

October 5,
2009



Progress Report!

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This past month has seen progress in our development of our ministry network both here and abroad. While our support level remains low, we continue to speak as often as possible to as many as possible about the need to train pastors and church planters. As our network of friends and prayer supporters grows, we believe our financial support will grow as well. Here is some of the progress we have seen this month.

~ Personal support has increased to 8.5%

~ We have approx 30% of our ministry fund for this year.

~ We have approx. 360 prayer supporters.

~ We have identified several pastors interested in participating with us in overseas

ministry training pastors and church planters.

~ We have most Sundays booked in churches through January 2010

~ Our plans for ministry in India have firmed up including ministry in Kerala, a new area for GTN.

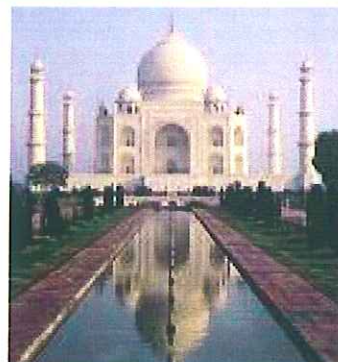
We are meeting with as many potential ministry partners as we can each week. Our focus has now moved beyond pastors and church leaders to anyone with a heart for missions. Our primary aim in these meetings is to cultivate friendships and potential ministry partnerships. Our secondary aim is to schedule presentations in churches. We are now expanding our efforts to include the Pacific Northwest as well as the Southwest. In addition to our support dis-

covery efforts, we are busy preparing for our ministry in India from Nov 1-13. This is what it's all about. This is why we are working every day to raise support. The need is so great and training leaders who can go on to train others is such a strategically important and biblically sound way to help.



Operation India

God answers prayer. I often speak of the great need in India when I present the ministry of GTN in churches. God has put the people of India in my heart even though I have never yet been there. I have been earnestly praying for an opportunity to minister in India since early 2008. Last fall, plans for a ministry trip to India had to be scrapped due to the health of the team leader. It looked as though we might not have an opportunity this fall either,



but God heard our prayers and my original desire to minister in India is now coming to pass.

Much preparation has already been done. Our travel plans are made and logistical issues are all in hand. I received my 10 year India visa without so much as a minor delay. Shots, malaria meds, and travel insurance are all purchased. Lesson preparation is now beginning in earnest. I am thrilled with the possibilities of ministry to a bumper crop of untrained pastors and church planters. For the first few days I will be joining GTN col-

(Continued on page 2)



Global Training Network

Operation India (continued)

leagues, Dan Smythe, and Sindhu Pani for ministry in Kolkata, Kanpur, and Delhi. Later I will fly down to Kochi to minister to bible college students in Ernakulam along with the school's founder, an old friend, Shambhu De. We will also be spending time in prayer and mapping our strat-

egy for future ministry in these regions. On the way home, I will spend 24 hours in Dubai before a 16.5 hour flight which lands in Los Angeles 4.5 hours after departure courtesy of the international date line. After 1 day of rest, I'll be back to support discovery, presenting GTN to a church in the

Phoenix area. My prayer is that God will use this time to impart life changing truths to leaders who will be able to pass them on to others. May God multiply the effect of his Word in the hearts of those to whom we speak and those to whom they speak.

The Other Side of Spiritual Warfare



I am so thankful for your prayers! The oft used phrase, "We need it," is more true than any of us realizes.

These days, it seems that believers in America are becoming more aware of the spiritual battle we all face. However, while we accept spiritual warfare as real, I think that, for many of us, it is still somewhat in the realm of cliché. This may come as a surprise, but spiritual warfare is actually a bit of a soap-box issue for me. It may be an uncomfortable topic, but it is essential that we get into the battle.

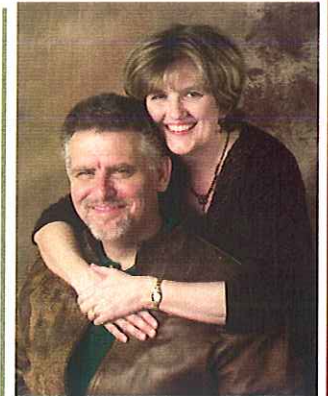
I believe that a key area of spiritual battle is the struggle for the heart and mind. Romans 12:1-2 teaches us that the key to practical Christian living is the renewal of the mind. In II Cor. 10:5, Paul says "... we take captive every thought to make it

obedient to Christ." Our thought lives are critical to victorious living. But how often are we defeated in this battle? How many of us succumb to the debilitating effects of worry, or rehearse untrue thoughts, or allow negativity to rule? Somehow, when these struggles are present, we think that the only spiritual activity that will help is prayer. This is frustratingly passive and unbiblical. We need to remember who is the enemy of our souls. We don't just struggle with our own failings. We wrestle with the schemes of the evil one who seeks to keep us defeated. The Bible describes him as the accuser of the brethren and the one who came only to kill and destroy. He is the one who manipulated Peter to try and dissuade Jesus from going to the cross for the sins of the world. What better way for the subtle serpent to keep you and me from being joyous,

victorious Christians than to encourage unhealthy and untrue thoughts? These are his stock and trade.

