



September 2019 News

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Look for us:



Global Shift

“Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days— You would not believe if you were told.” Habakuk 1:5 NAS

Scripture speaks often of the ‘End Times.’ Old Testament prophets and even Jesus laid out what to look for as signs of His coming. Wars and rumors of wars. False prophets rising from everywhere, claiming, ‘I am the Christ, Follow me!’ Earthquakes. Famines.. And, the most prevalent characteristic of the end times: loveless hearts that have grown icy cold from fear.

In the 70’s Bible teachers assured us that the nations of Europe would join and become one. I inwardly scoffed, thinking, ‘Ridiculous. The Frenchman will never give up his franc, nor the German his mark. When the Berlin Wall was torn down by hands of those who thirsted for freedom, I watched as East and West Germany became Germany. Soon, Europe became the European Union. It was as if Someone had simply thrown on a switch, and the world, as we knew it, experienced a Global Shift. New missionaries, some of whom were our friends, packed up their lives and families to move into these new frontiers. The former Soviet Union, the Balkans, Former Soviet Satellite countries such as Latvia and Lithuania. These were countries I had only known as a child watching brightly dressed dancers at Pittsburgh cultural festivals. Now, doors were flung open,

and people were rushing to establish a beachhead for the Kingdom.

Other parts of the world opened, as well. The dawn of the internet age drew the whole world even closer together, with chat rooms emerging all around the WWW where people could meet and get to know Christians from the west. One of our friends is fluent in Arabic and spends many hours online mentoring students. He says one of the most open countries is Iran!

Daniel 12:4 says: “In those last days, many will travel here and there, and knowledge will greatly increase.’ Surely these are the days the prophet spoke of? One has only to sit in an international airport to see the nations intermingling, side by side, Muslims and Jews, Hindus and Buddhists. Sprinkled in among them all....us. Salt. Light. Bearers of His Grace and Truth.

There is yet another great Global Shift happening. The nations are rumbling in discontent. We hold the Message that will save them and bring them peace. Will we rise to this Global Shift?



WRITTEN BY
 DEBBIE ECKER

Jesus in the Marketplace? Why not!?



WRITTEN BY
YC CHEN

Marketplace ministry is evangelism or Christian activities

conducted in the workplace. It is for a call to see our businesses as platforms for Christian ministry, stewarding business with eternal perspective. If God has placed you in the marketplace, don't wish you were called somewhere else! The marketplace is a great place for Christians. Here's why:

Today, only 1 in 5 adults attend church regularly in the USA. In Europe, the ratios are even lower. Elsewhere, there are countries where church gathering is

restricted. However, people are still waking up daily to go to work alongside their Christian coworkers in those marketplaces. The marketplace provides a way for Christians to have interaction with others. Our co-workers can observe how we react under pressure; how we treat people and how much God truly matters in our daily lives. They get to 'see' Jesus, through us. Discipleship can happen in the marketplace. The process is definitely relational, making it ideal with our co-workers, staff, and clients.

The marketplace forces the Church to use all of its capabilities. Mega-church Christianity doesn't work in

the marketplace. Christians sitting on the sidelines of ministry won't transform the nations for the glory of God. Marketplace ministry activates people's unique spiritual gifts. For example, a pastoral gift views marketplace ministry as a call to care for the personal needs of employees and/or co-workers."

Finally, the marketplace is a source of resource for ministry. Mature Christian business professionals can hear God and understand His plan to make righteous decisions in stewarding resource.

The Kingdom of God should permeate and transform society and marketplace ministry can play an important role.

Ministry News
TOP STORY

Kingdom Advance Partnerships! Connecting generations with God's great love ...



WRITTEN BY
DAN ECKER

It will be so good to be back in Thailand! Coming up next month, the Lord has provided another opportunity to bring the message of the heart of the Father to a growing network of churches in Thailand with John Paul Sprecher.

We will be back again with Pastor Daniel and his wife Ooy, and the network of Z-Gen Churches annual church camp (*Father Heart Conference*) in Chonburi. Evening sessions, workshops, prophetic ministry, prayer and more! This is such a significant moment in life of these churches. Already the interest level is high as we raise our expectation to receive all that Lord has for us, and for what He has in store for Thailand. Jesus, our hope is in You!



