

**May 9,  
2011**

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**Prayer Requests and Praises**

**Praise God for**

- 934 prayer supporters!
- 55% committed financial support
- 5 new supporting churches this year
- New ministry opportunities in India

**Pray for**

- Safety and effectiveness in India
- Future opportunities in Pakistan
- Advancement of our Timothy Training Program
- Growth in monthly committed support
- Open doors to present GTN in U.S. churches



Global Training Network



**The Spiritual Nature of World Events**

“WE GOT HIM!” read the headline on my computer screen in bold red letters accompanied by an upside-down picture of Osama Bin Laden. Since then, the newspapers and websites have been filled with stories detailing the raid which killed the most wanted terrorist in history, analyzing the political impact on the 2012 elections, speculating on the world-wide impact among Muslims, and, oh yes, warning about the dangers of international travel in the aftermath of this momentous event.



It is this aspect of recent events which has the most impact on our ministry. I had been planning to minister in India and Pakistan in mid-May. After reviewing the situation on the ground in Pakistan, where Bin Laden’s compound was located and consulting with colleagues, I have reluctantly concluded that it would be both unwise and unproductive to minister there at this time.

This change has meant abandoning plans which have been made over a period of months at considerable effort and expense. Some of the costs will be recouped, but not all. And an opportunity is lost. I will minister in India as planned and I expect to have a very productive time there, but my heart is saddened that I will be unable to also minister again to my friends across the border in Pakistan.

The death of Osama Bin Laden reminds me yet again of the connection between world events and the spread of the gospel. It is easy to compartmentalize, thinking of politics and world events in one box, while placing ministry in a different box. Thus we read news stories, watch news programs, or listen to talk radio and think of the events under discussion as part of the political realm. When we listen to a sermon or read a missionary newsletter, we think of that as the spiritual or religious realm. In fact, these are not separate realms. Increasingly as we move toward the end times, we see religious factors influencing world events and world events which are religious in nature.

For me, this connection between religious and political events has real and practical ramifications. I can no longer afford to view world events exclusively through a political lens. Events like the shooting of Osama Bin Laden are part of a larger spiritual conflict between light and darkness in the world. The Bible alludes to this conflict again and again, even hinting that the human struggle between good and evil is somehow mirrored in the angelic realm. What I know with certainty today is that this conflict is having an immediate impact on the work of spreading the gospel.

As Christians, it is important for us to recognize the spiritual side of every major event that occurs in the world. If a sparrow can’t fall to the ground without God taking notice, is it likely that the current global conflict between liberty and terror has escaped his notice?

**What Can I Do About This?**

**Learn**

Learn more about the Edmondsons’ ministry training pastors around the world by visiting [www.inhisgriponline.org](http://www.inhisgriponline.org).

**Pray**

Pray about the impact of world events on Christians and Christian workers around the world. Our own prayer requests are included here.

**Engage**

Today there are unprecedented opportunities to spread the gospel. If God is calling you to be involved on a deeper level:

- Pray for our ministry. Our prayer requests are included each moth.
- Give to support the training of pastors. Instructions are on page 2.
- Go and serve. If you would like to join us on an upcoming ministry trip, please contact me at [bobedmo@globaltrainingnetwork.org](mailto:bobedmo@globaltrainingnetwork.org).

## Missions and the Friendship Factor



So far this year we have welcomed five new churches as supporters of our ministry. These include, Korean Hope Presbyterian Church of Chandler, AZ, Palm Springs Baptist Church of Palm Springs, CA, Grace Baptist Church of Chino Valley, AZ, Floris Baptist Church of Floris, IA, and Sonoita Bible Church of Sonoita, AZ. We have also been pleased to welcome a number of new individual supporters to our team. Our support level now stands at 55%, continuing its slow but steady rise. We have also seen some very excellent giving to our ministry fund due, in part but not entirely, to the golf-a-thon fund-raising event held last month.



As I reflect on all that God is doing to provide for the needs of this ministry, I recognize that there is a common thread connecting all of the gifts our ministry has received: That thread is friendship. We have repeatedly visited and spoken at most of the churches now supporting us. We have come to know many of you as individuals, and indeed, many individuals are supporting our ministry in prayer and with regular and one-time gifts. With only a few exceptions, we have come to know those of you who individually support us pretty well. This constitutes one of the unexpected joys of this ministry. We aren't raising funds

so much as making friends and telling you about the vision God has given us. The support eventually flows because the friendship grows.

Friendship is central overseas as well as here in the states. I now find myself working on a repeated basis with pastors in India, the Philippines, and elsewhere. The growth of friendships with some of the greatest people in the world is enriching to our lives and vital to our work. Closer friendships make for better communication, stronger accountability, and deeper trust. I find that ministry becomes more effective the second or third time I work with the same group. They learn more and so do I.

Let me challenge you concerning your ministry whatever and wherever it is: As Christian believers, we are in the people business. Jesus said "Make Disciples" This command is not about building organizations, raising funds, or putting up buildings. It's about people made in the image of God and redeemed by God's Son Jesus through His work on the cross. Disciples grow in the soil of friendship. Whatever else God calls us to be or do, at the heart of it all in your ministry and mine, is simple friendship.



### The Edmondson's Itinerary

May 1  
First Baptist Church  
Duncan, AZ

May 10-24  
India

June 5  
North Mountain Church  
Phoenix, AZ

July 3-9  
Manila, Philippines

July 10-16  
Cebu, Philippines



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EDMONDSONS . . .



Find us online at [www.inhispriponline.org](http://www.inhispriponline.org)

### Become a Ministry Partner!

Your generous monthly giving is vital to this ministry.

Our ability to train more pastors is directly linked to level of monthly support.

This vital ministry will be furthered by your monthly gift of

\_\_ \$250 \_\_ \$200 \_\_ \$150 \_\_ \$100 \_\_ \$75 \_\_ \$50 \_\_ \$25 \_\_ \$10 \_\_ \$ other.

Instructions for giving are below and on the enclosed response card (US mail version)

*"Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account... And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:17, 19)*

#### Support accepted at:

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



#### You may give online at:

[www.inhispriponline.org](http://www.inhispriponline.org)

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

Go to the "Support" page and follow the instructions for gifts preferred for the Edmondsons. You can also download an auto withdrawal form if desired.