"So" you say, "I agree with you. But isn't spiritual warfare all about praying?" My answer would be, "No." While prayer is absolutely essential to a victorious spiritual life, there is more to spiritual warfare than praying. Let's look at some biblical examples.

What did Jesus do when Satan tempted him after his 40 day fast? Did he stop and close his eyes and say, "Dear God I'm being tempted here. Do something!" No, he resisted Satan's ideas by quoting the word of God. What did He do on another occasion when Satan subtly whispered his misdirection through Peter? He called him out! He recognized the source and then rejected the words. Now someone might say, "but that was Jesus



Prayer Requests and Praises

Praise God for

- 360 prayer supporters
- 8.5% personal support
- 30% min. fund support
- Church mtgs thru Jan
- 10 year India visa here
- India plans in progress

Pray for

- Guidance in lesson prep
- Speaking engagements
- Interaction with several large churches
- Open doors and hearts in the Northwest
- New ministry partners
- Growing support
- Safety in travel
- Souls for the King

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will be qualified to teach others.

2 Tim 2:2

Contact Us

Bob & Eileen Edmondson

1190 W Canary Way
Chandler, AZ 85286

bobedmo@globaltrainingnetwork.org
480-917-6791 / 480-735-9193

Please Visit our Blog at

www.noteofencouragement.blogspot.com

Support Accepted at:

Global Training Network
7558 W. Thunderbird Rd Ste. 1
P.M.. B. 449 Peoria, AZ 85381

(Please include a note indicating that your gift is preferred for the ministry of the Edmondsons)

www.globaltrainingnetwork.org

The Other Sid of Spiritual Warfare (continued)

Christ. He has all power and authority. Does this apply to us?" Well, yes. it does.

The New Testament teaching concerning spiritual warfare is wonderfully consistent with Jesus' example. Ephesians 6 lays out what it takes to "struggle . . . against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Every piece of armor is needed, including the single offensive weapon, the word of God. Wielding the sword of the spirit is not just about knowing the word of God. It's about *believing and using* it. It's about speaking it in critical situations as Jesus

did. We need to combat the suggestions of the evil one by speaking the truth -out loud if necessary. James 4:7 says to "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." It's time to act on the truth that we *are* the children of God. When Jesus commissioned us to preach the gospel wherever we go, he promised that we would do so in his authority and that he would be with us always. As children of God redeemed by Christ, we don't have to listen to or be defeated by Satan. He is already defeated. His only power lies in, well, lies. We just need to be prepared to resist his lies with truth.

I urge you to recognize the voice of untruth. Learn to discern between Satan's counterfeit ideas and God's truth. I urge you to resist and reject any thought that doesn't align itself with the truths of God's holy word. This will involve prayerfully learning the word of God. When you arm yourself with truth, truth becomes a weapon. State the truth of the Word of God that you have already chosen to believe. State it out loud. Remember, "you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship," (Romans 8:15). Believe it. Act on it!

You Don't Lose Unless You Quit

When things are down, it's time to look up!

David's situation was a tough one. He had been anointed king but was not yet recognized as king. He was, in fact, being pursued by his predecessor, Saul, whose reign had not yet ended in ignominious failure. And it was personal. Saul didn't merely wish to defeat David and his 600 mighty men. In his jealousy and paranoia, he



wanted David dead. Moreover, David and his band of brothers were effectively men without a country having been declared public enemies by Saul and having been also rejected by the Philistines. David and his men

along with their families lived a fugitive existence and had settled temporarily in the village of Ziklag, where they thought they would be safe. The illusion of security was shattered when these exhausted soldiers returned from an arduous march to discover that their village had been raided and burned by the Amalekites. All of their wives and children had been spirited away and for all anyone knew, killed. Having wept until they had no more strength to weep, these rough men began to seek someone to blame. They found David. Talk of stoning began

That's when David got a grip. "But David encouraged himself in the Lord" -I Samuel 30:6 (kjv). We are not told how David encouraged himself in the Lord. Perhaps he reminded himself of God's character or God's promises to

him. Perhaps he remembered how God had enabled him to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat as when he battled the giant, Goliath. However it happened, David arose, wiped his tears, and took charge. He called for the ephod to inquire of God for instructions. Having received a green light from God, he rallied his troops to do the one last thing they were still willing to do at his command: pursue the raiders. They overtook the Amalekites and recovered all the plunder including their wives and children, amazingly unharmed.

