

December 2011

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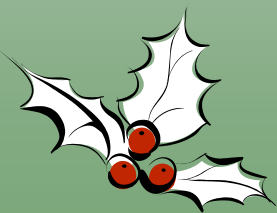
Prayer Requests and Praises

Praise God for

- 954 prayer supporters!
- Our support has gone up to 58%!
- Great results from Timothy Training in Orissa, India
- Opportunity to baptize new believers in India

Pray for

- Pakistani Training this month
- Growth in monthly committed support
- Open doors to present GTN in home groups
- Guidance in planning 2012 ministry



In His Grip

Ministry Multiplied in India

Just a few weeks ago, I returned from India where God blessed our ministry both directly and indirectly through the success of those we have trained. In case you missed it, here is a summary of the spiritual victory we saw there.

After a long, arduous journey, we began the first of two training conferences. This first conference dealt with stewardship and was the second class in a seven part series, the first having taken place six months prior. The pastors reported on the results of the six month plans they made at the end of their first class on pastoral care. Here is a sample:

- 66 people were won to Christ including one witch.
- Several marriages were reconciled.
- One divided church came back together in unity.
- All churches represented at the training event experienced numerical growth with some reporting substantial growth.
- Church finances also grew similarly.



- One church established a missions fund to support Indian church planters previously supported by western donors.

Our second training conference was with a new group of pastors taking their first class on pastoral care. The pastors made similar 6-month plans. I am looking forward to hearing what happens as a result of this training.

All in all 42 pastors representing over 4000 people received training during this ministry trip.

In addition to training, I had the opportunity of speaking in two different churches as well as to a gospel meeting attended by about three hundred. Among the fifty plus spiritual decisions were several children from the Shalom school who gave their hearts to Jesus Christ.

God's hand of blessing was on this effort from start to finish. All in all we can praise God for more than 70 new souls for the kingdom, possibly including one TSA agent

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In Search of a LONG Winter's Nap

Christmas season is upon us. So far, I've hung all the outside lights, put up the indoor decorations, rearranged the furniture, trimmed the tree, bought gifts, written a Christmas letter and put on a few pounds. Let me see...What's left? Somehow Christmas has become a season of shopping to do and gift-wrapping too, letters to send and work without end. Whatever happened to the Silent Night?

I decided to do a little Bible study on the subject of rest. Nothing arduous, mind you. I wasn't trying to engage in another task. I just wanted to hear what God has to say about all of this frenetic activity. What I found is intriguing.

Real rest does not just come from the cessation of activity. When the Bible speaks of rest, it is usually connected to a state of inner peace, resolve, or completion. For example:

- The peace of salvation: *"My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him."* Psalm 62:1
- The peace of repentance: *"That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'"* Hebrews 3:10-11
- The peace of obedience: *"for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience."* Hebrews 4:10-11
- The peace of having things resolved: *"I said, 'Oh, that I*

had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest." Psalm 55:6

- The peace of God's presence: *"This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence."* I John 3:19

When Jesus said, *"I will give you rest..."* (Matt 11:28-29) He was alluding to Jeremiah 6:16-17: *This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."*

In this passage, the rest of which Jeremiah speaks is linked to repentance and simple obedience to God. Jesus clearly intended the same meaning: *"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your weary souls."*

We have a tendency to separate rest from obedience as if they are two separate things. Yet they are demonstrably and inseparably linked. Without the inner peace that comes from child-like trust and obedience to God, physical rest does little to restore us.

By the same token when we refuse to take needed physical rest, our spiritual life suffers for it. God built the need for rest right into the universe as He created it. He created night as well as day, trees that bear fruit *in season*, and on the seventh day, He Himself, rested. All of nature speaks to us of a need for periods of productivity mixed with times of complete rest. This has been God's way since the beginning and the godly recognize it as a timeless principle, not just an Old Testament law. Following the God given rhythms of work and rest helps to synchronize our spirits with the Holy Spirit of God. Think about it. Physical sabbath rest requires faith in God. I lay down my burden in obedience to God trusting that God will enable me to do what is required in the available time after resting. God rewards my trust and my faith is increased and with it comes inner peace. I have not just rested, I have drawn close to my Lord. My body and soul are in repose. When I refuse to do

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Coming up in 2012

This past year has been a productive one in our ministry. With God’s help we have trained fourteen groups of pastors from four countries. Many of these are smaller groups receiving intensive and continuing training in pastoral theology. Never-the-less, when taken together we were able to give training to nearly 500 pastors this year. The training makes a huge difference in their lives and ministries. Since each of these pastors influences an average of 100 people, nearly 50,000 believers have benefited from our training ministry. Moreover, because we have begun training in smaller groups using systematic curriculum stressing reporting and accountability, we have been able to glimpse the fruit of pastoral training seen in scores of salvations, reconciled relationships and a good deal of spiritual and numerical growth in churches. These things represent increases over the previous year. By God’s grace we are accomplishing what we set out to accomplish. All of this is occurring in spite of our current status as full-time missionaries in fund-raising mode.



