



May 2024 News

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Look for us:



Continual Pursuit

“My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.” Psalm 68:8 KJV

One of the glorious privileges of a life with the Lord is learning how to ‘follow’ Him. To discern His plan. To hear His voice as we navigate this wonderful but sometimes treacherous path called Life. How do we follow an invisible God? How do we hear an inaudible Voice? How can we be assured that the plans we are making, the decisions we choose, are the right ones?

This beautiful relationship, the most precious in all my life has one true thread throughout: His unwavering, ever present love that leads and guides me faithfully.

First, by His word. We often say, if you want to be able to discern when the Lord is speaking to you by His Spirit, read His word. For in the word you will learn His thoughts, His ways and His commands. Directionally the Word of God can save you from making terrible mistakes. It is His light to us, shining on our darkened paths. “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105.

Another way the Lord leads is by His peace. His peace acts like an umpire in our hearts the word says, letting us know when we are straying from grace, and then letting us know, in abundance, that we are safe. It passes

our understanding and guards our hearts and our minds. When we surrender all to Jesus, we allow the peace of God to RULE us. (Col 3:15)

By far, most important way for us to be able to know His Voice and follow Him unhindered is to live a life of total surrender. The more surrendered we are to His plan, the more we can be joyful in the here and now, and rejoice in every present moment. In these times, I have found, no matter how difficult my circumstances, He is not far from me. I can find Him. I can hear Him. I see His hand of blessing. It holds me up.

Pursuing hard after God has been a lifelong pleasure for me. What I’ve discovered in the Gospels, the words “come and follow Me” (Matt 4:19-22; Matt 9:9 and others) is always in the present tense. It’s come and “follow Me” and don’t stop! I can truly say He has met me at every turn, lifted me after every fall, healed my brokenness when no one else could. Truly, Jesus is our EVER PRESENT HELP in times of trouble.

Therefore, beloved. RUN! Run after Him, HARD. He is right there with His arms opened wide to catch you.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

This month Dan and I will celebrate 37 years of marriage on May 29th. It has been an incredible journey of following Jesus and His plan for our lives on several continents and in many countries. Through the years our love for each other deepens and grows as we stay centered on Jesus! We are planning a little get away to remember, reflect, and to celebrate the "I do" once again. Dan, too, will be in Scotland this month to serve *Revive Scotland!*

In Him we live ...



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

I can remember in the earlier days sharing the gospel with a person that I felt needed to know about Jesus. As the convention went on I discovered that this person did [somewhat] have an understanding of Who Jesus was, and the fact that He died on the Cross of all of our sins. I learned that he had been raised in church at an early age but in some ways he was still trying to figure it out. By how the conversation was going I got the impression that his relationship with the Lord had more to do with him trying to walk out his faith based on human effort rather than allowing the Christ who dwells within to live His life through us by the Spirit. (See Rom 8:14-16; I Cor 2:9-16) We came to the conclusion as I encouraged him to consider the *source*. (See John 4:10; John 7:37-39) Christ on the inside!

You see, you and I cannot live His life without His life! Even some of the ancient poets in Paul's day understood that "we are His offspring." Therefore Paul could say "for in Him we live and more and have our being." Acts 17:28

Kingdom Advance Partnerships ...



Alex has been providing transportation services for all of our Firstlight and His Servants Ministries (HSM) eye care teams for evangelism in Thailand, for the past two decades. His professional care and diligent service has transported precious Kingdom cargo to thousands in Thailand, and in the neighboring county of Laos.

Each time I (Dan) pass through Bangkok, I enjoy meeting up with him to express our many thanks!

Global Training Platforms ...



Throughout this year we continue to pursue *Global Training Platforms* in the places where we are being called upon to serve. More recently, this one just happened to be in Thailand, where a group of pastors gathered for a three day intensive that centered around embracing a missional approach to advancing the Kingdom in each of their respective locations.

Making the switch to intentional living from a healthy place spiritually ultimately results in having a greater kingdom impact.

Prayer Points

**"That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."
Hebrews 6:12 KJV**

Hold On Tight!

1. Pray for our Global Training Platforms in Thailand, & Myanmar this year!
2. For our Care For Kingdom Families Projects: REAP: and the FWF in Thailand, during the 2nd quarter of 2024.
3. Ministry plans to unfold for all of Firstlight to be strategically placed in 2024 and beyond! *projects, *people, *places, *increased funding!
4. For God to arise in all that we do!