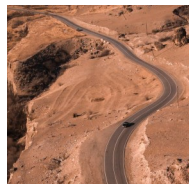


January-February
2024



GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK

Our Itinerary



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

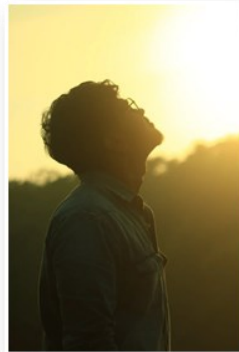
March 17: Grace Church, Chino Valley, AZ

April 14: Floris Baptist Church, Floris, IA



Unseen Realities, Part IV: Meant for More!

We have been discussing unseen spiritual realities since September. First, we explored our nature as more than physical beings. We are made in the image of God with a comprehension of non-physical realities such as morality,



love, grace, eternity, and God Himself. We then learned that God is more than a King. He is a loving father who desires relationship with His children. Last month we pointed out that Jesus is much more than a baby. He is God clothed in human flesh - the perfect sacrifice designed to secure our salvation and restore us

to relationship with the Father.

Now, as we begin 2024, we come full circle. We are more than physical beings. Moreover, God loves us and has sacrificed His Son to save us. Believers now have a relationship with God as His adopted sons and daughters. *All this means that we are made for more than a mere physical existence.* What do I mean? I mean there is a greater purpose for you and me than just to be born, grow up, earn a living, raise a

family, enjoy retirement, and die. Whatever your individual experience of physical life, the plain fact is that you and I are meant for more! Listen to the New Testament writers:

- *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.* (Col 3:2)
- *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* (1 John 2:15)
- *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* (Matthew 6:19-21)

(Continued on page 2)

A Special Thank You!

We are thankful for all your thoughtful generosity which enables us to carry on this fruitful work. This month, a special offering from Ponderosa Bible Church in Payson, AZ has enabled us to provide approximately 200 Bibles in the Kinyarwanda language for the use of our students in Rwanda. For this we are especially grateful!

"hallelujah!" Through their feedback I learned that one man realized for the first time that he didn't have to earn his salvation through good deeds but instead can choose to do good *because* of salvation! Another man

(Continued on page 2)

Where in the World Is Bob This Month?

Training goes on during the holidays. In December I spent two weeks in Nepal. Here are some of the outcomes of those weeks of training. I visited Mahendranagar for the first time. In addition to teaching hermeneutics (how to study the Bible), I did a 'sanctity of life' presentation using 3-month fetal models and explaining the early development of a baby in the womb. I do this with all new groups. This time, however, Dr. John Punalur, my Nepali teaching partner, made a similar presentation using an excellent video and answering many questions. Afterward we marveled that two trainers from opposite sides of the world living in different cultures and speaking different languages should opt to teach the very same subject in the very same class. This was no accident. We both sensed God's purpose. We believe He is going to use our presentations to save unborn lives. Perhaps He already has.

In week two I taught the doctrines of Man, Sin, and Salvation to students in Hetauda, Nepal. The class was small, but the results were big. *I LOVE* teaching these essential doctrines. The students also responded with real enthusiasm judging by their body language, smiles, nods, and the occasional whispered



Unseen Realities, Part IV: Meant for More! (cont'd)

There are many such passages. God asks us to cultivate an eternal perspective resulting in a different set of priorities. Paul puts it bluntly in Romans 8:13: *"For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."* Many interpret this passage as a mere warning against sin. Some Bible versions even translate the word "flesh" with the phrase "sinful nature." This is an error. The word "flesh" (sarx in Greek) includes the sinful nature, but it also includes your physical body with its various appetites, your earthly ambitions, temporary enjoyments and accomplishments—everything about your life that is temporary.

Most of these are not sinful, but they are temporary and thus lack eternal value. So the verse deals with more than sin. It teaches that if you live with a purpose of merely enjoying all the temporary things in life (sinful or not), you will die and that's the end of it. All of that time and energy spent on temporary things will come to nothing. It will have all been a waste—a "vanity of vanities" as Ecclesiastes puts it. A person with no eternal perspective at all, not even a relationship with Christ as Savior, will experience eternal

M O R E
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death in the form of permanent separation from God in hell. Paul's message to such people is to put all of that to death (replacing it with faith in the unseen reality of Christ as Savior).

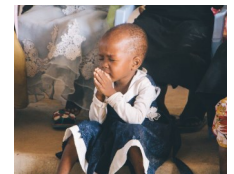
Now I'm speaking to you as believers. You will never suffer eternal death. However, if you live your life merely for what you can accomplish or enjoy, if you give little or no consideration of your potential for eternal impact, then when you physically die, as we all must, you will find that you have given hours, days, months and years in pursuit of things that are ultimately unimportant and even meaningless. You will regret so much that you knew Jesus as your eternal Savior but chose to live your life for something else, something far less important in the final analysis.

The thing that makes this life glorious is that in the short time we are here we have golden opportunities to make eternal differences in peoples' lives. These opportunities come to us in our relationships with other people, in our service in our churches, in how we raise our families and care for our adult children and grandchildren, as well as in dozens of other ways—including how we spend and give our money. *Of course* we say 'no!' to sinful deeds of the body as Romans 8:13 teaches, but, beyond that, we say 'yes!' to the near limitless array of good things we can think and say and do to create human treasure in the life to come!

It boils down to a simple question, a question suitable for people of any age or position: *"How much of your life are you investing and how much of it are you merely spending?"* It's a searching question and one I hope you will take seriously as we embark on a new year. I have no desire to burden you with guilt. I ask this question merely to remind you of God's calling. What we can see around us is merely physical, but there are bigger unseen realities which are the real and lasting stuff of life. You live in a physical world; but as God's children, bought with the blood of Jesus Christ, you are meant for more.



Our Praises & Prayer Requests



- Praise God for the especially good response in Nepal.
- Praise God for strong year end giving in December.
- Praise God for the start of another year in which to serve Him!
- Please pray for God to do great things through the recent teaching of His Word in Nepal.
- Please pray for our ministry in the Philippines in January.
- Please pray for wisdom in planning the details and pacing of 2024 ministry.

Where in the World Is Bob This Month? (cont'd)

gained assurance that his salvation is eternally guaranteed so that he will never be lost! One woman was freed from "years of guilt and shame!" She glimpsed grace for the first time as she grasped the completeness of Jesus' work for her on the cross. At long last she released a burden that God never intended her to bear! Glory to God for these spiritual victories! My next trip by God's grace will involve three weeks' training in the Philippines. What will God do there? Stay tuned!



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)*

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