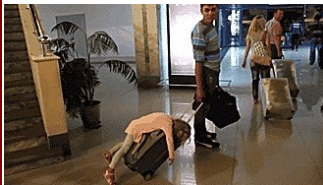


June, 2024



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

Our Itinerary



June 9: Floris Baptist Church, Floris, Iowa

June 19-July 11: Philippines Ministry

July 12-19: Kurdistan Ministry

Sept 8: East Wenatchee First Baptist, Washington

Sept 15: Calvary Crossroads, Wenatchee, Washington



Matching Fund Wrap Up

**The Edmondson Matching Challenge** for 2024 is complete. Our fund received two generous gifts totaling \$12,500 and a challenge for others to match that amount. You have generously matched it and more! Our final total this year was \$32,065, one of the best responses ever! These funds will help to train leaders in Rwanda, Nepal, the Philippines, and Kurdish Iraq throughout 2024! Thank You!



Where in the World Has Bob Been Lately?

I visited Rwanda in late April and early May. Eileen planned to go with me, but could not go due to a severe reaction to poison ivy. She was greatly missed. Nevertheless, God did great things AGAIN! My partners and I served in Nyanza launching a new group there, in Bihembe where our students finished and graduated, and in Gatsibo with refugee pastors who continue to grow! These three groups reported leading a total of 321 people to Christ with 248

baptized. They trained 433 additional leaders using our materials. They launched 8 new Bible studies and prayer groups and planted one new church—all resulting from their self-designed action plans made in class. I returned home with a sore back, the result



of many rain-roughened roads in road roughened vehicles. Our next ministry foray will involve four weeks in the Philippines and (Iraqi) Kurdistan in June and July.



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Four Surprising Truths About These Crazy Times

These are wild days! Headlines are shocking. Sometimes it seems that our culture is dying. How should we view this? Is there any comfort to be found concerning these crazy times?

**The chaos we see reflects the spiritual warfare we don't see.** An ancient curse declares, "May you be doomed to live in interesting times!" The prophet Daniel revealed an important truth about 'interesting times.' When Daniel prayed for understanding of his times, an angel from God came to answer him but was delayed three weeks by evil angels described as the "Prince, and King of Persia." Only when he received help



from the archangel Michael was he able to overcome these demons and bring Daniel a great revelation of the future (Daniel 10:13-12:13). This reveals that behind human events there is a parallel spiritual war taking place. An unseen spiritual conflict accompanies every human conflict large or small. There is widespread agreement today that our world is in chaos. A biblical perspective means under-

standing that our chaos reflects a chaotic battle in the spiritual realm. Interesting times indeed.

**In spiritual warfare the battle lines are different.** In our culture we tend to see battle lines in the political and cultural realms. We are distressed by the rapid disintegration of our culture. We tend to look to politicians for solutions. We keep hearing that every election is the most important one...ever! What if God has a bigger picture? This may offend some of you, but God is not a Republican! Neither is God a Democrat. In fact, God is not even an *American!* God is beyond parties and nations.

His thoughts and ways are far higher than ours. For God, the battle lines are not drawn around one political party or another. They are drawn between justice and injustice, truth and falsehood, mercy and malevolence. On the opposite side of these lines stands our adversary the devil seeking to destroy all that is good. It is not that God (or Satan for that matter) is uninterested in the problems or political

**Four Surprising Truths About these Crazy Times** (Cont'd)

battles of our times. These fights do reflect real spiritual conflict. But perspective is needed. American political and cultural issues, important as they are, remain only one battle in a much larger spiritual war encompassing all mankind and even all the angelic realm! God's priorities tend to scale far beyond our own in scope. When the disciples wanted a powerful political king to save their nation, God instead gave them a powerful spiritual king to save their souls. Think about that.

**In spiritual warfare the strategic objective is different.** Since the very nature of spiritual warfare involves deception, we should expect that what seem like main issues may be mere sideshows in the spiritual realm. Meanwhile what seem like side issues in the chaos of our times, may be the very focal point in the battle between God and Satan. Before His crucifixion Jesus told Pilate, "my kingdom is not of this world" (Jn 18:36). As the head of this other-worldly kingdom, Jesus clarified its nature, explaining that He came to bear witness to the truth and declaring, "everyone on the side of truth listens to me" (John 18:37). These words make clear that God's kingdom in this age is not physical or political, but *spiritual*. It doesn't conquer. It persuades. It is not about territory. It's about truth. Christians are its primary human representatives. We are the church for which Jesus died (Eph 5:27). God has also remembered His chosen nation, Israel. They too play a role in God's kingdom today and will one day come to full belief in Jesus (Romans 11:26). God has placed them again in their ancient land in preparation for future events. He is preserving and growing this spiritual kingdom while preparing for ultimate victory over the darkness. This is His

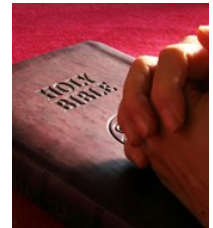


objective. For his part, Satan is trying desperately to destroy God's kingdom. This is *his* objective. Now, the daily news will never carry this perspective. The main conflict of our time is generally treated as a second or third tier story. Even the Gaza war is wildly distorted in the media which constantly ignores the long historical battle of God's people for survival. They show sympathy for those who openly seek Israel's extermination. Meanwhile stories of anti-Christian bigotry and persecution are generally not considered newsworthy. Yet these events represent the *main battle* in spiritual warfare! Scripture contains many examples of people believing only what they see while a larger, more important reality lies just beyond physical sight seen only by faith. Such is the nature of spiritual warfare.

**This war has a guaranteed outcome.** In the fog of war, it can be difficult to tell who is winning. But God has graciously given us a guarantee. He has given us His promise that He will build His church and the gates of hell will *never* prevail against it. It may be tempting to doubt this promise. It often seems that the battle is going against us. But remember that this is only one battlefield in a very large war. God is at work in the world. In 2023, we worked with a total of 344 students in four countries. Those students led 1172 people to Christ. They trained another 1036 leaders to do the same! They planted 34 churches and house churches. This is the result of just one ministry working with a handful of leaders. There are thousands of trainers and missionaries around the world and millions of Christians are being won. It is credibly estimated that around the world 77,000 people become believers *every day!* God is keeping His promises. The war is raging, but the outcome is certain! ∞



**Our Praises & Prayer Requests**



- Praise God. Eileen has recovered from her severe reaction to poison ivy after several weeks.
- Praise God for a strong Matching Challenge response totaling over \$32,000!
- Praise God for three successful training events and a graduation in Rwanda!
- Please pray for my work writing course curriculum on the subject of World Views
- Please pray for my upcoming training events in the Philippines and in Kurdistan June 19-July 19
- Please pray for our colleague, John Gillespie, who is recovering from a cardiac arrest in January.

**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](http://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 preferred for the Edmondsons #435 or "Books for Kurdistan #43503".

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

**Please visit our website:**

[www.inhisgriponline.org](http://www.inhisgriponline.org)

