

June 2022



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

Our Itinerary



June 5: Calvary Baptist, Wickenburg, AZ

June 16-July 2: Philippines ministry

July 10: First Baptist, Duncan, AZ

Sept 1-10: Kurdistan Ministry

Sept 18: Calvary Crossroads, Wenatchee, WA

Sept 25: East Wenatchee First Baptist, WA

Oct 6-Nov 6: Rwanda ministry



The School of Peace

The ancient Chinese curse, “May you live in interesting times!” seems to have fallen upon us all. The times we live in are definitely.... interesting. In addition to the geopolitical struggles around us, we face economic turmoil, the decline of Christian influence, an uncertain future, and the stresses of ever busier lives. Strangely, this last difficulty, which seems small compared to the others, frequently causes us the most anxiety.

Recently, as Eileen and I prepared for another series of overseas training events, we had several days in which our “to do” lists were longer than the day allowed. I sat with Eileen during a brief break in the action, shook my head and sighed, “You know, honey, we’ve been through some hard things in our lives. We’ve trusted God and came through them pretty well.” Eileen nodded as I continued, “Yet here we are on an ordinary day with more to do than time to do it. It’s not unusual, but I am ALL AMPED UP about it! I feel really anxious!” She gave me an exasperated wide eyed look that said, “You and me both.” How is it that we can find peace in the midst of

serious trials and yet lack peace during the ordinary stresses of daily life?

I began to meditate on a classic text on the subject: Phil 4:6-7: **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”**

There are some obvious truths in this passage. When anxious, we can choose a different path. We can lay our burdens before God, knowing that He will grant peace in the storm. We can have a peaceful heart that overflows, calming others even in the midst of severe trials.



Where in the World Is Bob THIS Month?

Bob spent most of May training three groups of leaders in Rwanda. In Nyanza/Ruhango, the students reported on the results of their application plans from the an earlier preaching course. Among the many outcomes from their preaching they led 696 people to Christ. They are looking forward to further discipling their converts and are excited by what they learned in this latest class on teaching the Christian faith.

In Gisenyi, the course was on overcoming harm and violence in the family. This highly relevant course was presented as the second half of a course on pastoral care. No action plan reports were received because we received them “out of sync” during our March visit.

From Gisenyi, we moved on to Bihembe where we

taught the same class on overcoming harm and violence in families. This course deals with sensitive issues and frequently produces intense and emotional interactions. It was difficult to do it twice in a row. Never-the-less, I rejoiced to hear the students’ reports on their application plans from their previous Christian stewardship course.

Most chose to focus on their stewardship of the gospel. As a result they led a 630 people to Christ and trained nearly 1000 leaders using our materials. In addition, denominational leaders who have now been exposed to these courses are using them to teach Christian stewardship in 204 churches. I

was also delighted to certify 20 of our students as Timothy Basic Trainers. Now my task is complete and I returned home to Eileen, who was unable to join me as she was helping care for a family member following surgery. I am amazed that two small groups of leaders have evangelized more than 1300 people in the last six months as a result of their training and are multiplying that training to large numbers of other Christians. To God be the glory. Great things He has done!



The School of Peace (Cont'd)

These truths are as plain as they crucial. But my thoughts began to dwell on the development of an *instinctive peace*. I asked myself, "How can I begin to live out Philippians 4:6-7 as a *habit of thought*?" The following are some of my conclusions.

I believe that, if we are willing to learn, **God takes us to school—The School of Peace**. Here we slowly learn to trust God in all circumstances. The School of Peace has four core courses:

Peace 101: Knowing that God can be Trusted.

This understanding is foundational to any peace at all. We serve a benevolent God who has our best interests at heart at all times. No matter what life throws at us, God never stops caring. He understands our circumstances and our feelings. As Max Lucado observed, "If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it."



Peace 201: Trusting God with your Eternal Soul.

The gospel is the ultimate expression of God's attitude toward us. He loves us enough to send His Son, not to condemn us, but to save us. Most of us grasp our need for salvation and pass this essential course pretty early on. But there are further lessons in trust which we learn as we mature.

Peace 301: Trusting God in Crisis.

In this course we learn to trust God even when things go disastrously wrong. We learn, like Job, that God cannot be blamed for the terrible events that occur too often in our lives. On the contrary, He remains faithful and willing to grant peace even in the

midst of the most terrible storm imaginable.

Advanced Peace: Trusting God on Ordinary Days. Why is this an advanced course? Consider: When there is a crisis, our need to trust in God is obvious. We ask others to pray and we pray ourselves, sometimes as never before. We are weak and we know it. But ordinary days we feel capable of handling on our own. We are determined to make the most of our day. "I have my lists," we reason, "I have time and energy. I have abilities. I

multi-task. I've got this!" These efforts at self-assurance begin to ring hollow as the day goes off the rails. Confidence gives way to anxiety and irritability. Unfortunately, the DAILY practice of dependence on God, even for our peace of mind, can be a discipline hard to acquire. I

know how to turn to God for peace in a crisis. I've passed that course. But this course is tougher. It is all about applying the truths of Philippians 4:6-7 DAILY, *though the need is far less obvious*. This advanced course is important precisely because it is so "daily." When these lessons are fully absorbed, they result in a deeper intimacy with God and a change in attitude that powerfully affects others around you. What a challenge! For me, it is still early in the semester. I have a lot of work to do, both for my own sake and for the sake of those I love. How about you? Where are you in the School of Peace and how are your studies going?



Our Praises & Prayer Requests



- Praise God for an effective ministry in Rwanda.
- Praise God for 1326 souls led to Christ by our students.
- Praise God for good health and strength while in Africa.
- Please pray for our upcoming return to minister in the Philippines.
- Please pray for our partner, David Slagg, who will be traveling with me.
- Please pray that we can soon resume our ministry in Nepal.
- Please pray for the development of our Kurdistan ministry.



Matching Fund Final

Congratulations and thank you for responding to our 2022 Matching Challenge! You have more than matched an original challenge gift of \$7500 from one of our great partners by giving nearly \$14,000 in additional gifts for a Matching Challenge, a total of more than \$21,000! We are profoundly grateful to God and to you for helping to top off our travel/training fund for the remainder of 2022. This is an exceptionally busy and highly productive year. May God reward you for your partnership with us in this great work!

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 "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".

Come visit us at



www.inhispriponline.org

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