Myanmar - Pulang Church Planting Continues ... New plans are being formed!



The seeds that have been sown in partnership for church planting among the Pulang over four years ago has created an opportunity for many to hear the gospel in over 48 remote villages. We are thankful for the progress so far!

Now that the Lenhart's (*Chuck, Wendy, Jared and Christopher and several from their Frontier Harvest Ministries, Chinese team*) are on the ground there new plans are being formed to push further into the frontier among these precious people for whom Christ died. These new plans involve a much broader team of preachers and teachers to strengthen the work and to reach more people. In Mandalay, an outreach center has been established for planting a city church and for the surrounding areas. In Lishio, a new facility has been built to house and to care for 67 children at risk through Harvest Childrens Home. Let us continue to stand with them in this great work!

Thailand: Reaching Kids for Christ! Bringing the love of Jesus into fatherless homes ...



These are some of the children that are being reached through Families Without Fathers (FWF) this year in five locations across Thailand. In 2019 forty plus children from fatherless homes are being reached.

A major part of FWF is to provide school fees and related supplies for each child involved in the program. The weekly visits to the homes and area schools are bringing Christ into every interaction that we have with this kids. Even in the context of learning Christ is being shared and lifted up!

Please take a moment to pray for these kids, that the light and love of Jesus will shine brightly in their hearts.

More Middle East Mission Updates!



WRITTEN BY Jenna and I
ELISA are in the
WOLCOTT final
months
here in

Iraq and it seems the closer we get to October, the quicker the time slips through our fingers. I am focussing on being present in every interaction. We have learned the great value of that here.

The priority placed on relationship in this culture is impossible to convey in simple words. I've had to un-train my mind from focusing on 'doing' to 'being.'

We continue to distribute Days for Girls kits along with an educational

course on human anatomy, hygiene and safety which includes talking about sexual abuse and human trafficking. The range of questions that ensue are beautiful, heartbreaking and humbling. They remind us how important it is to not only empower women with information about their bodies, but their inherent value as women, no matter what happened to them in the past.

We have also been blessed to train a local female psychologist who works with these women. She has been so enthusiastic about the information we are sharing and has learned how to share it herself in the groups she works with. She has shared

harrowing stories with us of what these women have been through.

Life doesn't stop despite tragedy's best attempts to snuff it out. Even amid pain and confusion, there is hope for the future generations, the ones who will continue to carry the message of beauty for ashes, joy in place of grief, proclaiming that captives will be released, prisoners will be freed, and that there will be comfort for the brokenhearted.

We are believing that throughout this region there will one day be a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair.

Being Held By Him!

On a personal note!



WRITTEN BY
DEBBIE ECKER

Summer has passed, and with it the sticky summer nights, noisy with crickets and cicadas, (or Katydid's as we always called them.) In August, during the peak of hot weather, temps in the 90's, our air conditioners broke, one in the house and one in our car, leaving us, well...sweaty. As I tried to write and work in the humid stickiness, I was put in mind of our years in Thailand, where where the only cool areas were our bedrooms. Dinner time was a sweaty affair and by the time I had boiled the water to wash the dishes (yes NO hot water from our sinks in those years) I felt rather as if I were in an evening sauna. I was once asked what our years in Thailand were like and I replied, without thinking, "15 years in a sauna." LOL. This past month we had a momentous occasion in our home. My dear father, James Graham, turned 90 years old on August 27th!! His nephews from his only sibling, Nancy , were so good to come and celebrate his life with us, as well as other cousins who live in the area. What a blessing to be able to do this for such a special man. My father only every thought of others his whole life. It was good for us to stop and celebrate him.

Prayer Points

"He does great things too marvelous to understand. He performs countless miracles." Job 5:9 NLT

Please pray for:

- 1. Father's heart camp Thailand, (see pg.2)**
- 2. Myanmar church planting . (see pg.3)**
- 3. FWF, Thailand (see pg.3)**
- 4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 3rd quarter of 2019.**