

August 7, 2009

The Edmondson's Itinerary

- Aug. 2 Superior, AZ
- Aug. 15 Boulder City, NV
- Aug. 16 Enterprise, UT
- Aug. 24 Lehi, UT
- Aug. 25 Las Vegas, NV
- 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
- Nov. 1-14 Alexandria, Egypt
- Nov. 15 Buckeye, AZ
- Nov. 22 Show Low, AZ

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Global Training Network



Progress Report!

During July, we have made great progress preparing for our ministry with Global Training Network. As of August 1, we are now officially GTN missionaries. ~ Our personal support level stands at 5% of our total needs. We also have verbal commitments which have not yet come through the pipeline. We estimate that when realized, these will bring us to approximately 10% ~ Our ministry fund stands at approximately 25% with more commitments on the way. ~ We now have well over 200 prayer supporters. ~ We have completed our final Sunday at Faith Community Church of Chandler, AZ with a celebration capping 10 yrs of ministry there. The

church is partnering with us in this new venture. ~ During the coming months, Eileen will continue in her job at Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization while I work to raise support for GTN. I will be meeting with as many people as I can to cast the vision for this ministry. Lord willing, Eileen and I will travel together to speak in churches each weekend. ~ While I will be working full time to raise support, I will also be training pastors. We are tentatively planning three overseas ministry trips.
 • **Nov 2009: Egypt**
 • **Feb 2010: Ukraine**
 • **July 2010: Philippines & Hong Kong**
 As you can see we've been

busy and are planning to stay busy. We believe that the need to train pastors is urgent and requires nothing less than urgent effort. While urgent, it is also a joyous effort. There is nothing like the adventure of trusting in and following God. The challenge is exhilarating.



Second Opinion



The Objective Outweighs the Challenge

A couple weeks ago Bob & I took a little hike in the hills from an elevation of 9,000 ft to 12,663 ft. The trusty internet said it was only 4.5 miles each way, an invigorating 3 hour hike. After hiking at least 2 ½ miles, we encountered a returning hiker. "So, we're half way there aren't we?" He just laughed. After another mile we met another descending hiker. "Ok, so we

have 1 more mile to go. Right?" More chuckling. (these humorous hikers were starting to bother me.) "If you want to believe that, you can," he laughed. The more we hiked, the longer the trail became. The hour grew late and we had to turn back before reaching the summit. Apparently we misread the starting point on the map. We plan to hike that trail again sometime even though it is high, steep, and strenuous.

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The Objective Outweighs the Challenge (continued)

Why? Because such challenges keep us motivated to exercise and stay in shape. Doing so enables us to enjoy life and serve God with greater energy. That objective simply outweighs the difficulty of challenge.

Our journey with GTN is like that mountain. Training church planters, pastors, and other leaders is a mountain-top objective. However, just raising the necessary funds to carry out this ministry is a huge challenge in this economy. I have a feeling the trail may be a longer tougher climb than I had supposed. I

get a little nervous, but also excited because I know that God is walking with us and we will get to see Him supply in amazing ways.

Our daughter, Rachel, just returned from a missionary internship in Ghana. Since I will be doing a lot of traveling with Bob, I wanted to ask her about the really important things she experienced; exotic foods, bucket showers, toilet facilities, bumpy stand-up busses, etc. I was impressed by her sense of humor about those things, and I could tell that that had not been her focus. Her focus was the peo-

ple. People are really what this is all about. We have been called to serve God by offering pastors, church planters, and other leaders the training and encouragement they so desperately need. These are special people with a high calling of their own from God. Their love and commitment is contagious. The need for training these servants of God outweighs any consideration of personal comfort. Just as with that difficult high mountain hike, the objective outweighs the difficulty of the challenge.



Prayer Requests and Praises

Praise God for

- Clear guidance and vision
- 200 prayer supporters
- 5% personal support
- 25% ministry support
- Church meetings through Nov

Pray for

- Churches and individuals to be are drawn to the vision of GTN
- Nov training event in Egypt
- Guidance in scheduling
- Financial provision

Something Else

We Were Made For This! There are times in our lives where we look back and realize that God has been at work in ways we could never have recognized before this moment. Our decision to join Global Training Network has been such a moment. God has been preparing us for this all



our lives. Eileen grew up in a pastor's home and regularly met missionaries who would stay with her family when they came to speak. Eileen and I both have become friends with missionaries and believers from other countries throughout our married life. Now, when we look at a globe, we realize that we know people in ministry all over the world. In addition, our ministry experiences have prepared us. Who knew that 25 years of pastoral ministry would be good preparation to train pastors? I have already had one re-

quest to teach a course in pastoral theology based on a book I wrote some years ago on the subject. For her part, Eileen has become an excellent administrator with responsibility for the operations of an 11 million dollar per year charity. She has learned internet technology, database management, bookkeeping, IRS fundraising protocols, all necessary to the kind of ministry to which we have been called. It is wonderful to know that, as we seek God, He is directing our steps in ways we cannot yet know for purposes, we cannot yet see.

Contact Us

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Please Visit our Blog at

www.noteofencouragement.blogspot.com



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