



August 2020 News

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

- Featured Articlepg.2
- Top Stories pg.2
- Featured Articlepg.2

* Features:

- Article - Soul Searching pg.1
- Item - Prayer Points pg.2
- Article - On a personal note pg.2
- Article - Board Member pg.2

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Soul Searching ...

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.” Psalm 139:23 NIV

These are anxious times. The anxiety in the atmosphere is palpable. Those who genuinely struggle with anxiety issues, well, these past 6 months must have been unimaginably painful.

I have often said that fear and anger are first cousins. There has never been more evidence of this than the anguish and pain that floods our social media daily. Theories and counter theories. Doctors and other doctors. You show me your doctors and I'll show you mine, and then, let's fight! I can feel the anxiety creep up even as I type those words. The fighting. My God. The fighting.

Jesus said, 'A house divided against itself CAN. NOT. STAND.' He didn't say, 'might not' or perhaps it won't. He said, "CANNOT."

The one who is the thief of joy and the destroyer of lives is sowing discord by the barrel full...and we are buying it wholesale. There is a growing tendency to regard those who think differently than us in increasingly derogatory terms. We are growing enemies in our thoughts and that is moving into our hearts. Oh! No wonder so many who love the Lord are feeling crushed in their spirits! This manner of thinking and being is in direct counterpoint to the love of Jesus that is being poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

The good news, beloved, (and there is ALWAYS good news), is there is a remedy for our souls. There is healing and needed accountability in Jesus. I may not be able to control what others are saying or doing; that has ALWAYS been true. I CAN control MY REACTIONS to the discourse around me. My attitudes. My thoughts. My words.

If I am feeling crushed and anxious, try heart must cry out: 'Search me and know me' and to show me if there be any way in me that is displeasing to Him. Herein lies the source of fear and anxiety...being out of step with the Prince of Peace. We must repent of any and all things that we have thought, said or done that was displeasing to Him, is that we're able to say, "May the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer!"

The Love of God is the antidote for fear. God's love perfects us in ways we can never do for ourselves.

Beloved. Let us cry out to God with one voice: "Search me, O God, and know me."



On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

I wish to thank all of you, sincerely, who have prayed for me, for us and reached out over the past month. At the very end of June, for those who don't know, I had a heart attack and had to be rushed by ambulance to the hospital. 2 days and 2 stents later, I am at home, on the path to recovery and going to cardio therapy 3 times a week. So thankful for my healing!

Winning God's Way! ..



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

In the early days of my journey as a follower of Christ I came across a book entitled: *Winning God's Way*, by Loren Cunningham founder of Youth With A Mission (YWAM). Winning Gods' way in this context means much more than what one might think. What I have discovered time and time again is that it requires giving up one's rights [whatever that might be - or whatever rights one might think they have] towards the greater good of God's way of doing things. The Laws of how the kingdom works are the complete opposite to the ways of the world. What "rights" we think we have MUST be surrendered to greater cause of the Kingdom: *Always!*



WRITTEN BY,
JENNA
BIERNESSE

Rescuing Lives!.. Next Steps!..

There are currently over 40.3 million people who are caught in either labor and sex slavery worldwide. The Children's Rescue Initiative (CRI) is on a mission to help end this atrocity by rescuing those in bondage.

This summer, I was given the opportunity to train with this organization. It is an honor to see firsthand the heart and the passion that this team has for those in slavery. While training, I couldn't help but think of all the women in Iraq who had faced imprisonment as ISIS brides and the children held for years in captivity.

I will never understand the pain and trauma that they have encountered, but I do know someone who does. Jesus faced suffering in this world, and He tells us that we will as well, yet He never forsakes us in our pain. Jesus comforts us in the midst and leads us through the darkest of nights because He too understands our sorrows.

As the door remains closed to go back to Iraq, I feel that God has brought me here to learn from these individuals who have rescued children worldwide. Please pray for those caught in trafficking. Pray that they will experience freedom from emotional, physical and spiritual bondage. If you would like to know more about this organization, please visit www.thechildrensrescue.org



WRITTEN BY,
TONY FOSTER

To Church or Not to Church!

Jesus announced that He would build his Church (Matthew 16:18) and the Apostle Paul reminds us that Jesus loves His church and gave his Life for the Church (Ephesians 5:2).

As Melvin Hodges, one of the greatest missionary heroes of the Assembly of God said, "The principle work of missions is establishing a local church." So why plant churches instead of noble social projects? The Scriptures reveal much of the answer and here's why:

The church is where disciples are made. (Matt.28:19-20) These early disciples were commissioned to go and to make disciples of all of the nations. The role of the church is to evangelize the lost but it doesn't stop there. Once a person comes to Christ, the process of discipleship beings - to become a true follower of Christ.

The church has intrinsic value to God, - the church has a special relationship with God. He wants a people called by his name as a kingdom of priests. (I Peter 2:9; Acts 15:14; Eph.5:32) A place where He might dwell! (Psalms 2:

The church is the place (as the gathering of Gods' people) were worship and praise is offered to God. It's every place where two or more are gathered together in His name! (Matt.18:19) **The church is the place were Jesus is revealed and made manifest. I say To Church!**

POWER Prayer Points

"Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear."

Isaiah 65:24 NIV

Ask, Seek, Knock!

1. Families Without Fathers (FWF) project plans for the first part of 2020. *for children and 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 3rd quarter of 2020.