



## September 2024 News

# I Thirst

**“O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.”**

**Psalm 63:1 KJV**

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Look for us:



They say that by the time one begins to feel thirsty, one is already experiencing extremely dangerous dehydration. I can remember long treks through Asian mountains and forests in tropical temperatures where I was so preoccupied with not tripping or slipping or falling that often I forgot to keep sipping my water canteen throughout the day. By the time night fell at the campsite or village, my muscles were stiff and sore, my head hurt, and my heart sometimes would palpitate. When I would take a long drink of cool water, I would notice my body’s immediate positive response. That water was life giving to my mortal body

In that same way our souls, our spirits can become dry and thirsty. The stresses and perplexities of our lives can often drain our inner peace of mind, leading us to a place where we can actually experience spiritual dehydration. We are still in Christ, He is still with us, but our broken hearts cannot seem to find that inner stream of rejoicing that we are offered through the Holy Spirit. These moments, these wildernesses come from time to time, and each time feels as if it is endless. But in these dry and weary places something is begun in us: we hunger, yes and we thirst FOR HIM, as if we were in a dry and weary

land where there is no water. Our very life force depends upon our connection to HIM. For He holds the fountain of living water that can restore our souls.

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus promises, “those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be satisfied.” (Matt 5:6) What does thirsting for His righteousness look like in our lives? It looks like turning away from every ungodly thought and inclination and surrendering again to the One who loves us best. It means relying on His righteousness to make us clean and whole again. It means forgiving the unforgivable. It means embracing all that Jesus calls the Kingdom, and laying down and false kingdoms we may have found ourselves building. It means seeking His Kingdom first, and all of His righteousness.

Beloved. We are so blessed to have our Faithful Shepherd who leads us and guides us beside still waters. Our Shepherd is the one who makes us lie down in green pastures where He restores our souls. If you are dry and weary, just cry out again to Jesus. He calls us, “Is anyone thirsty?”



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

Our time last month with our dear son Josiah was wonderful! He was with us for about ten days. We got a chance to spend some of that time by the lake in Eire. It was so restful! As summer is coming to a close Dan still has a few tomato plants growing in buckets with lots of green tomatoes that hopeful will ripen soon! I am preparing to teach a six week class this Fall on the first 300 years of Christianity. It has always been one of my favorite subjects to teach with many lessons to be learned.

## Pray it forward!



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

What if you and I could help shape the direction of our lives by the prayers that we pray? What if by asking God to intervene our lives somehow start to look differently?

What I have discovered and what the Scriptures teach us is - it isn't a matter of "what if" that's how this is suppose to work. Asking God to intervene in our lives is common everyday practice or at least it should be. You see, when left to our own devices we can really mess things up. Although there is grace for moments like these a better way is to pray into our current realities the plans and purpose of God *[the word of God and the promises of God]* and our lives start moving in that direction. (See Jer 29:11; Col 1:9-12; Phil 4:6-7)

Mark Batterson, author of The Circle Maker, said, "Ultimately, the transcript of your prayers becomes the script of your life". He also said, "Prayers are prophecies. They are the best predictors of your spiritual future". Pay attention to your prayers. Where are they leading you? Change course? Pray it forward!

## Care For Kingdom Families ...

Every month throughout the year we are reaching into fatherless homes in selected areas across Thailand.

Through projects like Families Without Fathers (FWF) and Project REAP (*Regional Education Assistants Program*) Christ is being shared in the context of weekly visits to the homes and areas schools.

Right now we are preparing for a second Thai school term to start later this Fall. Your partnership is making a difference each month. *Thank you!*



## Kingdom Advance Partnerships ...



Next month I (Dan) will be joining up with John Paul Sprecher and Pastor Ken Cramer in Bangkok, for a three day training and equipping conference with 50 Thai pastors and church leaders.

We will learn together the dynamics of what each of the *Five Fold Ministries* are as listed in Eph 4:12: *Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher*, and how each one is meant to function in the Body of Christ today!

## Prayer Points

**“but your own eyes have seen all the great work of the Lord which He did.” Deut 11:7 NASB**

**Take another look!**

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!