



March 2020 News

Image Bearers

“ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ..” Genesis 1:26 NAS

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We are fearfully and wonderfully made. From the first moments when we are knit together in our mother’s womb there is a Divine Spark. An impartation of the Divine. That spark becomes a fine web of cells and molecules, synapsis and deoxyribonucleic acid knitting, knitting away in a hidden place, creating a brand new, uniquely put together INDIVIDUAL. Everything from eye color, to facial muscular structure. The way we smile. The look in our eyes. All of that and so much more!

In other aspects of our being, our likes and dislikes, our talents and leanings, we see this even more. My father, brother and I have a deep love of driving. We love to explore unknown paths and road trips make our hearts sing. My father’s father was the chauffer for a wealthy Pittsburgh family in the 1930’s and 40’s. My father’s grandfather was that family’s chauffer first and got him the job. I could jump in my car tomorrow and drive to the other side of the country and not give it a thought. I know, as I have checked with others, that this is not normal.

As Christians, we are also to carry about within us the Image of the One who created us. The Divine Spark causes the likeness and image of Christ to arise in our hearts. We are to

look, both inside and out, like Jesus, who is exact the Image of the Father. We have our Father’s DNA, and our impact and face in this world should be the face of the Father.

Last month I went to see The Free Burma Ranger Movie. It is the true story of David and Karen Eubank and their family, friends of ours, and their amazing journey. If you follow me on Facebook, you know that I often promote the ministries of our friends putting their lives on the line on behalf of the the most vulnerable people on earth. The Eubanks and FBR truly have the DNA of Jesus. They carry the drive to love, to save, and to rescue. In the film, a young Kurdish man spoke, with wonder at the love and courage that brought these Free Burma Rangers to their war-torn country as helpers. In them, he was seeing the face of Jesus for the very first time.

Jesus came to rescue us. As His Spirit empowers us, that drive to love, to save, to rescue arises in our lives and in the earth. We carry within us the Image of God. And in us, the world can see the love of the Father.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

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On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

Thank you once again for your prayers for our family. I had a chance to visit my mom in South Bend and she is doing so well! She is so blessed to be back in her own home with other family members there looking after her needs. We had the sweetest time together. Dan's mother had some health issues, but she seems to be coming back from them. Praise God.

The Kingdom in Motion ...



WRITTEN BY,
BOB ROTH

Every bit of preparation brings into consideration our Father's business of bringing the Good News to those that have yet to hear it, and to those who need their faith strengthened.

In The book of Acts 10:38 reads "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how He went around doing good and healing who were under the power of the devil because God was with Him."

As we prepare for the start of another month, each of us has a significant part of moving the kingdom forward. Your partnership with Firstlight helps to make that possible. May we all be about our Father's business in 2020.



WRITTEN BY,
JENNA
BIERNESSE

Returning To The Middle East!

In the Middle East, you will hear the word "inshallah" attached to most plans in the making. This phrase means "if the Lord will's it." For some, it is a way to get out of something, and for others, it's a lifestyle of knowing God ordains steps. "Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." James 4:15

This verse in the Bible keeps us humble in our planning. While we might think that we know the plans, ultimately, it is the Lord who determines our steps. As I am sharing the direction where I believe God is leading me, I am quick to acknowledge that, at any point, the Lord can change the direction.

If the Lord wills it, Elisa and I will be returning to Kurdistan, Iraq, at the end of March to do further work with Partners Relief and Development. We will continue ministering to the Yazidi women and children who fled from ISIS captivity. There is potential involvement in serving those fleeing from Syria to Iraq. We are also looking to minister to women who attend a church in another region of the Middle East as well. We will commit six more months to empower women by education and relationship.

I desire to follow and to obey the Lord out of my love for Him. There is peace in knowing that He directs and leads us and knows what is best for us!

He's Ordering Your Steps!



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

One of the many lessons learned as a follower of Christ is that the Lord is ordering our steps. In response to those words "come and follow Me" (Matthew 4:19) is a repetitive theme that runs throughout the whole bible you soon learn that there are endless possibilities ready to be fulfilled. At

times you might not always know where those "plans" may be leading, and at times you might not always get it right! It's not "one plan" only, or we'd all be in trouble! But rather its "one purpose" to be fulfilled and "many plans" to get you there!

When the Scriptures teach that "For we are His workmanship created in Jesus Christ for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10) means much more than just making decisions and "hoping" that it is God who is leading us! Without a doubt there are certain risks involved but the good news is we can be assured that the Lord is directing our steps! Through prayer, bible reading, godly counsel, we can make wise choices based on what we know the will of God to be. (See Prov.3:5-6, Prov.16:9, Psalm 119:105, Romans 8:16, Jeremiah 29:11-13 and so much more!) * Be encouraged! * He is ordering your steps!

Breakthrough Prayer Points

**"For the eyes of the Lord are towards the righteous and His ears attend to their prayer
I Peter 3:12 NAS**

Pray! Pray! Pray! Pray!

1. Families Without Fathers (FWF) project plans for the first part of 2020. *finalizing budgets & costs, total number of children/families to be reached this year.
2. For Thailand: * powers of darkness broken, * souls saved in each region, * for kingdom expansion, new churches planted.
3. For all of Firstlight to be strategically places for increased effectiveness this year.
4. For the Lord's abundant provision, open doors, and lasting fruit in the first quarter of 2020.