

November 2023

GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK

Our Itinerary

**Nov 30-Dec 17: Nepal Ministry****Dec 24:** Floris Baptist Church, Floris, IA**Jan 11-Feb 3: Philippines Ministry****Feb 11:** Sonoita Bible Church, Sonoita, AZ**Feb 15-18:** GTN Leadership Gathering, Scottsdale, AZ**Feb 21:** Ponderosa Bible Church, Payson, AZ**Feb 25:** First Baptist Church, Nogales, AZ**March 3:** Maranatha Baptist Church, Globe, AZ**March 10:** First Baptist Church, Duncan, AZ**March 17:** Grace Church, Chino Valley, AZ

Why I'm Thankful

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday! I love the time with family, great food, sports on TV, fun and games...and did I mention the food? More importantly, Thanksgiving is about gratitude to God for His many blessings. I love Thanksgiving because I have so much for which to be thankful. I have been blessed far beyond what I deserve. Our ministry training leaders in other countries is high on that list. For His own mysterious reasons, God has allowed us to do work that produces incredible fruit! So far in 2023 we have worked with 320 students. In carrying out action plans based on their course work so far they have...




- Led 1172 souls to Christ
- Baptized at least 590 converts
- Planted 2 churches plus 27 house churches and Bible studies
- Trained 1036 additional leaders

I am writing from Rwanda where we have heard many stories of our students multiplying their ministry work by training others. One leader saw his church's 8 cell groups become



18 cell groups with 45 new converts as a result of leaders training leaders. Another pastor took a group of 25 Christians, trained 8 of them as leaders and then plant-

ed a church. In its first three months, the church has now gained 61 converts and has an average attendance of 90. There are many such stories. To have a small part in this many changed lives is both humbling and thrilling. I am thankful every day, but November 23 is entirely dedicated to the God who gives such good and perfect gifts. These are why I am thankful. 

Unseen Realities Part II
More Than a King

Last month we learned that our importance as human beings has less to do with our physical side than our spiritual side. This unseen part of our being is the only part of us that will last through eternity. It is our souls for which the creator of the universe gave His life.

Today I want to talk about another important though unseen reality: God's desire for close fellowship with you and me. As a young man, when I read in 2 Cor. 5:19 that God is reconciling the world to Himself, I pictured His whole plan—incorrectly, or at least incompletely. I saw that sin has

made a mess of the world, and now, I believed, that through Christ God is cleaning up the mess. I viewed salvation narrowly as God paying the penalty for our sin (We could not.) in order to make us right again. The end times with all their conflict, pain, and eventual victory of God over Satan would be the culmination of God's plan. The earth would be renewed and all things finally reconciled to God. Spiritually, this was simply a battle between good and evil in which good MUST prevail. Physically, it looked like the biggest remodeling project...ever.

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Consider GTN For Your
Year-End Giving

As we close out another year, I am thankful that God has enabled us to achieve most of our ministry goals, including all of our training goals. We have similarly ambitious goals for 2024 as we continue in God's harvest field! To accomplish these goals we will need a lot of grace from God and help from our partners, including your financial support. Please give careful consideration to this very fruitful ministry as you plan your year-end giving. We will be grateful and so will the leaders we serve and all those whose lives are changed.

Unseen Realities: Part II (cont'd)




In truth, I was missing a few points; for example: God's entire gracious motive. Genesis 1:27 emphasizes that God made the human race in His own image. We reflect God's infinite intellectual, emotional, and moral traits in a finite way. To put it more simply, He made

us to be little chips off the old block. There is nothing else in creation made in the image of God; not the plants, nor the animals, nor even the angels. Why are we created in this special way? The account of Adam and Eve gives us some clue. God walked with them in the garden every day. He provided them the comfort of His presence along with everything that they needed. He gave them careful instructions for their life's work, which involved reigning over the earth and, in so doing, reflecting God who reigns over the universe. This was a happy existence. More than that, it teaches us that as a race we were made to reflect God and to enjoy daily fellowship with Him! Let that sink in.

How heartsick God must have been the day that Adam and Eve sinned and began to hide from one another and from Him. The relationship with God was tragically broken. If you doubt how much God missed and desired fellowship with us, consider the following: God was not content to allow His relationship with us to remain broken. At the cost of *His Son's life(!)*, He paid the just penalty for all our sins, setting us right in the eyes of His moral law. But He did more! He also bestowed upon us the righteous standing of His Son. But He did still more! He made our dead souls alive again, enabling us to respond to Him and have fellowship again. But

He did still more! Incredibly, the judge of the universe adopted us as His children so that we may now address Him on familiar terms as our "Abba" (Papa). So when God speaks of reconciling all things to Himself, we are in the center of that picture. This is not just setting things right or defeating evil. Those are means to an end. God is reconciling His most beloved creation, us to Himself, in order that He may enjoy fellowship with us once again!

This changes things. A lot. Your prayers are not just a religious exercise or obligation. God loves hearing your voice. He revels in your heart poured out to Him! Scripture reading is not just a discipline for extra serious Christians. Opening God's Word gives God the opportunity to speak to your heart through the inspired words of that book. When you combine prayer and Bible reading, you are having a conversation with your Father. Both of you come away blessed! The matters of hard work, personal holiness and service to others take on a whole different importance when you understand that in doing these things you reflect and honor an intensely relational being who is personally blessed by your actions. The fact that this being happens to also be the sovereign creator and sustainer of the universe makes His desire for you all the more amazing. This month as we thank God, let's make it more than a protocol or ceremonial moment. Let's show gratitude on a personal level to a God who wants nothing so much as your heart! 



Our Praises & Prayer Requests



- Praise God for provision for our larger than normal Rwanda costs in October.
- Praise God that our year-end preparatory work is coming along nicely.
- Praise God for a great and productive year of ministry now coming to a close
- Please pray for God to do great things through the teaching of His Word to committed Christian leaders in Rwanda.
- Please pray for our Nepal ministry in December. Plans are coming together now.
- Please pray for strong year-end giving so that we end the year in the black.

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)."



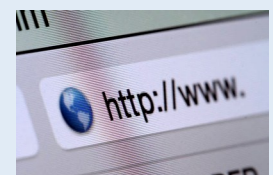
Support also accepted at:

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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:

www.inhispriponline.org



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