

Christmas
2022
Edition



Inside this issue:

2022: A Review 1

2023 Sneak Peek III 2

Our Itinerary 3

The Desire for Comfort 3

Our Praises & Prayer Requests 4

Ministry Partnership 4



2022: A Review

What a year this has been! In this festive season, it is good to look back, count our blessings and give thanks to our God. Here goes:



- In 2022 we brought training to approximately 250 pastors and leaders in six countries.
- We made seven trips to conduct training events in Kurdistan, Nepal, Rwanda, and the Philippines. We also offered training to additional leaders in India and Myanmar via Zoom.
- We trained 16 separate groups of leaders in these countries. Six of these were new groups and therefore also received our pro-life fetal model presentation.
- Two of our leader groups minister to souls in refugee camps; one near Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi-Kurdistan and the other in Gatsibo, Rwanda. Our Gatsibo leaders are also refugees.
- Many of the pastors in these groups lead more than one church. One Nepali pastor leads 11 different congregations.
- Our leaders reported having led a total of 1956 souls to Christ this year as they carried out application plans from our classes.
- They have also used our materials to train at least 1634 additional leaders (multiplying our efforts 6X).
- At least one church was planted along with 14 Bible studies and house churches.
- We estimate that the re-teaching of our materials in the churches represented in our training events has impacted approximately 25,000 people.

(Continued on page 4)



Eileen and I want to want to extend to you and your family our heartiest good wishes this Christmas! Have a joyful holiday season and may God richly bless you in the coming year!



2023 Sneak Peek III



In our last two newsletters we have been sharing our ministry goals for 2023. We recap them once more for your consideration as we move toward the beginning of a new ministry year. Our theme for 2023 will be **TRAINING MINDS AND CHANGING HEARTS**. Briefly restated, our major goals are as follows:

I. We want to continue conducting multiple training events in the countries we serve and add new training events in both the Philippines and Kurdistan. Eileen is hoping to participate in both Rwanda trips as well as visiting Kurdistan at least once and possibly Nepal and/or the Philippines.

II. We want to cultivate future training fields by networking with current and new ministry contacts in mission agencies, churches, and ministry fields all through the majority world.

III. We want to maintain our ministry partner relationships and raise an additional \$1250 of committed monthly support including fully funding the Kurdistan Book Project in 2023.

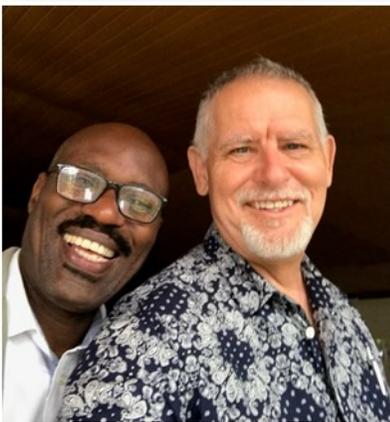
IV. We want to update our current curriculum and add additional one-day materials to our list of offerings.

V. We want to maintain and stimulate our own spiritual lives through prayer, Bible study, and reading of specific books dealing with spiritual development.

VI. I want to devote time each week to writing.

Some of these goals are already on their way to being accomplished as training events are already on the calendar, and new training opportunities in the Philippines are already becoming apparent. I also continue to receive, from time to time, invitations to train in new countries.

In addition to these goals, we will be undergoing a major change in our lives as we **move to Southern Iowa**



to be closer to our relatives including Eileen's parents and siblings on both sides of our family. We hope to move by early spring as God wills. Our prayer is that we will be able to accomplish this move without disrupting our GTN training schedule.

The above goals are ambitious and will require your continued faithful partnership in prayer and giving. We are so grateful for your faithfulness this year. We go because you give. We see amazing results because you pray. **May the tribe of praying and giving partners increase in 2023!** As we move toward a new year of adventure following God and training leaders around the world, **please consider a generous year-end gift to this fruitful ministry.** We've already written separately to most of you on this subject and don't need to say much more except thank you in advance for what we are confident you will do in the crucial days ahead. 2022 has been an amazing year. 2023 may top it! We've celebrated some God-sized results this year. What might He do in 2023? Let's find out! 





The (Godly) Desire for Comfort

peace is expressed in a single word of greeting: “Shalom.” Some of our Filipino friends have their own version of this greeting, wishing one another “Maupay en kinabuhi” (a good life). They are describing a life in which problems are resolved and there is no poverty or illness or anxiety. In our own culture our favorite dishes are referred to as “comfort food.” Our houses and cars and clothing are all designed to some extent with comfort in mind. In our financial planning we reach toward a time in which we can relax, enjoy recreation and travel, visit grandchildren, and generally just enjoy every day. We call such a time “the golden years.” They are characterized by comfort.

