

September 5,
2009

**The Edmondson's
Itinerary**

- Sept. 13 Gallup, NM
Albuquerque, NM
- Sept. 20 Tucson, AZ
- Sept. 27 Payson, AZ
- Oct. 4 Phoenix, AZ
- Oct. 11 Salome, AZ
- Oct. 18 Kingman, AZ
Parker, AZ
- Oct 25 Page, AZ
- Nov. 4-12 India (tent)
- Nov. 15 Buckeye, AZ
- Nov. 22 Show Low, AZ
- Dec 13 Quartzite, AZ
- Feb Ukraine
- Mar 14 Las Vegas, NV

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Global Training Network



Progress Report!

I have now been serving full-time with GTN for 1 month. We are discovering a network of ministry partners.

-We have 7-10% of our personal support.

-We have 30% of our ministry fund for this fiscal year.

-We have 270 prayer supporters.

-We have several pastors interested in participating with us in training ministry.

-We have most Sundays booked through this year.

We are meeting with as many pastors and Christian leaders as we can. These have been positive

and productive meetings. We anticipate that we will soon expand our support discovery efforts to include the Northwest.

In addition to our support discovery efforts, we are busy preparing for ministry opportunities in India, Egypt, Ukraine, the Philippines, and Hong Kong. We have recently been communicating with an old friend who leads a Bible College in southern India. We want to explore how we might work together to train pastors and church planters there.

We are building ministry partnerships at home and overseas in order to equip and encourage indigenous pastors and church planters around the world.

Would you pray for the following needs?

- Opportunities to speak.
- Growing personal support.
- Guidance in Nov. Ministries
- Significant church partnerships



Second Opinion



**God's Provision:
A Story**

It was the spring of 1982, and we were moving west. Bob & I had been married less than a year. He had just graduated from Bible college, and we were moving to Tacoma, WA for seminary. I remember stopping for the night with friends in Montana. They said, "It's not a good idea to go to Washington now. The unemployment rate there is 13%!" That fueled my al-

ready building nervousness. I knew I would need to work to help get Bob through seminary, but I had hardly any work experience or training. How could I compete in THAT job market? What were we doing?

It is good for us to remember all the ways that God took care of us. We were not exemplary models of self-discipline, but there is one thing He led us to do that represented trust in Him. In the midst of one of the darker hours, when projected income didn't cover expenses, we began to discuss our giving. It was tempting to reduce

it along with everything else. But what did God want us to do? We agreed that we should continue giving to our church – and also start supporting a missionary that kept coming to mind. It made no sense, but it seemed to be the step of faith God wanted us to take.

Have you ever identified with the children of Israel as they followed God in the desert? He provided just the amount of manna they needed for each day. Well, our three years of seminary were kind of like that, only better. God pro-

(Continued on page 2)

God's Provision: A Story (continued)

vided exactly what we needed exactly when we needed it. In spite of my fears and lack of experience, I landed a job within a week of our arrival. Bob, on the other hand, had to search for months. Nevertheless, God gave him just the right job at just the right time. To make a long story short, by the time we finished seminary three years later I was a stay-

at-home mom with two babies. We had a newer car, no debt, even a little money in the bank. Moreover, these experiences of God's provision were formative in our spiritual lives.

I want to be very careful here. The "prosperity gospel" is an error that is spreading rapidly around the globe and is one reason there is an urgency to train pastors. That

error takes what little a person has in exchange for a false promise of prosperity. Giving in order to receive is not what the Bible means when it says, "God loves a cheerful giver." The truth is the reverse. We receive in order to give. God provides for us so that we can honor him with trust and generosity.

— Eileen



One More Thing

GIVING IN TOUGH TIMES

It has become a familiar refrain. We'd like to give, but with the economy in the shape it's in, we just can't. I understand those sentiments and the fear of what might come next. However, one has to ask, Isn't God bigger than this? Is God's 401k tanking? Are the mansions of heaven in danger of foreclosure? Ridiculous. God is not subject to economic cycles. He can provide just as well now as ever. It is up to us to express our trust by continuing to obey even when times are hard. Here are six reasons to give faithfully and generously during an economic downturn.

Giving demonstrates lessons learned from hard times. One root cause of our economic woes is our tendency to buy things we don't need with money we don't have. We need to learn what things are eternally important and prioritize them through the tough times as well as the good.

Giving reaffirms trust in God. Every gift you give to God is a statement of faith: "I could spend this money on something for myself or my family, but God has shown me something more important than comfort and convenience. I will affirm his values by giving to his cause. I trust him to provide for my needs."



Giving allows God to provide. God provides for faithful givers in order to allow them to continue giving. This is a key difference between the "prosperity gospel" and biblical truth. We don't bless to be blessed. We have been blessed to be a blessing.

Giving understands the nature of the need. The gospel

is desperately needed around the world no matter how our economy is doing. Heaven and Hell are realities facing all mankind. The life-giving good news of Jesus Christ can't wait until we can give without sacrifice or inconvenience.

Giving represents faithfulness. Those who are serious about stewardship understand that a steward must prove faithful. Such faithfulness continues through thick and thin.

Giving recognizes the purpose of wealth. While God intends that we enjoy his gifts, he hasn't blessed us with wealth so that we can lavish it on ourselves. It is a trust. It is our job to invest so as please the one who really owns it all.

When his wife despaired, Job asked a rhetorical question: "Shall we accept only good from God?" We should ask ourselves a similar rhetorical question today: "Shall we only obey God when it's easy?"

Prayer Requests and Praises

Praise God for

- Clear guidance and vision
- 270 prayer supporters
- 7-10% personal support
- 30% ministry support
- Church meetings through Nov

Pray for

- Churches and individuals to be drawn to the vision of GTN
- Growth in personal support
- Guidance for multiple training events in November
- Financial provision
- Strategically significant partnerships with several churches.
- Our safety as we travel

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



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

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