

The Edmondsons with Global Training Network

Frequently Asked Questions



Why is the need to train pastors so urgent right now? Because the good news is advancing! All over the world, people are coming to Christ. In India alone, some 20,000 per day become believers. At the current rate of growth, India will have nearly a hundred million new believers over the next ten years. There will be a need for nearly a million trained pastors. Unfortunately, the growth of the church is outpacing the development of Christian leaders. *Currently, in the United States there is one trained pastor for every 250 people. Outside the United States there is one trained pastor for every 450,000 people.*

What makes Global Training Network unique? Instead of sending a missionary to learn a new language and culture, a process requiring years of exposure and experience before ministry becomes productive, GTN relies on the biblical principle of reproduction expressed in 2 Timothy 2:2. We seek to entrust what we have learned to reliable men who will be qualified to teach others. In this way, national pastors and church planters reach their own culture for Christ more quickly and efficiently than western missionaries ever could. GTN is also distinct from many other organizations which train leaders in that such training is our sole focus.

What are Global Training Network's theological positions? Global Training Network is a Bible believing, grace oriented, kingdom minded, and doctrinally sound mission organization. A complete doctrinal statement can be found at www.globaltrainingnetwork.org.

How were you called to this ministry? Through our years of pastoral ministry, Eileen and I have both discovered where our strengths, weaknesses and spiritual gifts lie. It has become apparent to us that this kind of ministry fits us both like a glove. Three years ago we began to pray about it. Since then I have engaged in leadership training on 3 continents. The response of others has helped to confirm the sense we have had in our own hearts that God is calling us to this ministry.

What are your qualifications for this ministry? I am an ordained minister of the gospel of 25 years' experience. I hold B.A., M.Div., and D.Min degrees in bible, theology, and church leadership respectively. I have taught courses dealing with church leadership and Bible interpretation and have published a book on pastoral relationships. In addition to her 25 years of experience as a pastor's wife, Eileen has served continually in our churches' worship ministries. She also has administrative gifts and experience preparing her precisely for this ministry.

What will you be doing? Eileen and I will be traveling eight to twelve times per year for one to three weeks each time to offer training to pastors around the world who have little to none. When we are not training, we will be preparing and planning logistics for our training events. We will also spend time raising the needed funds for this ministry. While my roles will be primarily in teaching and fund-raising, Eileen will focus mostly on the administrative side of this enterprise, which is significant. She will also engage in worship ministry and women's discipleship ministry.

What kinds of things will you teach? We plan to offer basic training to as many pastors as possible. Topics will include:

- Basic bible interpretation
- Overview of major bible doctrines and pastoral theology
- Basic discipleship including marriage and family life

Does GTN use a set curriculum? Although GTN has a library of materials, there is no set curriculum. Indeed a set curriculum would be difficult to use given the wide variety of training needs encountered in this ministry. Instead, GTN relies on doctrinally sound staffers with proven track records to teach biblical principles as each group of pastors and church planters needs.

Where will you focus most of your attention? We will be traveling to many different countries. Global Training Network currently works in 36 nations around the world with invitations to serve in many more. We anticipate that if it is God's will, India and the far-East will be our major focus. We will train pastors there on a regular basis.

Will you be relocating? No. Eileen and I have no immediate plans to relocate. Instead, we will travel eight to twelve times per year to different countries to offer training events in seminars, conferences, and classroom settings. Since this ministry involves both presenting in and organizing the training events, our time in between events will be spent in preparation and logistical planning.

How much support do you need? Our current status with Global Training Network is "Full Time Staff in Fund Raising Mode." This status will change to "Full Time Staff" when our support level reaches approximately \$86,000 per year. This covers the cost of employment including health care and retirement and includes GTN's administrative costs. I must also raise \$40,000 per year to cover the cost of training events, travel, and related ministry expenses.

How can I help? There are several ways you can get involved in our ministry with Global Training Network. You can...

- Become a prayer supporter
- Network with us to help us discover others who might be led to participate in this ministry.
- Become a monthly financial supporter
- Help us with "one-time" expenses such as the cost of an individual conference
- Travel with us to teach