We can learn a lot from David's example. Had he chosen to succumb to the pain of the moment rather than reminding himself of truth, this would have been the end of his journey. His reign would have been over before it even



The Edmondson's Itinerary

- Oct 4 Phoenix, AZ
- Oct 11 Globe, AZ
- Oct 18 Kingman, AZ
Parker, AZ
- Oct 20-22 Prescott, AZ
- Oct 25 Page, AZ
- Nov 1-13 India
- Nov 15 Buckeye, AZ
- Nov 22 Show Low, AZ
- Nov 29 Globe, AZ tent
- Dec 6 Yuma, AZ
- Dec 13 Salome, AZ
Quartzite, AZ
- Jan 3 Wenatchee, WA
- Jan 10 Wenatchee, WA
- Jan 17 Gig Harbor, WA
- Jan 24 Chino Valley, AZ
- Feb 15-28 Ukraine
- Mar 13 Phoenix, AZ
- Mar 14 Las Vegas, NV

You Don't Lose Unless You Quit (continued)

began. His men would have abandoned him and almost certainly taken his life. Instead of the greatest king in Israel's history, he would have become a trivial pursuit question. No sweet psalmist of Israel. No man after God's own heart. No throne of David for Messiah to claim. All of history would have been different. It all came down to a choice of attitude --a really good choice made in a really bad moment.

Have you had any bad moments lately? The economy has thrown us all some curve balls: layoffs, shrinking invest-

ments and home values, the threat of inflation and higher interest rates. Add to this the political uncertainty that now exists and we have a recipe for caution or outright fear. This spirit is everywhere.

It's time to get over it. It's time to recognize that our God and his work simply transcend the trials of a weak economy. There are things more important than our sense of ease and security. It's not a question of whether these are difficult days. That's beyond dispute. The real question is what will you do with these days? This trial represents a

golden opportunity to follow the Savior faithfully when doing so involves sacrifice. God is not limited by the bad news. His promises are not subject to revision. His cause has not become less important. This is a moment when trusting God becomes more than a cliché. This is an opportunity to act in faith and see God demonstrate that such faith is never misplaced. Such action is never wasted. When things are down, it's time to look up.



One More Thing

Sharpening Our Focus



Military planners say that no battle plan survives contact with the enemy. This seems to be true in many areas of life. "To a man belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the reply of the tongue." (Prov. 16:1) We began our support discovery process with a primary focus on churches. We have been successful at booking speaking engagements and a good number of churches are considering GTN and our ministry for their 2010 budgets. We are thankful and we are praying. However, we are also encountering many churches who are telling us frankly that they are not plan-

ning any increases in their budgets. Some are cutting budgets, staff, and missions budgets. For missionaries, however, tight church budgets are nothing new. The economy and its effect on churches is underscoring, and perhaps accelerating, a trend which has been evident for some time. Whereas once missionaries received 80% (or more) of their support from churches, today an average missionary receives 80% of his support from individuals. In our case, the number is well over 90%. We are extremely thankful for those whose hearts are moved by the need for pastors and church planters, both churches and individuals.

Having evaluated our efforts to date, we have concluded

that we need to sharpen our focus on individual ministry partners. To this end, we have begun to schedule meetings with friends and acquaintances to inform and challenge them concerning the need for training church planters and leaders as God raises them up. This is a shift from our earlier approach which focused mostly on pastors and church leaders with the aim of scheduling speaking engagements. We will still do this, but we are shifting our emphasis to individuals. We are not merely seeking support for GTN. We regard our supporters as partners with us in God's work. We are seeking people whose hearts resonate with God's call to sacrifice for his cause. What a joy to sacrificing together for something more important than any of us.

The Harvest is Plentiful*

The need for trained pastors and church planters has never been greater. One barometer of that need is the phenomenal growth of Global Training Network. Recently, GTN published a special "5th Anniversary" newsletter in which Paul Madson pointed out that, 5 years ago, GTN began with two people, focusing on one country (India) with an annual budget of \$150,000. Today Global Training Network has a budget of 3.4 million dollars and a staff of 70 full time national and international staff. We are actively at work in 36 countries with invitations to minister in 17 others as soon as staff and resources become available. ...

**"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*



Thank You!

Eileen and I want to thank those of you who have committed to supporting GTN and our ministry with commitments of monthly support. We also want to thank those of you who have given generous "one-time" gifts to help defray the costs of travel and international ministry. May the Lord bless you for your willingness to contribute to the cause of training pastors and church planters!

Thank you.

