
- June 17-27:** Philippines ministry

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



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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