

July 2022



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

Our Itinerary



July 10: First Baptist Church, Duncan, AZ

July 14-31: Nepal Ministry

Sept 1-10: Kurdistan Ministry

Sept 18: Calvary Crossroads Church, Wenatchee, WA

Sept 25: East Wenatchee First Baptist Church, WA

Oct 6-Nov 6: Rwanda Ministry

Dec 1-18: Nepal Ministry



The Power of Listening

Today in our class on Caring for God's People we talked about the importance of being a good listener. It is a skill apparently hard to acquire for pastors and Christian leaders who feel that our job is to do the talking and YOUR job is to do the listening. The truth is, all of us would do well to do the listening no matter who we are, how old we are, or how much we know. Why is this so? Here are five reasons that careful listening can have a powerful effect in the lives of others.

Reason #1: Because we live in a noisy world.

As I sit here in a semi-rural area in the Visayan Islands, I can hear several different conversations taking place nearby. Somewhere, music is playing. Also nearby someone is singing Karaoke (badly). Motorcycles and other vehicles can be heard on the nearby road and a workman on the floor beneath us is hammering.—And this is a peaceful spot! In my home it is little different. There is always some kind of noise from the street, from the homes under construction nearby, from 'Alexa,' from the TV, from something online, or from the car radio. Ask yourself, when was the last time you experienced an extended time of silence? For many of us, it has been some time. Lots of voices are vying for our attention—demanding that we listen, but who listens to you in this noisy world?

Reason #2: Because we are increasingly isolated.

Sociologists have noted a strange trend in our culture. The more "connected" we are, the more isolated we become. The more we engage in friendship via social media, the lonelier we are. An entire generation is now losing the skills required to interact effectively in live social settings. A recent episode of 'Gutfield!' explored the rising phenomenon of people who find phone calls (which require actual vocalizing



Where in the World Is Bob THIS Month?

Greetings everyone! I am writing to you from the Visayan Islands of the Central Philippines! I am here with my partner, David Slagg, a key leader from the first Baptist Church of Nogales and an experienced Bible teacher. We started our ministry in Quezon City, Luzon leading a group of Masters' level students at the Conservative Baptist Seminary of Asia in an advanced theology course called "Integrative Theology." From there we moved to the island of Negros Occidental in the Visayas. We are at the Berean Bible Institute leading a group of Bible Institute students and local pastors through a Timothy course called "Caring for God's People." The students are receiving this training with enthusiasm. I have also done a pro-life presentation and gifted them with 3 month fetal models to use in their counseling ministries. We plan to add an extra day to our training event to teach specifically about hermeneutics (Bible interpretation). David is heading up that effort. God is blessing this ministry and we are encouraged.

Eileen is not with me on this trip. However, though absent she continues working with us online. She is helping David prepare for his one day seminar on hermeneutics by providing materials from our files and a scrolling verse

document for his use. She is also working to do the extensive logistical preparations for herself and me as we are in for a quick turnaround. After just 11 days at home, we plan (Lord willing) to head back out together to Nepal for our first ministry there since the pandemic began. We are on track so far thanks to her good work.



Please pray for us during this busy season. We are in a period of great harvest and we want to "work for the night is coming." At the same time we need your prayers for strength and balance in our work and rest and relationship. Our lives are for God's glory. May it always be so! Your prayers make all the difference!

The Power of Listening (Cont'd)



listening goes far beyond what the listener gains or learns. Listening is, in and of itself, an act of the most profound love. As we noted, it is incredibly affirming; but, beyond that, it demonstrates the value that you personally place in another person. It says, "I care about you enough to let your conversation set the agenda. I care enough to understand...as fully as I can. YOU MATTER TO ME!" In a noisy bewildering, isolating world, that matters. A lot.

Reason #5: Because listening allows others to serve God.

Finally, by listening carefully to others we may discover a wealth of wisdom in the one(s) to whom we listen which we never suspected and which enriches our lives. Sometimes overlooked is the fact that offering that hard won wisdom enriches their lives too. It gives them an opportunity to contribute to another person's life in a meaningful way. We are all blessed to be a blessing. When you listen carefully to a friend, a relative, or an acquaintance, particularly one with a good deal of life experience, you are offering that person an outlet for the lessons he or she has learned in life. As they grant you the benefit of hard won wisdom, both of you are blessed. There have been some significant older people in my life who have shared with me, often in words so concise as to be almost proverbial, the life lessons that have gotten them through. In those moments I have often felt as though someone has handed me a bar of pure platinum. I cherish those words and can appreciate them for their true worth. I only hope that they too are blessed at finding someone willing to slow down enough to just listen. And I only pray that, as such moments continue to come, I will be ready to do just that. ∞

and listening) threatening. Many now prefer to send those calls to voicemail and then communicate by text instead. As an introvert, I can understand this sentiment. I must point out, however, that by avoiding conversations we avoid not only the challenges they pose, but also the human need in us that they meet; like the satisfaction of human connection, the fullness of understanding coming from hearing someone's tone of voice and not merely seeing their words, and, yes, the fulfillment and bonding that comes from carefully listening and being listened to.

Reason #3: Because listening is affirming.

When you listen to someone, really listen to them, looking them in the eye, asking clarifying questions, checking to see if you understand them correctly, nodding your agreement or your compassion, that act of careful listening is incredibly affirming! It says to someone, "you are important enough to me that I am willing to invest time in you. You are significant enough that I am willing to go to the effort to fully understand your perspectives." "I take you seriously." Laurie Buchanan, PhD, writes, "Not everyone is looking for an answer. Often people just want to be heard."

Reason #4: Because listening is an act of love.

We teach our pastoral students that when they work with people, they should be good listeners. We teach them how to listen and what to listen for, but mostly we teach them that



Our Praises & Prayer Requests



- Praise God for a strong return to ministry in the Philippines.
- Praise God for David Slagg who is a great ministry partner with strong teaching skills.
- Praise God we have two trips to Nepal now scheduled.
- Please continue to pray for the development of our Kurdistan ministry.
- Please continue to pray for the launch of our teaching ministry among refugee leaders in Rwanda.
- Please pray for health and strength for Eileen and me during an extraordinarily busy travel schedule these next few months.



Books for Kurdistan UPDATE

Our goal for 2022 is to raise \$10,000 in order to translate two or more books into the Kurdish language for students at the Hope Bible Institute at Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan. In the first six months of 2022 you have given \$5850 toward this goal in addition to your other giving. We are slightly ahead of schedule thanks to your generosity. God bless you and please keep it up!

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 preferenced for the Edmondsons #435 or "Books for Kurdistan #43503".

Come visit us at



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