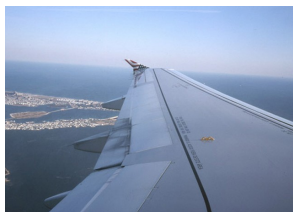


**February
2012**

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The Edmondson's Itinerary

Feb 4: SWCBA Conference, Trinity Baptist, Mesa, AZ

Feb 4: Home Group, Gilbert, AZ

Feb 19: First Baptist Church, Nogales, AZ

Feb 25: Home Group, Chandler, AZ

Feb 26: Faith Community Church, Chandler, AZ

March 11: Valle Vista Community Church, Kingman, AZ

March 16—April 1: Philippines ministry

April 22: Grace Baptist Church, Chino Valley, AZ

April 29—May 12: India ministry



Faith in the Midst of Failure

Moses was a failure...and he almost stayed that way. Young, privileged, headstrong, and arrogant, Moses chose to side with the people of God against the oppressive rulers of Egypt, but his first attempt to stand up for his own people was a dramatic and criminal failure. Seeing an Egyptian overseer beating a Hebrew slave, Moses "set matters right" by murdering the Egyptian. When the thing became known, Moses fled from Egypt and ended up a shepherd in Midian. How the mighty are fallen! From a palace to a pasture, the future pharaoh of the greatest of nations on earth became the great leader of a few dozen sheep. He was there for 40 years! Four decades of freezing nights, blistering days and blowing sand had a cleansing effect on Moses. The man I've described above was later called the humblest man on earth (Numbers 12:3). God used the consequences of failure to make of Moses a better man —the kind of man God needed.



But Moses almost missed it. When God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, calling on him to go and deliver his people from Egypt, Moses objected 6 times before finally reluctantly acquiescing to God's insistent call. Instead of maintaining his faith and looking to the future with hope, Moses had come to believe that his failure had permanently disbarred him from any role in God's plan. He had drifted from one man-centered extreme to the other: from arrogant self-reliance, to crippling self-pity. Both extremes excluded God's power from his perspective. This lack of faith meant that instead of merely being cleansed by these chastening experiences, his spirit was nearly crushed by them. That was not what God had in mind.



Nine hundred years later the prophet Jeremiah would write, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer 29:11). Moses needed that perspective. Thankfully, there remained inside the 80 year old rustic a mustard seed of faith. That was all God needed. Scripture doesn't even record Moses' final words of submission to God's will, only that he requested permission of Jethro his father-in-law to return to his people and "find out if any of them are still alive." It was hardly a ringing response to the call of God, but it was

enough to launch Moses on a faith journey that would rock the world, create a new nation, and make him one of the central figures in human history.

Let me ask you straight out. Have you failed? It's an important question, but it isn't the most important. Here is a better one: How is God working in the area of your failure? Sometimes we focus so much on our own failures that we leave God out of the picture. Satan likes that a lot. CS Lewis wrote of Satan in *The Screwtape Letters*: "He gets Christians to become preoccupied with their failures; from then on, the battle is won." The truth is that God has our best interests at heart and wants to work in the area of our failures. There is life after failure; a life in which the lessons learned from failure become a fresh basis for success.

"You may have a fresh start any moment you choose, for this thing we call 'failure' is not the falling down, but the staying down."

—Mary Pickford



Bob Becomes A TLT Master Trainer

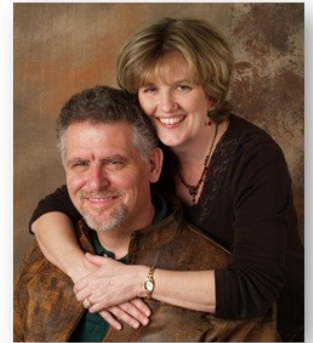
In January, Bob spent a week attending the final phase of Timothy Leadership Training in Houston TX. He has now been approved to teach all courses in the Timothy Leadership Curriculum and has been certified as a TLT Master Trainer. TLT courses include, "Caring for Gods' People," "Christian Stewardship," "Biblical Preaching," "Teaching God's Word," "Serving God in Work and Worship," "Violence in the Family," and "Sustainable Community Development."

Faith in the Midst of Failure

(Continued from page 1)

In ministry, I've seen people fail often enough, but I've also seen people rise up from failure and succeed in ways impossible to imagine before. Some have risen from the ashes of a failed marriage and have become better people. Some have failed in business only to rise up again stronger for the experience. Some have had great moral failures and have gone on to be trophies of God's grace, strengthening others by the example of their renewed integrity.

Failure is seldom final. If you are struggling with failure today, I want to ask you to maintain your trust in God as He really is. He is not the petty, angry, caricature of God with which we are all perversely familiar. He is the God of grace who sent His Son to die for you—the God who is on your side—who has plans to give you hope and a future—who will not only forgive your sins, but cleanse you from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9). The late actress Mary Pickford said it well, "You may have a fresh start any moment you choose, for this thing we call 'failure' is not the falling down, but the staying down." It's true. Just ask Moses.



Prayer Requests and Praises

Praise God for

- 958 prayer supporters!
- A currently healthy ministry fund
- Completion of TLT training in Houston
- A set of challenging ministry goals for 2012

Pray for

- Philippine ministry, March
- India ministry in April-May
- Growth in monthly committed support
- Open doors to present GTN in home groups
- Walk 4 Missions 5K coming up on April 14

Come and Join Us for the GTN 5K Walk 4 Missions!



On Saturday, April 14, 8:00 AM, our friends and supporters from the Phoenix area will gather at Desert Breeze Park in Chandler for a 5K walkathon to help fund Global Training Networks vision to train indigenous pastors church planters in Asia. On average it costs just \$50 to offer an indigenous pastor or church planter basic training in essential pastoral skills. Our goal is to raise enough at this event to train 300 pastors through our ministry this year. Desert Breeze is a wonderful park and this will be a family friendly event. We will be providing a light breakfast before we start and there will be a picnic afterward. Won't you join us? For more information or to register for this event, please visit www.walk4missions.dojiggy.com.

Ministry Partnership for 2012

In order to fund our training ministry in 2012, we must raise approximately \$20,000 in addition to our personal support. Please consider the training of a new generation of Christian leaders as one of your giving priorities. Thank you. God Bless! Our ability to train more pastors is directly linked to level of monthly support.

"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.



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Global Training Network