

**September-
October 2025**



GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK

Our Itinerary



**Aug 30-Sept 12: Iraqi
Kurdistan ministry**

**Oct 9-24: Rwanda
ministry**

**Oct 25-31: Cameroon min-
istry**

Nov 1-17: Nepal ministry

**Jan 8-25: Philippine minis-
try (tent.)**

Feb 8: Sonoita Bible Church

**Feb 22: Maranatha Baptist
Church: Globe**

**Feb 20-23: GTN Leadership
Gathering**



GOALS 2026

We plan to continue our work in Kurdistan and Qatar in 2026. At the same time we will moderate some of our other plans and work to complete a major writing project. I will share more on this throughout the coming year.

In His Grip

Training Leaders Where It All Began

The Middle East is the land of the Bible, the land of Moses, Abraham, King David, and the great prophets. This is the place where Jesus walked, taught, died, and rose again. It is the birthplace of our faith. And yet, the very region that gave the world the Good News is now seeing its Christian population decline at an alarming rate (down from 12% to about 4% since 1900). After twenty centuries, could the birthplace of Christianity become a grave yard?

I say, "NO!" First, Jesus promised that the gates of Hell will never find ultimate victory over the church. Ultimate victory is guaranteed in Christ. Second, God is acting in real-time to win this victory by raising up people and ministries to stand in support of our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. **A key part of supporting believers in the Middle East is training leaders here.** If we want the flame of Christian testimony to remain bright in the land of the

Bible, we must invest in leaders! Training pastors, teachers, and ministry workers isn't just a nice idea—it's essential. Here are some powerful reasons why:

•Training leaders preserves Christian witness where it all began.

Christianity was born in the Middle East. If the voice of the Church grows silent here, the world loses a vital connection to its spiritual roots. Trained leaders can ensure that worship, teaching, and Christian fellowship continue to thrive where it was born.

•Training equips believers to face unique challenges. Christians in this region are tiny minorities, facing pressure and persecution. Strong, wise leaders can guide congregations through difficult times with courage, faith, and hope.

•Training raises up shepherds for growing needs. Even as numbers decline, the needs of churches remain great. Many churches lack

(Continued on page 2)



Message From the Middle East

I am spending the first half of September in Qatar and Kurdistan. My first training event was in Doha, Qatar. God has led me to help launch a training program for Filipino expats working there. This effort will involve a creative combination of in-person teaching, pre-recorded lectures, and Zoom training. Our first class was on Hermeneutics (Bible Interpretation). We met in a house church, ironically a rented house owned by a



wealthy Palestinian who doesn't seem to mind. During my brief visit, I was only able to introduce the topic and do one day of teaching. The rest of this course will involve recordings of classes I previously conducted in Manila.

After my brief time in Qatar, I moved on to Northern Iraq where I am conducting two classes in connection with Hope Bible Institute based here in Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan. One course is on Christian Stewardship. The other will deal with the Foundations of the Christian Faith. In between, we plan to visit Erbil, the capital city of Kurdistan, and take part in a church

(Continued on page 2)

Training Leaders Where It All Began (cont'd)

pastors or are forced to rely on untrained leaders. Training new leaders provides fresh strength and ensures that churches are not left as sheep without shepherds. Here in northern Iraq, a professional we will call Peter somehow became a student in our first class on pastoral care even though he was only marginally interested in Christianity. He gave his life to Christ as a result of that class. His wife was initially opposed to Christianity and would have nothing to do with it. Somehow she was persuaded to attend our third class here. The training as well as the testimony and love of the other students won her over completely. Today, not only are they both active Christ followers happily involved as volunteers in ministry, Peter is also receiving further practical training from leaders here for an eventual role as a lead pastor.



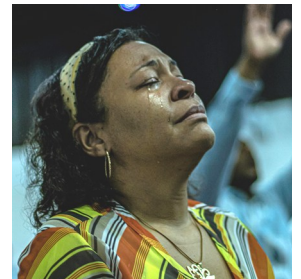
• **Training multiplies impact through discipleship.** A well-trained leader doesn't serve alone; they disciple others. One well-equipped leader can inspire dozens, even hundreds, to grow in faith and service. We estimate that every leader who receives training from GTN directly impacts an average of 100 other people with the training they receive.

• **Training keeps hope alive for the next generation.** Young Christians need leaders who can preach truth, model love, and live courageously. Training leaders ensures the next generation won't inherit a fading faith but a living, growing Church.

It comes down to this: **If we strengthen leaders, we strengthen churches. And if we strengthen churches, we strengthen the Christian witness in the very land where it all began.** ∞



Our Praises & Prayer Requests



- Praise God for a successful training launch in Doha, Qatar.
- Praise God for expanded ministry in northern Iraq.
- Praise God for good health during extended travel.
- Please pray for our October/November ministries in Rwanda, Cameroon, and Nepal.
- Please pray for guidance as we actively plan our 2026 schedule.
- Please pray for wisdom as I do more writing in the coming year.

Message From the Middle East (cont'd)

celebration there. There are many stories of life transformation here, and some of them are directly connected to our classes. God is greatly using the training of leaders here. To Him be the glory!

In mid-October, Eileen and I plan to initiate a five week training foray involving three countries; Rwanda (2 weeks), Cameroon (1 week), and Nepal (2 weeks). Eileen will travel with me for part of the trip before returning home ahead of me to do some needed year end administrative work. We will share more details of these training events and their results in our



November newsletter. Organizing the flights on these 'less traveled' routes has proven challenging, involving switching airlines and at least two transit visas for layovers en route along with one shuttle bus ride between airports in Bangkok. Sometimes the hard part is just getting there. Never-the-less, we feel blessed to be able to do this fruitful work, whatever the challenges. We are profoundly thankful for your financial and prayer support as we go. ∞

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:

www.inhispriponline.org

