

June 2025

GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK

Our Itinerary



June 26-July 19: Philippines Ministry

Aug 25-29: Qatar Ministry
(tentative)

Aug 28-Sept 13: Kurdistan Ministry

Sept 9-Oct 25: Rwanda Ministry

Oct 25-Nov 1: Cameroon Ministry (tentative)

Nov 2-15: Nepal Ministry



Where in the World Were the Edmondsons THIS Month?

In May, Eileen and I ministered in the African countries of Rwanda and Cameroon. In Rwanda we led classes on Christian Stewardship and Sustainable Development in Bihembe and in Gatsibo. Our Bihembe students are part of a new group. GTN has only had three training events with this group. We have done two of them. This is a highly productive group. I was amazed at their action plan reports. They trained 293 lay leaders to carry out visitation and lead small groups. More than 1000 home visits took place. 72 groups were launched. 182 souls came to Christ and 92 were baptized. 31 families with financial needs were helped and 34 families in crisis were reconciled. All of this took place in spite of most of their churches being closed by the government. In Gatsibo, our refugee pastors comprise a smaller group of about 21 pastors working in refugee camps. Their reports are less spectacular. Still, following their class on overcoming harm and

process led at least 4 people to Christ. One pastor is now writing a book on family life for Rwandans. 21 students graduated with 3 year GTN certificates and several also received Timothy Advanced Trainer certificates. It was a



wonderful celebration! Following our Gatsibo class, Eileen returned to the U.S. and I flew west to the African country of Cameroon. There I led the inaugural class in

violence in the family, they the newly established Hope Bible Institute. brought reconciliation to more Our first class was on Pastoral Care. The class than a dozen homes and in the

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Matching Challenge Wrap-Up

We have now completed the final days of our 2025 Matching Challenge. This effort provides funds for our training events and travel throughout 2025. An initial generous gift of \$7500 was given with a challenge to match it for a total of at least \$15,000. Another partner later gave a \$5000 gift with a further challenge to match it. Matching these two gifts would bring a total of \$25,000 for our 2025 travel and training efforts. As May draws to a close, this goal has been exceeded. Our total giving for the 2025 Matching Challenge is \$33,976! Thank you for your overwhelming generosity in supporting the work that we do!

Indispensable Fatherhood

June brings with it an important and often neglected holiday: Fathers' Day. Now, I'm not writing this to lobby for a more expensive Father's Day gift, (although I saw this neat little table saw online...). I AM writing to urge a re-discovery of the importance of fatherhood itself! One of the most damaging narratives of recent decades is the idea that fathers are dispensable—a luxury rather than a necessity. Our media contributes to this myth, offering portrayals of bumbling dads, emotionally distant providers, absentee fathers, and cruel tyrants. These portrayals ignore the reality of millions of dads who are deeply involved, emotionally connected, and critically important to their children's lives. Research suggests that children with involved fathers are statistically more



likely to succeed in school, are more confident, and exhibit lower levels of risky behavior. They are less likely to experience depression, substance abuse, and incarceration. These outcomes are not coincidental. They are the result of consistent care, discipline, affection, and presence—the hallmarks of good fatherhood.

Fathers interact with children in ways

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Indispensable Fatherhood (cont'd)

that are distinct from mothers. They often encourage risk-taking, foster independence, and introduce their children to the external world. They also nurture in a different manner than mothers. The roughhousing that makes some observers uneasy actually teaches self-control, empathy, and resilience. Fathers' emphasis on problem-solving, structure, and accountability complements the emotional nurture frequently emphasized by mothers. Together a father and mother create a holistic environment that encourages growth.

The presence of a loving father has a profound psychological impact. For daughters, it sets the standard for how they should be treated by men. For sons, it models masculinity that is powerful while also responsible, respectful, and relational—a sorely needed example in a world full of toxic alternatives.

If dads are so impactful, why are they so underemphasized in our culture? Sociologists offer many explanations frequently reflecting the world views of the writers more than an unbiased analysis. As believers it is not hard to see the devaluing of fatherhood as part of a wider war on masculinity (and femininity for that matter). Satan seeks to destroy everything that God loves (John 10:10, 1 Peter 5:8, and many others). Since humans are God's highest creation, Satan attacks the human race and tries to separate us from God in every possible manner. Much of the current obsession with the LGBTQ+ movement, transgenderism, and gender dysphoria amounts to an attack on God's image in us. The very meaning of masculinity and femininity, both central elements in the image of God (Gen 1:27), are now being redefined and devalued before our very eyes. We are being 'cancelled' *as men* and *as women*! Taking away from children the sound model of masculinity *represented by*

**Where in the World Were the Edmondson's THIS Month?** (cont'd)

was delayed for three days due to government road closures near Kumba, the site of the training event. There is an ongoing civil crisis in Cameroon marked by occasional violence. The road closures were a response to potential civil unrest. All of this meant that instead of five days of training, we would have three days only. We had about 21 students and, with an extended schedule each day, we just managed to cover the material. Your prayers are appreciated as we further evaluate the security situation there before scheduling our next class. ∞

normal fatherhood strongly furthers this Satanic effort.

It is high time for men who serve God to push back against the pernicious myth that real men are unnecessary and possibly toxic. We need to rise into the full stature of what it means to be fathers. Not a passive bystander, not a paycheck, not a part-time figure, but a daily force for good in the lives of children. This challenge is not just for biological fathers either. Our world needs strong stepfathers, adoptive dads, mentors, uncles, and grandfathers. Everyone who steps into a fathering role has the opportunity to help shape a life for God and safeguard a soul from the destructive spirit of this age. Sometimes, fatherhood is less about biology than about intentionality and presence! I am not making a nostalgic plea for traditionalism. This is a forward-looking call for deeper engagement. It's an affirmation of something we instinctively know to be true: **FATHERS MATTER!** When fathers show up fully, families flourish, children thrive, and society becomes stronger. It's time to both honor and practice fatherhood—not as a side note, but as a central, powerful force for God in a godless world. ∞

**Our Praises & Prayer Requests**

- Praise God for a successful inaugural class in Cameroon.
- Praise God for 21 graduates in Gatsibo, Rwanda!
- Praise God for \$33,976 raised in our 2025 Matching Challenge!
- Please pray for our July ministry in the Philippines (5 trainings in 3 weeks).
- Please pray for a new training opportunity in Doha, Qatar.
- Please pray for wisdom concerning the security situation in Cameroon.

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:

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:

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