



July 2020 News

The Way!

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Look for us:



“Your ears will hear a word behind you, “This is the way, walk in it,” whenever you turn to the right or to the left.” Isaiah 30:21

In the years following the resurrection of Jesus, His followers were known in their society as followers of “The Way.” An unusual name for a group that, for all intents was a splinter group within Judaism. Most were from a Jewish background; yet, increasingly those who would claim Christ as Savior were coming in from pagan backgrounds, as well.

This new sect was viewed by all with grave suspicion. First from the Jews, who felt a religious jealousy toward the disciples who were preaching freely in their synagogues about a risen Jesus. AND praying for the sick and seeing them healed. There was quite an uproar wherever these followers of the Way went, causing disruption to the order that had been so carefully preserved for centuries.

They were also viewed by the Romans with suspicion, and even hatred. Horrible rumors were spoken of them. First that they were atheists because they refused to worship the Emperor or other Roman deities. Second, that they were cannibals who ate human flesh and drank blood, (misunderstanding the Christian practice of the Lord’s Supper)

This suspicion and revilement led to brutality and deadly persecution, with multitudes of believers being sent to the slaughter of the Roman colosseums or fleeing with their

families to other parts of the Roman Empire, taking their good news with them, and sharing it at each new place.

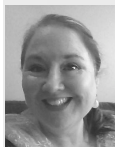
Wherever they went, they left their imprint. The power of the gospel within them changed society and the people within it. They never took up arms to defend themselves but rather showed love and kindness to all, even to persecutors and enemies. In their earliest years, these followers of “the Way” took Jesus quite literally when He said, “Love your enemies; pray for those who persecute you. Historians wrote of them, “See how they love one another!” That love, shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Spirit, would transform the world as they knew it.

Today the places and countries in the earth where the gospel is spreading and the church is growing the fastest, are the places where persecution of the believers is the most intense. Iran, Nepal, and China are in the top of that list. It would appear persecution is a catalyst NOT a hindrance to preaching the gospel. Jesus reaches out to us. Will we show love, not anger to those who persecute us? Beloved. Jesus is still “The Way.”



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

In the midst of pandemic, we have been keeping track of our family and friends. I have been Facetimeing with my mom, and, hopefully when you read this, I will have gone out to join my family to celebrate her 90th birthday! Happy birthday, Mom. Your love and kind example have set such standard for me in my life. Your strong faith is a guidepost for us all!!

Let's Not Lose Our Focus! ..



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

If there is one thing that the issues related to Covid19 has taught us over the past twelve weeks is not allowing oneself to lose focus of the big picture of what life is intended to be.

The key for each of us is to do our best to keep moving forward in spite of all of the challenges that are associated with it. Managing fear, uncertainty, worry, doubt, and anxiety at levels that we've never had to deal with have become the new normal for many and the constant need for us to apply God's wisdom on a daily basis is essential going forward. God who is *previous* is well aware of all that is taking place. Let's not lose our focus on Him!

Care For Kingdom Families!

We are happy to report that our efforts for reaching children and families in 2020 is working! Our partnership with several of local Thai churches are bringing Christ into fatherless homes in selected areas around the country through projects like Families Without Fathers (FWF) and project REAP, Regional Education Assistant Program.

With your help each month, children like these are being reached! **Thank you!**



Going God's Way



WRITTEN BY
CHUCK LENHART

Reaching the nations has always been a priority and the heartbeat of God. When we make reaching the nations as a priority, we align ourselves with God's heart and will to see the unreached, reached in His name. Once we get there, we must find God's heart for the people. The only way to touch the nation God sent you to, is through the way of Love.

Allowing God to invade you to the point where you become an instrument of His Love to touch the people, he sent you to. Begin to minister to people from the point of their greatest felt need. If people are starving, give them something to eat, if people are freezing, give them something to wear, if someone is thirsty, give them something to drink. Serve people from their practical needs. Let the preaching of the gospel and teaching the word of God be a priority to every outreach. Training brings a new mind set in the people after they are born again. Partnering with a ministry like Firstlight is a great ministry who can bridge you and your church teachers to the nations.

Prayer Points!

**“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?”
Jeremiah 32:17 NASB**

Have faith in God!

1. Families Without Fathers (FWF) project during the second half of 2020. *for each of the 40 plus children being 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 placed for increased effectiveness this year.
4. For the Lord's abundant provision, open doors, and lasting fruit in the third quarter 2020.