

April 6, 2012

God has once again enabled us to engage in life changing ministries in the Philippines. When I arrived in Manila, I knew I would be busy. I didn't know how busy.

After arriving very late on Saturday night, I slept for 3 hours before taking a bus to Cavite to preach to four churches on Sunday. My host, John Pesebre, and I returned to Manila that evening tired and missing a cell phone which was apparently stolen while I slept on the bus. On Monday I began teaching Systematic Theology to an eager group of young pastors. It was a semester's worth of material crammed into one week. I left behind a very difficult test which the students will take after I am safe back in the U.S.

Next, I flew to Bacolod on the Island of Negros (Nay-Gross) Oriental in the Visayan Island chain. There I began my week preaching at the Jesus Our Light Christian Fellowship. We then launched a new Timothy Group, teaching a sharp group of pastors an intensive course in pastoral care. The students made six month plans to implement pastoral care programs in their churches and communities. Some pastors made plans for evangelistic visitation ministries. A group of medical doctors joined us for this course as well. They joined together to plan for the creation of teams of believers trained to offer emergency medical aid during times of crisis like earthquakes or flooding, both of which occur with startling regularity here.



After the conference in Bacolod, I made my way through the mountains to San Carlos by the sea. There I heard the reports of the pastors we trained during our last visit. Pastor Tim Tapang implemented a plan of pastoral visitation in his community and was able to lead more than 20 people to Christ as a result. He has baptized five so far and his fledgling church is beginning to grow. In addition to the salvations, Pastor Tim reported that two men involved in an infamous dispute lasting more than 20 years were reconciled as a result of this new emphasis on pastoral care.

These pastors have now completed their second Timothy course dealing with Christian stewardship. Their six-month plans are wide ranging, including goals for teaching churches about stewardship, evangelizing, and in one case, launching a new ministry training center for young adults.

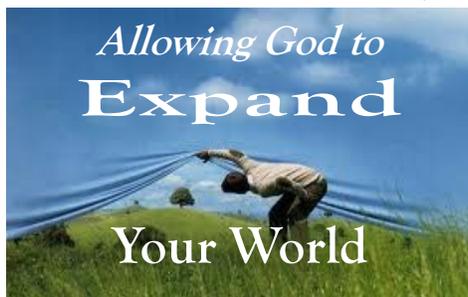
On my final Sunday I preached to a large and growing church in Canlaon before beginning the trek back to the U.S. We have seen many blessings and only a few trials on this trip. God granted us safety and good health. We had good participation from the students I taught and reports of lives being changed through the implementation of our training. Satan tried to intervene. Some of our students became ill on the last day of class in Manila. My host in Manila, John Pesebre, injured his knee during the week and my cell phone was stolen. However, these are minor matters compared with the salvation of souls and the development of Christian leaders and the ministries they serve.

Its hard to enumerate the ways in which God has expanded my world since beginning the work of training Pastors, Church Planters, and other Christian Leaders around the world. Being exposed to new cultures, new people and new challenges has taken me down new paths of perspective. For example:

- I've come to appreciate many of the values embraced by the cultures in which I serve, like the value placed on relationships by Filipinos, or Malawians' ability to celebrate life every day.
- I've had the joy of standing with persecuted believers by sharing the risk of baptizing or preaching in places where such activities sometimes yield beatings or imprisonment. Sharing this risk creates a bond of fellowship like no other.
- I've learned to sense God's presence and protection in these unsafe situations. Ministering openly in Orissa, India or even in Pakistan, I've felt no anxiety. I have "peace that passes understanding."
- I've gained a heart of compassion after seeing first-hand the suffering caused by Aids in Africa. My heart is pierced with

sorrow and I can no longer remain neutral or uninvolved as I have been in the past.

- I've learned how to be happy though uncomfortable. Whether sweating in hot crowded buses, doubled over in tiny three wheeled taxis, or bouncing on the wooden seats of "Jeepneys", joy is a choice.



- I've learned to love more and different people. I am the king of introverts. Yet, God has enabled me to meet and make friends of hundreds of people in different cultures. My life is far richer as a result.

God expands our world when we allow Him to, but it requires a step into the unknown — a step taken in obedience to Him. Those who take that step know uncertainty at first, but then they know the glory of

spiritual enlargement.

How are you allowing God to expand your world? What are you doing that you couldn't possibly do without His help? One underappreciated aspect of giving to missions is that God uses that step of obedience to expand your world. Where you treasure is,

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Help Us Help Them: Support the 2012 Walk 4 Missions

Here's How You Can Help!



Underwrite the training of one or more pastors. Your gift to GTN of \$50, \$100, or more, preferred for "Walk 4 Missions" will help make our vision a reality!



Walk with us at the Walk 4 Missions event. It will be a great time of fellowship and you can help us by inviting others to pledge for every kilometer you walk!



Visit www.walk4missions.dojiggy.com or e-mail me at bobedmo@globaltrainingnetwork.org, or give me a call at (480) 735-9193.

God's shepherds in India, the Philippines, and other Asian countries are hard pressed. They minister in spite of poverty and persecution. Moreover, more than 90% have little or no formal training for their work. Their effectiveness in ministry multiplies when they receive even one course on basic pastoral skills. **It costs just fifty dollars to bring them that course.** Think of it. \$50 to change the life of a church by bringing a training course to their pastor. That fact is the basis for a special event we have planned.

On Saturday, April 14, at 8:00 AM, our friends and supporters from the Chandler area will gather at Desert Breeze Park in Chandler for a 5K Walk 4 Missions to help fund our vision to **train 300 pastors in the countries we serve this year.**

We are profoundly grateful for those of you who pray and support our ministry. But, if you have never given before, I'm asking you to consider partnering with us as we undertake this crucial work. God sees your faithfulness and will reward you at His coming.

Thank you for standing with us in these consequential days.



Prayer Requests and Praises

Praise God for

- 972 prayer supporters!
- Fruitful ministry in the Philippines
- New supporters

Pray for

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

Expand Your World (cont'd)

there your heart will be also. When you give to missions, you wind up with your heart in places like...

- Similiguda, India where believers walk for miles to worship and hear a message preached by a GTN trained pastor.
- Canlaon, Philippines where a thriving church of 300 adults and 120 children gather each week led by a pastor who is now receiving Timothy Training.
- Faisalabad, Pakistan where, in spite of intense persecution, believers are still spreading the gospel, planting churches, and desperately seeking training to ensure their movement continues

If you are one of my supporters, I would love to hear from you about how this has enriched your life. If you are not currently supporting this ministry, could it be that God wants to expand your world?

*What are you
doing that
you couldn't
possibly do
without
God's help?*



The Edmondson's Itinerary

- April 12:** Home Group, Sandys'
- April 14:** GTN 5K Walk 4 Missions
- April 22:** Grace Baptist Church, Chino Valley, AZ
- April 29-May 12:** India ministry
- July 15:** E. Wenatchee First Baptist Church; E. Wenatchee, WA
- July 22:** Calvary Crossroads, Wenatchee, WA
- July 20-23:** GTN Staff Retreat, Sumas, WA

Ministry Partnership for 2012

Your financial partnership is essential as we carry out our God given ministry. 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.inhisgriponline.org

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.

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