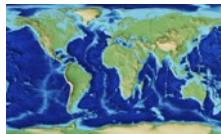


July, 2024



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

Our Itinerary



June 19-July 11: Philippines Ministry

July 12-19: Kurdistan Ministry

Aug 11: Floris Baptist Church, Floris, Iowa

Sept 8: East Wenatchee First Baptist, Washington

Sept 15: Calvary Crossroads, Wenatchee, Washington

Sept 26-Oct 20: Rwanda Ministry



Where in the World Is Bob This Month?

After Completing a fruitful time of ministry in Rwanda, I spent about a month at home. Now I am writing from the Philippines. I spent last week near the capital city of Manila team teaching a class of masters students on the subject of World Views along with the president of the Conservative Baptist Seminary of Asia, Prof. Mike Miguel. The class was partially in person and partially online. I was encouraged by the students' recognition of different



world-view influences observable in Filipino pop culture. We gave them a unique assignment: to write a paper describing their own world view using the eight categories developed in James Sire's excellent book on this

subject, "The Universe Next Door." This should help them understand more clearly both themselves and the people to whom they minister. This week I am on the southern island of Mindanao where I am teaching a class on overcoming harm and violence in the family. In Mindanao we 'rough it' a bit, but the fellowship is great and the class (all in-person) is very responsive. Next week I will move on to the Central Philippines where I am scheduled to lead another class entitled "Teaching the Christian Faith" with a group of young adults at the Berean Bible Institute in Cauayan. After that, by God's grace, I will leave the Philippines and head for Kurdistan (N. Iraq) where I will be teaching a class on Pastoral Care at the Hope Bible Institute in Sulaymaniyah. It's a busy month. I left the U.S. flying out over the Pacific Ocean toward the Philippines. When I return, I will fly in over the North Atlantic, having been literally around the world in 30 days. I am looking forward to being home for awhile and doing a little travel for both work and pleasure inside the U.S. with Eileen at my side before we both head out for Rwanda at the end of September.

One Thing Leads to Another

Last month I wrote about the crazy world we live in. The post-modern notion that truth either doesn't exist or cannot be known has given us a universe of self-defined silly 'truths' including 74 genders, people who self-identify as domesticated animals, and a medical industry willing to mutilate children for money, calling it 'gender affirming care.' How did the greatest civilization in human history arrive at this ridiculous and ruinous place? All of this didn't spring into existence from nothing one Tuesday morning. It has roots—deep roots. My recent study of



world views has taught me that one set of ideas leads to the next. The things occurring in our culture today can be traced step by step all the way back to early 17th century Europe when Western Civilization entered the so called 'Age of Reason' and began to elevate our God-given capacity for thought above the authority of God Himself. From there, we have progressed to...here, one small step at a time. To describe these world-view steps in detail would require more time and column space than we have here. Suffice it to say that ideas have consequences, and one idea has led to the next and then to the next and next until, as a culture, we find ourselves in a completely new and unrecognizable place. I vividly recall a seminary professor in Tacoma, Washington warning us young men about the consequences of a little moral compromise. The problem is that it leads in small steps to greater and greater moral

**One Thing Leads to Another** *(Cont'd)*

compromise. "You may not like the city of Tucson," he would say, "but if you get on I-10 and head east, you will arrive there whether you plan to or not." One thing leads to another.


This leads me to ask a series consequential questions for you to ponder—actually, two series. They call for self-honesty and examination. First, spiritually, where are you? Are you really satisfied with your spiritual life right now? Are you growing? Are you learning? Are you finding new challenges, or are you still stuck on the same old ones? If you answered yes to all of these questions, there is no need to read further. But if you answered 'no' to at least some of them, the most important question now is, "why?" How did you get to where you are? What were the steps (or non-steps) that led you slowly and inexorably to the less-than-ideal place where you find yourself now? Take your time with this. It bears some thought and prayer.



Here is the second series. Take a look at your spiritual life from a different angle. Where are you headed now? What are your habits? What do you do each day that strengthens your walk with Christ? What do you do that weakens your spirit and makes your walk with Jesus more difficult? These may be tiny, even seemingly inconsequential things. However, one must remember that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. What matters is the direction of those steps. If you are headed in a Godly direction, don't worry that the journey seems slow. *"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up"* (Galatians 6:9). You

are on your way and *you will eventually arrive*. But are your daily habits and activities leading you away from a strong love for your Savior? Where are you headed instead? Where are your steps taking you? Remember, you don't have to like the destination. You don't have to intend to go there, but if you are taking steps *in that direction*, even small ones, *you will eventually arrive*.

Here is one final question. Do you need to change your direction? Just as big journeys begin with small steps, changing the direction of your spiritual journey begins with a single decision. This may be a matter of repentance for a sin small or large. However, it may only be a decision to change your daily habits. It may involve rejecting some things in entertainment or social media that are inappropriate. It may involve taking some time each day to pray and just to think in quietness about spiritual matters. How long has it been since you spent quality time reading from God's Word? Could that be a decision that could help change the direction of your spiritual life? It's up to you to decide.

It was Socrates who famously said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." But following merely human ideas, even those of philosophical geniuses, has not worked out well for the human race. Fortunately, we have this particular idea from a higher authority. It was God who said, "examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith" (1 Cor 13:5). Ask the questions and don't ignore the answers. These small matters matter—a lot. One thing leads to another. 



**Our Praises & Prayer Requests**



- Praise God for safety and good health as I minister in the Philippines so far.
- Praise God for a good week teaching World Views at the Conservative Baptist Seminary Asia in Quezon City.
- Praise God that my colleague John Gillespie is recovering well from his cardiac arrest earlier this year and is now definitely planning to join us in Rwanda in October.
- Please pray for my ongoing recovery from muscle injury incurred doing landscaping yard work a few weeks ago.
- Please pray for my further training events in the Philippines and in Kurdistan through July 19.
- Please pray for my further development of world-view curriculum for Global Training Network.

**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)."



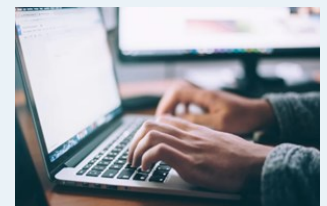
**Support also accepted at:**

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 visit our website:**

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



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