



August 2024 News

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Look for us:



Empowered

“He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power.”

Isaiah 40:29 NASB

At an early age I yielded all of my ‘yes’ to Jesus. All of my days, my places, my tomorrows I placed firmly into His faithful hands and promised not to take it all back. It has been such a glorious ride. SO many places and people who have left indelible marks upon my heart. So many songs in so many languages. So many places to sleep, from tents pitched in open fields in Nepal, to straw thatched huts on stilts in the mountains of Ifugao Province. Soft feather beds in country houses, and hard benches in crowded night trains in India, sleeping among beloved fellow travelers. Later, having my own households to run and to host beloved travelers.

So many people to love and cherish, to hold forever dear in my heart whether I see them again in this lifetime, or the next. My life, like one of my favorite songs, ‘has been a tapestry of rich and royal hue.’ And all of it, every little piece of it, had nothing at all to do with my own capabilities or qualifications. And all of it, every little piece of it, had completely to do with His power dwelling in my innermost being.

There is something amazing I learned when I surrendered my life and times to the Lord. He took me very seriously, and was a good and faithful steward over all I had given Him. He taught me not to trust in my own

understanding but instead to trust Him with all my heart. He empowered me to the life He had called me to.

Mainly my identity was as a worship leader, and for years I was blessed to lead many congregations and meetings in the Pittsburgh area. When I boarded my plane to India and Nepal, I assumed that I was dying to that and would have to find another purpose. Little did I realize, that I would be blessed with the gift of ‘other tongues’ so much so that within months I was leading large congregations in languages I had never studied. Within the first decade passing of my ministry, I could lead congregations in 9 separate languages. BY. HIS GRACE.

And now, as near 50 years of a ministry life, I am reminded again and again. That He Who dwells within me is the same yesterday today and forever. In my weakness His strength is perfect. I am powerful and capable in Him. I am empowered, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, Who has no limits, no boundaries. And in this I say once again to my dear Jesus: ‘Yes.’



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

This month, we are planning our annual holiday trip to spend a few days in Erie, Pa. Josiah is coming in from Seattle to be with us for about ten days. We are hoping to spend some time in the lake swimming or at least to the lake to enjoy some sunshine. I'm looking forward to some rest and relaxation with my two boys! Dan and Josiah are planning to do some fishing - a day trip fishing for walleye and hopefully some shore fishing as well. Fun in the sun!

Mapquest

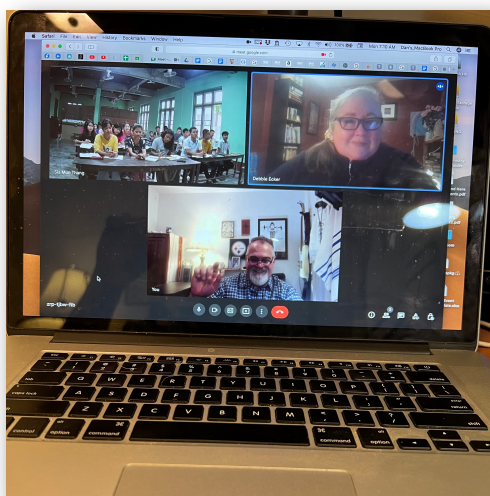


WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

How many of you can remember using an internet program called Mapquest? If you were needing to get somewhere by car that you hadn't been to before and you didn't want to use a road atlas or map, you could just type in your location and the address of the of where you wanted to go, and it would layout for you a series of directions for you to follow. At that time it was cutting edge technology and for the most part pretty reliable. Today, Mapquest has been replaced by Google Maps and other types of GPS devices and services. It has become my "go-to" source for driving just about anywhere!

You see, navigating our way through life has its own set of challenges. Our desire to go God's way is not always easy to discern without our dependence on Him to get us there. We may have a sense of where that might be (*with the mind man plans his way but the Lord directs his steps*) becomes the premise for walking by faith as we follow the One who knows the end from the beginning. (See Prov 16:9; Isa 46:10; Isa 42:9)

Global Training Platforms ...



We are preparing to teach another series of classes to the student body of the Emmanuel Theological Seminary (ETS) in Kalaymyo, Myanmar this year.

The Online Classroom is providing opportunities for students like these to receive training from a wide range for teachers and trainers throughout the year. Courses on principles of bible interpretation, theology of missions and the first 300 years of church history are being planned. Join us each month as we launch another academic year 2024.

Current Happenings in Phuket ...

Weekly outreaches like these are taking place in selected areas across the city of Phuket.

As a center for revival in the region Rapha Ministries Church is entering its third year with worship services on Sunday as well as other types of ministry platforms.

The well of Salvation runs deep in this place and many are experiencing refreshing and renewal in Jesus. Lots of testimonies of changed lives.



Prayer Points

But He said, "the things that are impossible with people are possible with God." Luke 18:27 NASB

Let faith arise!

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!