

# April-May 2023



GLOBAL TRAINING  
NETWORK

## Our Itinerary



**May 4-June 4: Rwanda Ministry**

**June 6:** Move in to new digs in Iowa

**August 7-28: Philippine Ministry** (tentative)

**Sept 5-Oct 29: Rwanda Ministry**



## The More Things Change...

I have been thinking about things that do and that don't change. I've just spent two weeks in Nepal and one week in Kurdistan; two VERY different cultures. Nepali's eat momos. Kurds eat kebabs. Nepali women wear Punjabi suits and other Indian style dress. Kurdish women (aside from the occasional hajib) more often wear western dress. Nepalis *never* laugh at my jokes (like my family). Kurds laugh even when I am not joking. Then there's driving. The streets in Kathmandu are like a disturbed ants' nest. To say that they drive on the opposite side of the road from us is not quite accurate since they drive on both sides. Horns get



more use than brakes. Kurds, on the other hand, drive more like Americans. This is not necessarily better, but it is at least familiar. I could go on, but you get the picture.

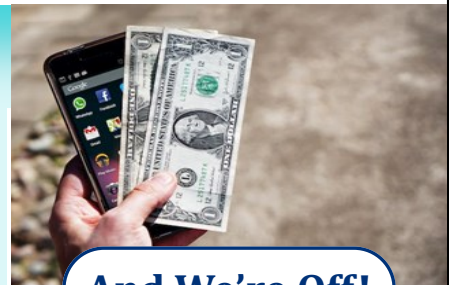
Fortunately there are some things that remain constant between cultures—especially among believers of different cultures. The things we hold in common are far more important than our cultural differences. These fall into two areas.

First, we have the same spiritual struggles. My class this week is based on a book I wrote about the struggles that cause leaders to fail and their solutions. It was written for Americans. When I was asked to teach classes based on this book in the Philippines, I was hesitant for that reason. I very reluctantly agreed and was surprised to discover that just beneath the surface of our different cultural trappings, these leaders were struggling with the same issues as American leaders; anxiety, discouragement, struggles to trust God, money issues, criticism, temptations of pride,

## Where In the World Was Bob This Month?

I spent parts of February and March in Nepal teaching two classes in theology. I also taught about pastoral self-care in Kurdistan. I wrote last time about our first theology class. Our second class in Hetauda, Nepal involved a smaller and more stoic group of students. They were very dedicated and their attendance was perfect. During the closing feedback session, several said they were powerfully impacted by the truth that God is both transcendent and immanent. He goes beyond an unimaginably vast universe (I used

word pictures here), and yet He is engaged with the smallest details of our lives, understands our fears and hopes, and speaks personally with us as our spiritual father any time, day or night. I believe a theology class is successful when students both understand the concepts AND have a sense of awe about God! I also had an unexpected opportunity to preach in the Beth Shalom Bhaiansapati church in Kathmandu. This body of 300 believers has been blessed with no less than 10 medical doctors. They broke ground that day on a new wing for their church building. It will house a clinic designed to meet medical needs in their community. I was unaware of this development before I preached on the astonishing faith of the centurion in Matthew 8. It turned out to be exactly appropriate to the moment. God's providence is amazing! Later, I boarded a flight for Dubai and from there to Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan where I conducted a class on "Pastoral Self-Care" based on my book, "It Only Hurts on Monday," which has now been translated into Kurdish. I also took part in a weekly men's meeting where unsaved men



## And We're Off!

Good news! So far our 2023 \$11,500 matching challenge has brought \$17,800 in matching gifts. This makes our current total \$29,300! This is an amazing start! Your commitment to this ministry is humbling. Remember that this challenge is for gifts other than regular support. Every gift helps fund classes and events like the one just completed in Kurdistan. God bless you for your commitment to training Christian leaders in the Majority World!


### The More Things Change... (cont'd)

laziness, and lust. The list goes on. Now I am teaching the same material in yet a third culture. It does not seem to matter. We are all made of the same stuff. Human nature is human nature. When we go deeper than cultural differences, we understand one another. More importantly, we help one another.

Second, we have the same changeless God. In spite of the baffling cultural discrepancies plaguing us since Babel, and in spite of the maddening pace of bewildering cultural change overtaking us, GOD. NEVER. CHANGES! Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). God promises that... "I the Lord DO NOT CHANGE" (Malachi 3:8a). This means that the spiritual struggles common to all believers of all nations are all provided for by the same all-powerful God. He remains a constant beacon of



hope in the midst of our chaotic, shifting, anxiety-bound world. What a wonderful God we serve and what a wonderful book He has given us to help us navigate this crazy world! The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other book in history by far. It speaks an unchanging message from an unchanging God to vulnerable, changing people at the

point of our deepest spiritual need. It does not matter where we have come. God uses His Word ministered through the Holy Spirit to burn through our cultural biases and change our hearts. It should give us confidence to know that we can look beyond the shifting sands of the times we live in and know that there are . . . changeless certainties; truths which transcend the latest bizarre cultural trends. The really great part is that these certainties are God's certainties. They are the ultimate realities. So the more things change... (you finish). 



### Our Praises & Prayer Requests




- Praise God for a successful second class in Nepal.
- Praise God for a great response to our 2023 Matching Challenge.
- Praise God for the faithfulness of our prayer supporters.
- Please pray for Eileen and I as we minister without a home base for the next few months.
- Please pray for good results from our ministry in Kurdistan.
- Please pray for our upcoming Rwanda ministry.

### Where In the World Was Bob This Month? (cont'd)



come and talk with believers about spiritual things. There were more than 20 present, mostly unbelievers.

The effort has grown to include a separate gathering

for women. About 8 were present, half of whom are, as yet, unsaved. The friendships formed at these gatherings help to turn unbelievers into disciples of Christ! During the week, I also spent significant time in one-on-one mentoring with a key leader in the group. He and I lunched every day, discussing various spiritual matters. Our Kurdish students are warm and inviting Christ-followers successfully reaching out to the lost in this difficult corner of the world. Their reward is great! 



## 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](https://gtn.org/edmondson)

Under "Ministry Designation" select "Bob and Eileen Edmondson (435)" or "Edmondson Matching Gift (43502)" (type in "Matching" and that selection will appear) 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 "Edmondson Matching Gift #43502" or "Books for Kurdistan #43503".

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

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