

June 2023

GLOBAL TRAINING  
NETWORK

## Our Itinerary

May 4-June 4: Rwanda  
MinistryJune 6: Move in to new digs  
in IowaJune 25: Floris Baptist  
Church, Floris, IowaAugust 3-26: Philippine  
MinistrySept 5-Oct 29: Rwanda  
MinistryNov 30-Dec 16: Nepal  
MinistryChallenge Accepted:  
THANK YOU!

We are overwhelmed with gratitude at the generosity you have shown during the Edmondson Matching Challenge for 2023. Our original challenge gifts this year totaled \$11,500. You have risen to the challenge by tripling those gifts with a matching challenge grand total of \$34,445. This has been our most successful matching challenge ever and we are profoundly grateful to God and to all of you who have given. May He richly bless you as you have blessed majority world leaders by providing for their training!



## Where In the World Are the Edmondsons THIS Month?

The Edmondsons spent May in Rwanda. We worked with four very different groups of leaders in four different cities. In Nyanza we did an advanced course for students who have already completed our Timothy training program. The course focused on hermeneutics (Bible Interpretation) with a minor emphasis on homiletics (preaching). Our students there reported good results from their last action plans. We moved on from there to Gisenyi on beautiful Lake Kivu near the Congolese border. The Gisenyi group has a higher than average rate of turnover. This contributed to our only having eleven people prepared with reports on their last action plans. Those eleven did quite well, however. We taught our Timothy course called 'Teaching the Christian Faith' which was well received.



Our third group was in Bihembe, not far from the capital city of Kigali. Our

students there are Catechists (pastors in training) in the Anglican Church of Rwanda. They are our most productive group and they did not disappoint. We taught 'Teaching the Christian Faith' in Bihembe also and greatly enjoyed our time there. Our final week was spent in Gatsibo near the Ugandan border. We worked there with refugee pastors. Half are from Rwanda and half from Congo. Our class suffered some attrition with only 17 of 23 students returning. Our returning students surprised me. This was only my second time to teach them and they were reporting on their very first action plan. Most demonstrated a good grasp of the material from the last class. Most also had fairly well written action plans. They articulated some very specific results as well. Once again, we taught 'Teaching the Christian Faith.' The students were very engaged. *(Continued on page 2)*

## Patience... NOW!

Eileen and I were homeless for two months. We sold our Arizona home in order to move closer to our extended family in Iowa. The sale closed on March 29 while the house we purchased in Ottumwa, IA only became available on June 6. The 69 intervening days were largely an exercise in patience. The various circumstances in which we found ourselves each carried their own patience challenges (including patience with each other). We had to rush some moving tasks while slow-walking others. We opened new bank accounts but have not yet closed old ones, so our unusual distribution of funds and irregular pattern of spending required careful monitoring. Half of our sojourn was spent in ministering to four different groups in Rwanda, a task requiring sustained focus. In addition to teaching, we had correspondence to write, newsletters to prepare, future trips to plan, curriculum to review, and personal business to conduct. We discovered that online business conducted from a foreign

country involves painstaking security processes. Along the way, we slept in a dozen different beds (and on several airplanes). This, as I said, was one long exercise in patience. Now, I don't mind acquiring patience, but couldn't we hurry it up a little?



Sometimes we struggle with patience over one particular "pet peeve."

Sometimes, the struggle involves a long series of events or even a whole season in life. It's hard to remember to take one day at a time when the days gang up on you. As Eileen sometimes says, "You can't 'rush limbo'" (sigh). Someone said, "The problem with life is that it is so...daily." Actually, I'm inclined to think that the solution to this problem is also "daily," or even "hourly." Whether you struggle with patience on the micro or the macro level, the solution involves **attitude and focus. I have two observations.** *(Continued on page 2)*

### Where in the World Are the Edmondsons THIS Month? (cont'd)

All together our students on this trip reported leading 367 people to Christ including 9 Muslims. They also trained 544 additional leaders. At least 186 of these were trained specifically in preaching.



Two new churches were planted along with numerous Bible studies and cell groups launched. More than 25 marriages were reconciled. There were some great stories of change. I was most gratified by the fact that our students are embracing the concept of reproducing leaders who, in turn, reproduce other leaders. It is impossible to track this long-term effect of bringing training to faithful indigenous leaders, but God keeps the books. To Him be glory both now and ever more!

### Patience... NOW! (cont'd)

**The first is that choosing one's attitude is the primary basis of satisfaction and success in life.** Chuck Swindoll has said it perhaps better than anyone:

Attitude is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, money, circumstances, than failures and success, than what other people think, say, or do. It is more important than appearance, ability, or skill. It will make or break a business, a home, a friendship, an organization. The remarkable thing is **I have a choice every day of what my attitude will be.** I cannot change my past. I cannot change the actions of others. I cannot change the inevitable. **The only thing I can change is attitude. Life is ten percent what happens to me and ninety percent how I react to it.** (emphases mine)



**My second observation is that choosing to focus on today is a key to joy and effectiveness in life.** The future awaits but it *cannot* be rushed. We have 24 hours each day; no more, but no less. To fret about the future in any sense is to exert emotional energy over things that cannot be controlled. It is futile and foolish. **We live a paper-thin existence called "right now."** We have the hours and minutes

of today. That is all. Yesterday is gone and cannot be changed. Tomorrow is not yet real for anyone but God. While we can plan for the future, we can't control it. To live a full and effective life, we must fully engage in what is happening right now in this moment! It just makes sense that we should let go of all that is beyond our control. This includes regrets about the past, desires (or worries) about the future, and even our not-quite-right desire to control things around us in the "now." Instead we need to prayerfully choose an appropriate focus; not just daily, but, if necessary, hourly. **"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."** (Phil 4:8 ESV) It may mean interest instead of preoccupation, valuing spiritual things over temporary things, other-focus instead of self-focus. It's between you and the Holy Spirit. He will guide and help. Then you can fully and properly engage with the tasks and the people God has placed before you in this moment. Then you can live without the encumbering burden of cares over things that can't be changed--a burden that God never intended you to carry. When you choose your attitude and focus instead of allowing circumstances or people to choose for you, somehow without quite realizing it, you have embraced patience...now.



### Our Praises & Prayer Requests



- Praise God for four groups of leaders trained in Rwanda.
- Praise God for 367 new souls led to Christ by our Rwandan students.
- Praise God we have now moved into our new Iowa home.
- Please pray for the planning of our August Philippines ministry.
- Please pray for us as we continue our transition of our ministry to a new home base.
- Please pray for my sister, Linda, a believer, who is currently in hospice care.

## 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:**

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Under "Ministry Designation" select "Bob and Eileen Edmondson (435)" or "Books for Kurdistan (43503)."



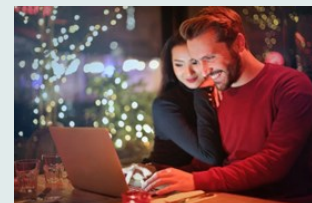
**Support also accepted at:**

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Please include a note indicating that your gift is preferred for the Edmondsons #435 or "Books for Kurdistan #43503".

**Please visit our website:**

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