

**July-August
2026**



GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK

Our Itinerary



**July 9-18: Mindanao,
Philippines Ministry**

**July 18-26: Cauayan, Neg.
Occidental Ministry**

**Aug 9: Northgate Church,
Ottumwa, IA**

**Sept 13: East Wenatchee
First Baptist, WA**

**Sept 20: Calvary Cross-
roads, Wenatchee, WA**

Oct 8-24: Rwanda Ministry

**Oct 25-Nov 3: Cameroon
Ministry**



The Power of Identity in Christ

How believers see themselves profoundly shapes how they live. Many sincere Christians continue to primarily identify as “sinners saved by grace,” focusing on their ongoing struggles with sin. Scripture, however, invites us to a far more powerful perspective: we are new creations in Christ. This shift in identity is not mere positive thinking—it is a biblical reality with significant consequences for holy living. The Apostle Paul declares in **2 Corinthians 5:17**, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: The old has passed. Behold, the new has come.” This is not a future promise but a present reality for every born again believer. As Christ followers we are now united with Him in His death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-11). Our old sinful self is crucified with Christ. We are no longer defined by Adam’s fallen nature but by

Christ’s resurrected life (Galatians 2:20). This is our new identity: We are saints who occasionally sin, not sinners whose core identity remains unchanged.

The Danger of the “Sinner” Identity: When Christians habitually view themselves primarily as sinners, this mindset often produces more sin and less victory. Identity drives behavior. If you believe, deep down, “I’m just a sinner,” you unconsciously grant sin continued authority in your life. This perspective tends to foster condemnation and shame which *weaken* resolve instead of empowering change. We create a self-fulfilling cycle, expecting failure and then failing. The ‘sinner’ perspective tends to focus on self-effort and behavior management rather than on Christ’s promise to finish the work in us (Phil 1:6). It under-



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Christian Fellowship in Davao, followed by an advanced stewardship course in North Cotabato. Students there will receive advanced trainer certificates, having completed all six Timothy core courses. I will then have the opportunity of doing a one-day introductory training event in a completely new area of Cotabato which may result in further regular training there. Following 8 days in Mindanao, I will make my way back to Cebu and then on to the Island of Negros (pronounced 'nē-gross') Oriental where I plan to conduct the third of three theology courses with students at the Berean Bible Institute in Cauayan. This week-long opportunity to discuss angels, demons, the church, and end-time events with college age students will be the highlight of the trip. I am greatly looking forward to it. In August I will be preaching here in Iowa, visiting kids and grandkids in California, and preparing for our fall travel and training events. This includes

Coming Up!

In June we completed our spring ministries in Rwanda and Cameroon. In just a few days I will head to the Philippines for most of July. I will be ministering there in four different places. Three of them will be in Mindanao. I plan to teach a Timothy course on Work and Worship at New Heights

reporting to friends and churches in Washington State and ministering again in Rwanda and in Cameroon in October-November. We are continuing our strong commitment to training Christian leaders in the Majority World until the job is done or the Lord calls us home! ☞



The Power of Identity in Christ *(cont'd)*

mines faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, who now indwells us. Many have testified to wrestling endlessly with the same sins while stuck in this identity. The more they rehearse, "I'm such a sinner," the more their actions align with that label.

The Power of the New Creation Identity: By contrast, embracing your identity as a new creature in Christ brings freedom and fruitfulness. When you see yourself as God sees you—dead to sin and alive to God—your behavior begins to catch up with your new nature. Your focus shifts from sin-management to Christ-dependence. You fight sin not to become holy, but because God calls us saints (holy ones). This perspective produces gratitude, confidence, and obedience motivated by love rather than fear. Your thinking begins to resonate with righteousness in Christ rather than permanent shame. You develop habits of goodness, love, joy, and self-control, all of which flow *more naturally* from a renewed mind. Sin is no longer "your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14). The fight against the flesh is real, but focusing on your new identity breaks sin's dominance and grants instead a powerful hunger for righteousness.

A Practical Picture: Imagine that there is a line between the world of sinful awful detestable things and the world of delightful righteous things. When you were saved, God pulled you from the world of detestable sin

and planted you firmly in the world of the delightful goodness. If you maintain the idea that you are basically just a sinner (saved by grace, but still just a sinner), you are standing on that line between the two worlds, staring backward and saying to yourself, "I actually belong back there. God hasn't *really* changed me." Don't be surprised if you find yourself continuing to struggle with the same old sin issues, since this is your focus.



On the other hand, Paul hints at a vast new world of delightful goodness in his list of the fruit (outcome) of the Spirit in our lives. He concludes this limited list by saying, "against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:23). There are almost limitless ways to express goodness toward God and others. Each believer has his/her own personality, gifts, and experiences. You are therefore unique and can display kindness and faithfulness in words and deeds all your own. The really great news is that you are free to explore *all* of these ways of serving, helping, loving, and shining as lights in the world. There is no law against *any* of them. But to do this, you must first turn your back on that *other* world and stop assuring yourself that you are more at home there than in the world of God's grace. It's time to agree with God that if you are in Christ, you are a new creation. "The old has gone. The new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is the power of your identity in Christ. 



Bob & Eileen

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Our Praises & Prayer Requests



- Praise God for good health during a demanding schedule of travel.
- Praise God for successful ministry in Rwanda and Cameroon in May-June.
- Praise God for many visits from colleagues and supporters in our home this summer.
- Please pray for our Philippine ministry in July, including a new opportunity in Mindanao.
- Please pray for my writing schedule (I am behind).
- Please pray for our future plans in both Cameroon and Rwanda where political situations present new obstacles to us.

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)*

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