



## July 2024 News

# Receive Now

**“For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.” John 1:16 NASB**

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Look for us:



“The essence of the Christian Gospel is grateful receptivity.” E. Stanley Jones

I discovered E. Stanley Jones in 1983 while recuperating from broken bones in an Indian orphanage. The Christ of the Indian Road, written in 1930 was filled with joy and passion and a truly Christlike outlook. I was at once captivated and disciplined by his words. At 88 after suffering a stroke he wrote his last book called The Divine Yes. His is earlier joy, love and delight rings out on every page just as his earliest books. This joy is a wonder and a mystery. As I age and face the challenges of aging, I reach out to this dear author once again to discover his secret.

I believe it is summed up by the quote above. That in every season of our lives, though the blessings and the trials, the accomplishments and the failures, the times of plenty and the leaner times, in every season we remain focussed on the One who loves us most, and from a heartfelt place, give thanks. For this gratitude paves the way for us to receive God’s grace.

As I get older the passing years can seem as a revolving door, going round and round, faster and faster. I know at some point I need to get out of that door and find the purpose for entering

the building, but there are times I feel so inadequate. At those times, at my weakest and most vulnerable, I remind myself of God’s goodness to me. I remember the victories and answered prayers. And as I meditate on His lovingkindness, I can feel my faith arise, and my heart opening to receive from Him once again.

God is God for the present moment. Right here, right now. His promises for us are YES and they are AMEN. Morning by morning His mercies are new as we turn our eyes to Him. He is still the One who says, “For I know the plans I have for you; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.” Jer. 29:11.

I may have run out of steam, out of vision, out of direction for my todays, but thankfully that has NEVER been the Lord’s problem. I love the verse in Psalm 139 where it says, “How precious are Your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can’t even count them; for they outnumber even the sands of the seas!”

God ALWAYS has a good idea about us. Lord! Help us to receive NOW!



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

The reports of what the Lord is doing through Firstlight in Thailand each month is encouraging and we are so blessed to be a part of it. Projects like Families Without Fathers (FWF) and Project REAP (Regional Education Assistance Program) are helping children, families and young adults from fatherless homes. Thank you for helping to make the difference each month.

## More of Jesus!



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

Have you ever noticed on your journey as a follower of Christ that no matter what stage you are in or how long you have been a believer that there is always room for more of Jesus in our lives? No matter how much you have [which is all of Him by the Spirit] or think you have, there is still room for more!

One of our former pastors used to put it this way: "I'm weak and I leak". More of Jesus and less of me!

Through the years I have discovered that we live in kind of a paradoxical state of being - where we have Jesus but we long for and need more of Him in our daily lives. In fact, we are to constantly "hunger" and "thirst" for Him. (See John 4:10; John 7:37-39; Eph 5:18; Psalm 63:1; Psalm 42:1-2 and more) The question then becomes why is that? How is that we can have God - all of Him [in Jesus by the Spirit] and yet we long or cry out for more? The answer is: we just do! "He must increase but I must decrease." John 3:30 The more we love Him the more we want Him. He *is* just that GOOD!!!!

## Congratulations Natthika & Jason...

Debbie and I (Dan) are happy to announce that these two servants of God (Natthika Messiahwong & Jason Roby) were married earlier this year in The House of the Lord Church, in Phuket, Thailand.

As Mr. & Mrs. Roby they are co-leading the Rapha Ministries Church in Phuket, with worship services on Sunday and a good number of weekly outreaches across the city.

Their vision of serving the Lord together throughout Southeast Asia and beyond is starting to take shape. Their future looks bright in Jesus!



## Standing with those in Thailand ...

Thailand is a nation that desperately needs Jesus.

Throughout the country there are those who are "standing in the gap" in prayer to see a fresh move of God in each of the 76 provinces in the four main regions: North, North East, Central and South.

Cries for revival, renewal and restoration can be heard in prayer gatherings like these inside and outside the church. All of which are coming from the lives of those who have been affected in some way with a hunger for more!



## Prayer Points

**"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened." Matthew 7:8 NKJ**

### Ask, Seek, Knock!

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 3rd 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!