

July 2025

GLOBAL TRAINING  
NETWORK

## Our Itinerary



**June 17, 24, July 1:** TLTI  
Re-Forma training

**June 26-July 20:** Philippines  
ministry

**Aug 26-29:** Qatar ministry

**Aug 29-Sept 13:** Iraqi  
Kurdistan ministry

**Sept 9-Oct 25:** Rwanda  
ministry

**Oct 25-Nov 1:** Cameroon  
ministry

**Nov 2-15:** Nepal ministry



## In His Grip


## Where in the World Is Bob THIS Month?

After returning from Rwanda and Cameroon in late May, Eileen and I had the opportunity in early June to visit with two of our three children and seven of nine grandchildren, along with many other family members who dropped in. It was a wonderful respite from the rigors of ministry in Africa. On June 26 I departed for three weeks of ministry in the Philippines. This includes four classes in three different areas of the Philippines. In Quezon City, I am once again presenting a class on Integrative Theology at the Conservative Baptist Seminary of Asia. In Mindanao I will be leading two different Timothy courses in one week dealing with the subjects

of preaching and teaching. My final week will be spent in Cauayan on the



Island of Negros Occidental. There I will be teaching the first of three courses on theology. This time I will be dealing with the doctrines of

the Bible, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I will be partnering in this third week with GTN staff member Randall Lawton who will be flying in from Australia. I plan to return to the U.S. on July 20. 



## Why Do We Celebrate Holidays?

This month we celebrate Independence Day, more popularly known as "The Fourth." It is not the only holiday in July. If you choose to celebrate them, there are lots to choose from. For example:

- International Chicken Wings Day (July 1)
- Cow Appreciation Day (July 8)
- Be a Dork Day (July 15)
- Take Your Houseplants for a Walk Day (July 27)

There are many more. Some are even serious. We all gather with family and friends throughout each year to celebrate various holidays—whether it's Easter, Christmas, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, or one of the "Monday Holidays." We might sometimes wonder: *Why do we mark these days at all?* Is it just tradition, or is there a deeper purpose for these celebrations?

Actually, the Bible speaks to this subject. Holidays are not just about festivity, food, and football — they are about *remembrance, worship, and renewal*. Throughout Scripture God commanded His people to observe special days as a way of drawing their hearts back to Him. Let's consider three *biblical* reasons to celebrate important holidays.

**1. Holidays can help us remember God's faithfulness.** Many biblical feasts



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## Why Do We Celebrate Holidays? *(cont'd)*

were instituted as memorials. In *Exodus 12*, God established the Passover to commemorate His deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt. God said, *"This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord . . . throughout your generations"* (*Exodus 12:14, ESV*). Holidays serve as sacred markers in time, reminding us of God's past faithfulness. Whether it's Christ's birth at Christmas, His resurrection at Easter, or the founding of a nation offering unprecedented religious freedom on Independence Day, each celebration anchors us in God's story of redemption and calls us to remember who He is and what He has done.




**2. Holidays can reorient our hearts in worship.** Biblical celebrations were often accompanied by offerings, music, and worship. In *Leviticus 23*, God gave Israel a calendar of sacred festivals—like the Feast of Weeks and the Day of Atonement—not for leisure, but for holy gatherings. These days helped God's people stop their routine and re-center their lives on Him. In our modern culture of busyness, holidays become opportunities to pause and turn our attention back to God. It is true that many holidays have become so secularized that their original meaning is nearly lost. However, rightly understood, even secularized (or originally secular) holidays can remind us that our lives are part of God's

greater story. Such reminders invite us to live in rhythm with God's purposes.

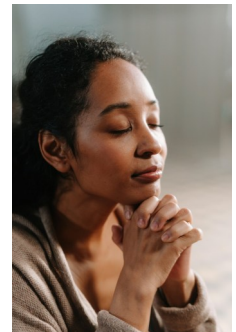
**3. Holidays can teach the next generation.** God's design for holidays includes the passing down of faith. In *Deuteronomy 6:20–21*, Moses says, *"When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes...?' then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, and the Lord brought us out...'"* Holidays create natural moments for families to tell God's story. If your observance includes things like songs, symbols, and traditions, these provide a great opportunity to teach children who God is and how He has worked in history and in our lives.

While not every holiday we celebrate today is found directly in Scripture, the *principle of setting apart days for sacred remembrance* is deeply biblical. Whether we are celebrating traditional Christian holidays or personal spiritual milestones, let's be intentional. Let's use these moments to reflect, give thanks, and pass on the legacy of faith. As Psalm 145:4 says, *"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."*

So as you plan your next holiday gathering, remember: it's not just about the food or festivities or football—it's a chance to worship, remember, and celebrate the goodness of our God. 



## Our Praises & Prayer Requests



- Praise God for safe passage through Cameroon
- Praise God for 21 graduates in Gatsibo, Rwanda!
- Praise God for a record \$35,000 raised in our 2025 Matching Challenge!
- Please pray for our July ministry in the Philippines (4 trainings in 3 weeks).
- Please pray for our new training opportunity in Doha, Qatar.
- Please pray for our new training location in Limbe, 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](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.inhisgripionline.org](http://www.inhisgripionline.org)