I personally feel this desire for comfort most strongly at Christmas. Nostalgic memories, sentimental music, spectacular lights, and slick advertising all combine to create a yearning for that perfect Christmas—a perfect blend of soft lighting, good food, laughter, old movies, cold egg-nog, warm hugs, and glad tidings of *comfort* and joy.

I’m convinced that God has built this yearning for peace into each of us. Yet our desire is almost continually frustrated in this world. At best we may achieve peaceful moments, but those moments are fleeting. We occasionally have paradise-like experiences in which we forget everything and are lost in the overflowing joy of the moment, but it is only a moment. Somehow, we can never quite hold on to those touches of glory. They quickly become the stuff of our best memories.

I suggest that our problem is that we are seeking for the right thing in the wrong place. Rightly viewed, our desire for ultimate comfort, and our frustration in never quite finding it, lead to three important realities:

First, we are not now in paradise. The world in which we live has never been and will never be a utopia. There are plenty of (false) teachers and politicians who suggest that we can create paradise on earth, but history and our own experience strongly demonstrate the falsehood and self-serving nature of such assertions. Even the perfect peace that Jesus offers us in this life is but a mere spoonful of the comprehensive ocean of peace awaiting believers in heaven. And while we are called to be peacemakers in this world, we can never create peace on any level to compare with that all-encompassing peace which is to come. No, the paradise we seek cannot be found here. This means that...

Second, God intends for our yearning to be met, but it can only be fully met in His place and presence. Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:3) King David, the man after God’s own heart, provides context by describing life in the presence of God: “In your presence there is fulness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures for ever more.” This is the satisfaction we crave, the peace for which we long, the comfort we can never sustain here. It will be ours, *but not here and now. There and then.* Therefore...

Third, we should place our hope in permanent things rather than temporary. Since our yearning for ultimate comfort and perfect resolution of all our “issues” cannot be fully met here in this life, but will be abundantly, richly, lavishly met in the life to come, a life that is ‘just around the corner,’ it just

Everyone loves comfort. The desire to relax, to feel at peace, to have things completed, to just chill out is universal. It crosses boundaries of age, economic status, and culture. It is natural. Genesis records that after expelling Adam and Eve from paradise, God had to guard the way to Eden to prevent humans in their fallen state from living there. But that didn’t stop the desire for comfort. Today we see it in every culture. Among Jews the well-wish for a life in which all things are resolved leaving only

Our Itinerary



Dec 1-18: Nepal Ministry

Jan 8: Valley Baptist Church, Yuma

Jan 12-Feb 4: Philippines Ministry

Feb 17-19: GTN Leadership Gathering

Feb 23-March 18: Nepal/Kurdistan Ministries

March 26: Mesa Baptist Church

April 16: Grace Church, Chino Valley (tentative)

April 27-May 27: Rwanda Ministry



(Continued on page 4)

2022: A Review (cont'd)

- In addition to the results above, our students also report the following:
 - 157 hurting/abusive families have been impacted.
 - 84 estranged families have been reconciled.
 - 31 'backsliders' have been restored.
 - 2 suicides have been prevented.
- As for me, in addition to leading these training events in-country and online, I wrote or rewrote three courses and spoke in seven different churches here in the U.S.



- I am also thankful to report that, due to your generosity, we were able to provide funds to translate and produce three books for the Hope Bible Institute in Iraqi Kurdistan including Pastoral Graces by Lee Eclov, The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn, and Contagious Disciple-Making by David and Paul Watson. Providing books in Kurdish to the expanding library of the Hope Bible Institute is critical to its development. It will greatly help to grant the institute credibility in a culture in which it stands virtually alone and will help make possible their vision of expanding their ministry to other areas of Kurdistan and beyond. We are grateful for your participation.

When I consider what the leaders we train are able to do as a result of the training they receive, I am greatly humbled and awed. God takes little and makes much of it. My heart is filled with gratitude to God and to you for you for your partnership in this ministry. Please thank God with me. 



Our Praises & Prayer Requests



- Praise God for training events in six countries in person and online this year.
- Praise God for 1956 souls led to Christ by our students this year.
- Praise God for 1634 additional leaders trained by our students this year.
- Please pray for our December Nepal ministry.
- Please pray for our Year-End giving.
- Please pray for our January Philippines ministry.

The (Godly) Desire for Comfort (cont'd)

makes sense to invest less of our resources (time, energy, money, passion, hope) in temporary comforts here, and more of those same resources in the life that is to come. It also just makes sense for us to avoid clinging too much to the little comforts of this life which can only bring temporary satisfaction at best and which can become an idol. Instead, we should recognize ourselves as travelers through our brief stay on earth. This is not our home so let's not try to settle down here. Don't stop in the middle of the road. Keep going. You are almost home, but you are not there yet. Keep investing yourself and all that God has given you in the life to come,—the life that is your real inheritance, the life of true comfort and peace which God is storing up just for you. 



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



www.inhispriponline.org

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