

September-
October 2022



GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK

Our Itinerary

Time	Flight	From	To	Class	Status	Time	Flight	From	To
20:10	CA 784	Shanghai	Los Angeles	Y	On Time	20:50	UA 171	Los Angeles	Honolulu
20:15	CA 918	Manila	Chicago	Y	On Time	20:55	UA 639	Fukuoka	Sapporo
20:20	CA 807	Chicago	Los Angeles	Y	On Time	21:00	TR 974	Singapore	Nagasaki
20:25	CA 776	Jakarta	Los Angeles	Y	On Time	21:00	UA 591	Nagasaki	Beijing
20:30	CA 369	Shanghai	Los Angeles	Y	On Time	21:05	CA 117	Beijing	Los Angeles
20:35	CA 666	Bangkok	Los Angeles	Y	On Time	21:05	CA 784	Los Angeles	Chicago
20:35	FD 524	Phuket	Los Angeles	Y	On Time				
20:35	CA 111	Busan	Los Angeles	Y	On Time				

- 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**
- Jan 8:** Valley Baptist Church
- Jan 12-29: Philippines Ministry** (tentative)
- Feb 17-20:** GTN Leadership Gathering
- Feb 23-March 18: Nepal/ Kurdistan Ministries**
- March 26:** Mesa Baptist Church



The Vision of Our Visionary Students

Lydia (not her real name) is our student in Kurdistan. Over dinner one evening, she told Eileen and me about a widow she led to Christ and discipled. Lydia was surprised that Priscilla (also not her real name) came to Christ at all, since she had been a committed and trained Muslim. However, Priscilla responded to the gospel like Saul. Just as Saul became Paul, so Priscilla became a new woman with a new mission. One day the Kurdistan authorities informed Priscilla that she would be deported from Kurdistan due to the fact that her late husband had been an Isis fighter. Lydia was discouraged, wishing to have more time to teach her protégé, but it was not to be. The two did, however, continue to meet online. Priscilla returned to

her native village near Bagdad, only to discover that the entire area was still riddled with Isis warriors. They were literally her neighbors. Lydia made it a priority to pray for her friend. She was amazed to learn that, in spite of the threat, Priscilla began to minister and preach the gospel.



She has won several converts and baptized them! She sent Lydia pictures. Lydia went on to share with us the general vision of our students who work in the refugee camps near Sulaymaniyah.

Eventually, these refugees will return to their homes and lands. If they become committed Christ followers, then the gospel will go with them and spread like wildfire. It is a simple vision and the example of Priscilla demonstrates that it works! What a privilege to train leaders with vision like this! God uses the biblical content we bring to help shape the lives of leaders who, in turn, shape the lives of others to become instruments of the gospel in one of the most difficult areas in the world!

2023 Sneak Peek

As we look toward a new year we are optimistic about the ministry of training leaders in the Majority World! Eileen and I have already been praying through our ministry goals for 2023. Here are just a few of the things we hope to accomplish in the coming ministry year.



- Conduct at least 20 separate training events in Kurdistan, Rwanda, Nepal, and the Philippines.
- Provide funding to translate and produce at least three different Christian textbooks in the Kurdish language (approx. \$10,000). See next article.
- Continue exploring new fields in which GTN is not currently serving.
- Raise an additional \$1250 committed monthly giving to reach full inflation adjusted support.

These are ambitious goals. However, they are consistent with what God has been doing in our ministry already. We have seen him bring tremendous spiritual results through our training events and we are bullish on 2023. May God keep doing great things!

Books for Kurdistan To Continue in 2023

A key part of the ongoing vision in Kurdistan involves fully establishing two or more Bible institutes to train key leaders like those with whom we work. To make these institutions viable requires books for the students. As you can imagine, there are very few Christian books in Kurdish, let alone Christian *textbooks*. That is why we have set a goal of raising at least \$10,000 in 2022 for the translation of books for our students. At the end of 2021, you gave \$1950 So far in 2022, you have given or committed \$8650 to this effort. We have been able to produce three books for the Hope Bible Institute of Kurdistan. Other GTN trainers have also provided for books so that the library is slowly growing.



We hope to do the same thing again in 2023. In fact, God may expand this vision. Stay tuned. In the meantime, our goal in 2023 will remain the same as 2022. We want to raise sufficient funds for the translation and production of three more books into Kurdish. This will require about \$10,000. Our grateful thanks go to those of you who have responded to this vision and have taken part in our effort. May God richly bless you! 



Our Praises & Prayer Requests



- Praise God for ministry in Iraqi Kurdistan in September.
- Praise God for ministry to leaders in the refugee camps in Rwanda.
- Praise God for a productive month at home in August.
- Please pray for our ministry in Kurdistan In September.
- Please pray as we seek additional support in Washington State.
- Please pray for four solid training events in Rwanda in October.

Run the Race. All of It.

I have never been a marathon runner, but I admire them. I really do. Their perseverance fills me with rueful admiration. I once watched a race in which one runner became so tired that she lost control of her legs and began to drag herself along with her arms. It seemed she had nothing left to give. But she was determined to finish that race! Progressing in tortuous fashion she dragged herself across the finish line and collapsed. I no longer recall who finished first in that run. I only recall the personal victory of one valiant soul who used up her last ounce of strength and courage to finish well. Hers was the biggest victory of the day.



The Christian life is no sprint. It is a marathon. Sometimes it's easy, but sometimes it's hard! Sometimes we are tempted to give up completely. What keeps a runner going? It is the goal of finishing well. Paul wrote in exactly these terms when he spoke of "pressing on toward the goal" and "winning the prize" (Phil 3:14).

spent his life beaming the gospel into the former Soviet Union. In retirement he still made frequent visits to his beloved Belarus. He gave me a small piece of advice. "Bob," he said, "I begin every day the same way. I get out of bed, do my 50 pushups(!), then pray this prayer: 'Lord, don't let me do anything stupid today.'" He said, "One's entire ministry can be wrecked in one stupid moment, but not today." He was warning me, as a runner in life's race, don't trip and fall. Keep moving forward.

As I write today, Eileen and I are in our 14th year traveling with Global Training Network. We are frequently exhausted. We sometimes long for a more normal way of life involving more time at home and more enjoyment of our children and grandchildren. But we simply have to keep going. The race is not done yet. We've still many miles to go. The good news is that at the end of the marathon, a prize awaits. So, I never want to forget my friend's advice. Now, if you will excuse me, I have some pushups to do. 

I once met a remarkable missionary who had

Ministry Partnership

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"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".

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