Our goals for 2012 flow naturally from what we have been doing in 2011.

- To complete the Phase III Timothy Leadership Training course and gain certification as a TLT master trainer.
 - To update my “It Only Hurts on Monday” workshop to include sections on conflict management as well as spirituality and the internet.
 - To incorporate home meetings as a major component of my support raising efforts.
- To raise 80% of my personal support by July and attain full time trainer status.
 - To train at least 18 groups of pastors totaling at least 700 from at least 5 countries.

2012 will be the start of our third full year with Global Training Network. We are more excited than ever. God has blessed this ministry greatly in the past two years and we are looking forward eagerly to 2012. What will God do in the coming year? I can’t wait to find out !

Ministry Partnership: Preparing for 2012

As we look to 2012, I see a busy training schedule ahead involving five (or more) countries with multiple trips to two or more. In order to cover the cost of these vital ministries, we need to raise approximately \$20,000. Please consider the training of a new generation of Christian leaders as you plan your year end giving. Thank you.

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

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

“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.inhisgriponline.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.



For more on Bob’s ministry go to www.inhisgriponline.org



The Edmondson’s Itinerary

- Jan 16-20: Timothy Leadership Training, Houston, TX
- Jan 22: Yuma, AZ
- Feb 4: SWCBA Conference, Trinity Baptist, Mesa, AZ
- February: Philippines
- March: Pakistani Training in Phoenix



Global Training Network

Ministry Multiplied in India

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from Phoenix, AZ with whom I shared the gospel before boarding the plane. I even had the opportunity to baptize seven of these new believers. You need to know that Christian baptism usually results in persecution for those being baptized in Orissa. Many pastors have also been beaten or killed for baptizing new believers. What an honor to stand with these courageous believers and help them publicly proclaim their new life in Christ.



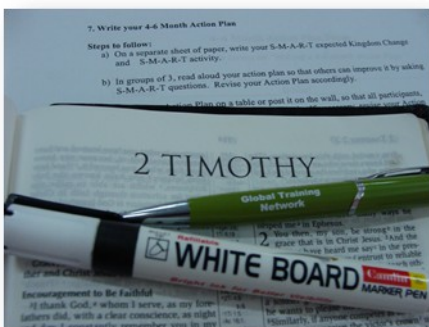
I want you to understand that all of the above represents victory in a great spiritual war. Christianity faces severe persecution in India. During my time in India we learned of several incidents, some of which can only be described as atrocities:

- On Oct 26, a four year old boy from a Christian family was abducted and sacrificed during a Hindu festival here.
- On Nov 6, a church service was broken up and several Christians were beaten. One was killed.
- On Nov 10, we learned of an unwanted baby who was simply abandoned in a jungle area. He was rescued by Christians and a pastoral family has taken him in.
- On Nov 11, we learned that there has been serious opposition to Franklin Graham who has come to India to preach. Vocal Hindus held disruptive protests and demanded that his visa be revoked.
- On Nov 17, a pastor in the Serampore area was beaten and forcibly expelled from his home.

In spite of these things, people are coming to Christ and standing up for Him in the waters of believers' baptism. Pastors

are coming from miles away to receive training, then they are returning to put that training to work and the church is growing.

Glory to God for multiplying His blessings in Orissa, India.



In Search of A Long Winter's Nap

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so, the opposite tends to take place. My heart tends toward anxiety and frustration. My own ability to cope declines at the very moment I am placing more and more of my trust in myself.

Compare rest to the practice of giving. Those who refuse to tithe often do so out of worry that there won't be enough money. In the same way, those who refuse to rest often do so out of fear there won't be enough time. Tithing requires trusting God with money, and sabbath rest requires trusting God with time. Whether you struggle with money or with time, the issue is the same. Do you trust God enough to obey Him?

We cannot know the rest associated with the peace God gives if we refuse to be sensitive to Him. We can never hear Him until we slow down enough to listen. Sabbath rest involves sensitivity to God's ways. Ignoring rest is not even sensitive to our own bodies. Perhaps in



this season as we celebrate the coming of God's Son into the world, it is a good time to assess where you are placing your trust each day.

The peace and rest we so often seek cannot be found through religious activity. Neither can it be found through the rest of the burned-out. No. The long winter's nap we need comes from balancing work and rest *as a deliberate regimen of trust in and obedience to God.*

So I say with a smile to my friends, left and right. ***Merry Christmas to all. Now to all, a good night!***

"I think the devil has made it his business to monopolize on three elements: noise, hurry, crowds ... Satan is quite aware of the power of silence." **Jim Elliot**