



February 2021 News

# New Pathways!

**“In the way of righteousness is life, And in its pathway there is no death.” Proverbs 12:28 NASB**

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It may not surprise those of you who have followed my life through the years to know one of my favorite things to do on this earth is to go somewhere I have never been before. I get so excited when Dan invites me along to pick up a tool or a ‘whatsit’ he has purchased from Facebook Marketplace, and the location is an area of Pittsburgh we have never been. He laughs to see my huge excitement.

Josiah used to groan when, while driving him home from school in Chiang Mai I would get fed up with heavy traffic on the main road and deftly turn and follow other cars turning off the highway, to ‘another way’. Cars filled with Thai people who knew exactly where they were going. Me, having no idea, but my adrenalin was pumping because I was going to find a NEW WAY HOME!! He knew that this new way would inevitably involve driving down the back alleys of wet markets, inching to pass other vehicles on lanes only meant for bikes and rickshaws, eventually coming to a road that Mom would recognize so that we could proceed home. I would delight to show him new sights, new noodle stands, and roadside bbq chicken with sticky rice that we could pick up for dinner.

New pathways can be exhilarating. They can also be frightening when they are forced upon us, rather than chosen. There are times in our lives when a new pathway is forced upon us. Our chosen pathway is blocked, interfered with, or destroyed all together. Cancer. Heart attack. Job loss. Death in the family. Pandemic.

Whatever our response is to the thought of a new pathway, whether it be chosen or forced upon us, one thing is always true: The Lord calls us from His word and says, ‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in everything, and HE will make your paths straight.’”

Already I can sense that 2021 is truly going to be a different year from the one just past. New pathways are opening ahead. A vaccine speedily making its way around the world so that, in the near future we will be able to remove our masks, move in closer together with those we love and long for. We will walk in a new and different way. Let us therefore, with our faith in Him who knows the way, walk into our new pathways with joyful anticipation and not dread. For the Lord, He is good. And He knows the way home.

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Look for us:



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

I am happy to share that I got a good report from my cardiologist recently regarding my most recent echocardiogram. They wanted to take a long look to see if there had been any more damage, or had I stayed the same? Well, she said the scans actually showed that my heart had IMPROVED from the last scan, and I must say I am so very grateful. Thank you for praying!

## Join the journey in 2021 ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

As we begin the second month of this year, Debbie and I would like to invite to *join the journey* as we follow the plans and purposes of God for 2021 and beyond!

The featured articles, top stories, ministry news, prayer points, and the family news section of the newsletters each month is our way of sharing with you all that is being accomplished through a great team of dedicated people.

As you follow along each month please do take a moment to pray, and rejoice with us! We cannot do this without your help and we are grateful for the part that you play.



WRITTEN BY,  
PAULA  
SPRECHER

What an exciting year we have entered! What a wonderful time for the church, the body of Jesus, to rise up and take its place! We're not talking about growing church attendance, holding big conferences, or having the mainline speakers come and give us the Word. All these things have their place and value, but there is something deeper that God is waiting and longing for His church, His body, to take her place and lead the people into prayer, His love and discipleship.

## Myanmar



These kids are making their way towards a brighter future in Kalaymyo, Myanmar. This past Christmas was a very special time for them. Through Firstlight we were able to help them face some of the financial challenges of Covid-19. Thank you Pastor Mun, and the Emmanuel Theological Seminar (ETS) for giving us the opportunity to help make a difference in their lives!

## A Fresh Call To The Church ...

One life at a time! As we pray we hear His leading, not our opinions, thoughts, or ways, but His. We, as the human race, can mess things up pretty bad, but as His body which is led by the head, Jesus, will function as one and go and say only where and speak only what it should. Then and only then will our lives, the people, and the nations see truth, have peace, know love, and live in a Kingdom as it is in heaven! The Church is seeing the need of this deep commitment and love. We are falling on our knees and praying to the One Who hears. Jesus!

## Care For Kingdom Families

## Prayer Points

**“Behold, the former things have come to pass, Now I declare new things; Before they spring forth I proclaim them to you.” Isaiah 42:2 NASB**

**Out of the old - Into the new!**

1. Care For Kingdom Families: Project REAP: and the FWF project in 1st quarter of 2021.
2. Our Global Training Platforms: Myanmar: \*virtual equipping with staff & students, \*course development, \*2021 training plans
3. For all of Firstlight to be strategically placed in 2021 and beyond! \*projects, \*people, \*places, \*increased funding!
4. Our Family in 2021 For \*Dan, \*Debbie, & \*Josiah