

December 7,
2009



We want to wish every one of you a blessed Christmas season. May the love that sent God's son into the world shine on you and in you.

Is God Calling You to Get Involved?

As we approach the end of the year, I want to challenge you to consider before God whether He is calling you to greater involvement in our ministry training Christian leaders through Global Training Network. Has he moved your heart with what he is doing in places like India? Have you rejoiced with us over souls saved and leaders trained? If you find your heart stirred by these things, perhaps God is stirring you to do something about it. Our ministry is dependent on financial support from people like you. Your gifts end gifts are also greatly appreciated. Instructions for donating are below. Thank you so much!



India Ministry A Success



For thirteen days in November it was my privilege to minister to believers in India. God did some awesome things. In Kolkata, we trained church planters in a subject of great importance to struggling Indian believers, financial stewardship. I presented the subject matter and my colleague, Dan Smythe, led the pastors in the process of creating a plan for implementation. In Kanpur, I presented a series of lessons dealing with the basics of biblical interpretation. These were well received by the pastors, church planters and other leaders present. It was also our privilege, while in Kanpur, to visit and pray with many church planters as well as other

GTN ministries impacting village women and schoolchildren. In both Kolkata and Kanpur, we preached in village churches. In the village of Gurap many unsaved were present in the outdoor church service. We presented the gospel and several people responded, placing their faith in Jesus Christ. **This was the message of which I spoke last month when I said that the Holy Spirit was heavily upon me as I prepared.**

It was also my privilege to speak twice to the faculty and student body of Faith Baptist Bible College and Seminary in Ernakulam, Kerala, in the South of India. I encouraged the students and challenged them to persevere for the cause of Christ. They were very responsive to the word of God. During my visit there, a tropical monsoon rainstorm provided a bit of excitement when two of the buildings on cam-

pus were struck by lightning, a fact especially notable to those of us inside. This storm was not nearly as worrisome to believers there as the rising storm of persecution against Christians. This is the #1 concern among believers in

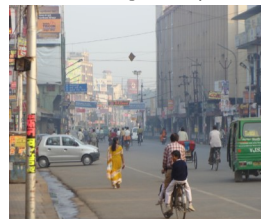


India. Yet they continue to spread the word and people keep responding! As I flew home, I reflected on the truth that Jesus Christ is building his church around the world and the gates of hell will never prevail against it. What a privilege to be part of what God is doing!

No Room in the Inn?

Those who come from America to visit India are always taken by the sheer number of people. On every street the scene is much the same: people, people, and more people. Each one has a life story filled with joys and sorrows unique to him or her, but together they make up an unfeeling and unrelenting throng. This mass of humanity gave me insight into the plight of Mary and Joseph the night Jesus was born. It has often been noted that Jesus came into a cruel and unfeeling world. Indeed he did. The harbinger of hostility was the inhospitality afforded an expectant mother. There may have been many wonderful people in the inn that night, people who, in other circumstances, might have given up their place out of mercy to Mary and her soon-to-arrive child; but something in the spiritual atmosphere of that crowded place on that occasion

made it attractive to just look the other way. It is easy not to care when apathy is the norm. This was the unfeeling cruelty of the throng.



just see a throng of people mindlessly following others to the lowest spiritual common denominator. He saw individuals. You. Me. He was moved with compassion over the sorrows in our lives. He looked past our feet of clay and saw the possibilities of redemption. He gave his life, not for the conglomerate "whole" of humanity, but for each and every individual. His death, resurrection and salvation were designed for each of us as individu-

als and he carried it all out with your face and mine in mind. His is the model for our love and compassion. If we look on the world and see an apathetic throng, we'll be apathetic too; but if we look and see people one at a time, we will be moved with compassion as Jesus was. We will be moved to act as Jesus did. Those throngs of people in India are made of individuals each of whom is so valuable to our Lord that he died for them. Today, many of them are open to his gospel. All God asks is that we make room in our hearts for them -that we care enough to make s u r e t h e y can be told.



Progress Report

In November we spent much time praying, preparing, and ministering in India. We spent less time on support discovery. Never-the-less, we saw progress during this month.

-We have approximately 470 prayer supporters.

-We have received one-time gifts which have completely underwritten the India ministry.

-We presented GTN in Buckeye and Show Low, and returned for a second visit to Globe.

-Our meetings with individual supporters and potential supporters have resumed.

-Although our monthly support remains low, there are several churches now giving strong consideration to adding GTN to

their 2010 budgets. There are also many individuals who plan to support us when circumstances permit.

Our ministry in India was one more affirmation that we are doing God's work according to God's will for our lives. We have no doubt God will continue to supply all our needs. We thank you for your involvement whether financial or through prayer. You enable this ministry to go forward.



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 including our recent ministry in India. May the Lord bless you for your willingness to contribute to the cause of training pastors and church planters!

Thank you.



Prayer Requests and Praises

Praise God for

- 470 prayer supporters
- Personal support at 10%
- Church meetings thru Feb
- Spiritually powerful ministry in India

Pray for

- Churches and Individuals to place GTN in their 2010 budgets
- Support discovery efforts here and in the Northwest
- Preparation beginning for ministry in Ukraine in Feb
- Conversations with ministry partners and potential GTN donors over the next several weeks

Why Ask Why?



As I was reading in Hebrews the other day, it struck me just how much God is interested in that question. The answer to "why?" is everywhere, especially in Hebrews 11-12. Why did the great men and women of faith live the lives they did? It was because Enoch believed that God exists and is a rewarder of those who earnestly seek him. It was because Noah had holy fear. It was because Abraham was looking forward to the city whose builder is God. The list of the faithful builds like a crescendo to the most moving example of all: Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. "For the joy set before him." What joy? I'm convinced that a lot of that joy will involve celebrating with the re-

deemed and seeing the gratitude in our eyes. Loving us meant that redeeming us would bring joy.

How do you answer the "why" question in your life? It is easy to answer, "because I should," but that answer opens the door to resentful, selfish, or even rebellious thoughts. We humans do not respond well to "should." Romans 7 and the whole book of Galatians make that clear. During seminary, my husband noticed that in his warehouse job people would volunteer for overtime in order to avoid being forced to work those same extra hours. Somehow volunteering made their attitude better and the overtime easier. "You have to" produced resentment. "I want to" produced freedom.

Jesus wants our love and service to be voluntary, not forced. After citing Jesus' motivation for enduring the cross, the author of Hebrews continued: "Consider him

who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Jesus' motive is our model. When we consider his "why" for enduring the cross then we won't lose heart. The heart is very precious to God. It's the place where we ask and answer the "why" question. It's important to answer it well.

What God desires from us is heartfelt love as a motivation, not mere guilt or duty. I Corinthians 13 says that good works without love are worthless. When you catch yourself resenting a task, you find that there is always a "because I have to" sneaking around somewhere. Pull that motive out and reject it. Stop and say, I CHOOSE to do this because . . . , and fill in that blank with whatever the author of your faith gives you. See what a joyful difference it makes throughout this busy Christmas season!

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 Edmondson's Itinerary

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| Dec 13 | Salome, AZ |
| | Quartzite, AZ |
| Dec 20 | Chandler, AZ (tent) |
| Jan 3 | Wenatchee, WA |
| Jan 10 | Wenatchee, WA |
| Jan 17 | Gig Harbor, WA |
| Jan 24 | Chino Valley, AZ |
| Jan 31 | Phoenix, AZ |
| Feb 7 | Flagstaff, AZ |
| Feb 15-28 | Ukraine |
| Mar 13 | Phoenix, AZ |
| Mar 14 | Las Vegas, NV |

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