



Great Trip/Meetings and graduation, go to North Iraq?

To Be and Not to Go?



It all began with a great missions conference, a quick flight back home to get a clean 2 weeks supply of clothes and Lorena and I were on our way to Southeast Asia.

TWO CONFERENCES

The first conference was a few hundred people strong, basically a who is who of those working among Muslims in the world. It was very satisfying to see an

orderly transition of the top leadership, and to realize that 2 of the 5 top departing leaders had been part of my former International Ministries team at Partners, they had done a fantastic job leading this effort for some 10 years strong. One of the members of the new leadership team is part of the group of Directors at Global Fellowship. Needless to say, I had blessed times with old friends and co-laborers from Africa, Asia and even from my "good old days" serving in Latin America!

I ended with a few more books I "must read", all these books and the seminars basically endorsing Global Fellowship's, our old Partners International's strategies, and/or my own personal initial years experience as a Christian. What the Lord has allowed us to have lived (thanks to your support) has not been the result of a brainy strategy, but that of an intentional pursure of the Spirit, discerning from Him, and rendering to Him all the glory.

The second conference, in the same city at a different location, was a more intimate Global Fellowship's one, maybe of a hundred people, "not counting children" (and ther were many!). There were workers from basically everywhere, all "unreached" or "frontier" places. It was abundant in worship, prayer and fellowship, with incredible testimonies (which were also abundant in the first conference). Global Fellowship is indeed a family, it feels like it and it acts like it. Please pray with me for proper follow up, primarily with our work in Central Asia and a possible visit to Afghanistan before the end of the year. In the Global Fellowship environment much is done via Zoom, but a face to face visit is irreplaceable.

On the way there we made a stop over in Taiwan, on time to attend church on Sunday, and -believe or not- find some UT Austin grads! Since I cannot share pictures of the conferences, I thought about sharing a picture of the one morning when we took a break to see an elephant park.

On time for graduation.

We were departing Asia on Saturday mid morning, crossing the international day line, arriving on time that same Saturday to attend our child's #10 graduation ceremony on time. The original flight was cancelled. Right at the airport we managed to find a better flight alternative than the one proposed to us by the airline, and Lorena and I arrive 2 hrs. before we were to attend the initial graduation ceremonies.

Glad we did. Elena was conferred the "Distinguished Collegiate Achievement Award" during that initial ceremony and then also the "2026 Outstanding Mathematics Major Award", both granted upon the selection by the university faculty. It was a very touchy moment for all of us. "10 out of 10". Elena was

conferred her degrees in Physics and Applied Math. 5 of the 10 kids were in town for a large celebration at our house with fellow graduates and even the president of the university attending.

To go or not to go?

July . There is a planned trip to Iraq. 2 days ago, I was asked to buy tickets, the next day I was told to wait... please pray for this. I am more than ready to go, but understand the volatility of the current world events in that part of the world.

Ok... this is long enough. Next month we are due to travel to family reunions in VA, and then in August we are planning on taking Elena down to settle in Colorado for the start of her PhD studies. North Iraq comes (?) in July, Afghanistan is in the works after the move to North Carolina. Thanks for your prayers. It's going to be a busy busy next 6 months till December..

