



April 2021 News

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Look for us:



# Resurrection!

**“And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,”**

**Luke 24:2 NASB**

Powerful imagery is given us by Holy Week: The Last Supper where Jesus institutes servant leadership by washing the feet of His disciples; His heart wrenching prayers to His heavenly Father from the Garden of Gethsemane, then His brutal betrayal at the hand of a friend and Peter’s further betrayals, not once, but three times. Then the horrifying crucifixion, ending in a tomb carved out of a rock, with a great, big unmovable stone at the entrance. A stone so big, it was meant to stop anyone from getting to the body of Jesus.

They needed to be MUCH more concerned about Jesus getting OUT.

Easter is the most central celebration of our church calendar. Far more than Christmas when the world welcomed a tiny, vulnerable baby into the humility of Bethlehem, the resurrection proved once and for all that Jesus was, indeed, Lord. He accomplished what He came to do, conquering sin and death on the cross, and ever victorious in His resurrection.

That resurrection power, that huge energy that both raised Him from the dead AND rolled away the unmovable stone at the entrance of that tomb, is the same energy that God releases, by His Holy Spirit, into

every heart who believes on Him. This is His promise.

There are many mysteries and secrets to the inner Christian life; but, in my experience, the most important lesson I take away from the Resurrection is this:

Victory begins on the inside and works its way out.

There is not a single breakthrough in my life where victory was not won first within my own heart, in my inner chambers where I meet with God by the Spirit. In that place I rejoice in sorrow, boast in my weakness, and celebrate my inability. It is in the inner places, at the bottom of the pit, when I stop digging and look up, that I behold the loving face of a wonderful Savior. And He comes to me, and changes everything.

This is the victory, even our faith. And as that resurrection power floods our being the unmovable stone holding us captive begins to move. It rolls away and we are...free. The light and life of Jesus fills our inner being with all we need to keep moving forward. Hope is resurrected.

Is there an unmovable stone in your life? Resurrection power is available to you, right now. Only believe.



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

We are finally seeing a glimmer of light at the end of a long dark tunnel of pandemic and, for me, isolation. Both Dan and I are fully vaccinated and I am SO looking forward to being able to go see my dear mother again. Josiah turns 30 this month, a milestone, and we could not be more proud of the kind, thoughtful and responsible young man he is. He is our treasure in this life.

## Getting Unstuck!



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

What I am learning about life in the Spirit, as a follower of Christ is that there are moments [and or places in God] seasons where we were never meant to remain, or to stay put! We are meant to go from glory to glory, from faith to faith, and from strength to strength. (See II Cor.3:18; Rom.1:17; Ps. 84:7) Deuteronomy chapter one is a prime example of what happens when we [as the people of God] stay in one place too long. The Lord said: “you have been around this mountain long enough.” (See Duet. 1:7; 2:2-3) The instruction to get moving again was meant to move them from where they were to where God intended them to be. The “turn now” here implies a *change* of direction was both physically and mentally. Getting unstuck requires both!

## My Times Are In His Hands! ...



WRITTEN BY,  
JENNA  
BIERNESSE

I am sure that I am not alone in this year of waiting to head back overseas to

continue the work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the unreached. Yet, I find myself, in the waiting, pursuing what Jesus has given me in this season of learning and preparing for the days ahead. Since October, I have been working online towards my Master's degree in Refugee Care from University of Essex. This course is helping me learn further about: the refugee journey, ways to therapeutically help people who have experienced trauma, understanding the complexity of situations and simply learning how to see someone with the eyes of Jesus. I have also been able to do

an internship with the Jewish Family and Community Services based out of Pittsburgh in this time. Through this internship I am blessed to work with Afghani and Congolese refugee women in efforts to build on cultural integration and to teach English through zoom calls. This past winter, I was able to join a mission team to share the gospel in California and Mexico. During this trip, over 70 people came to Christ and many people were healed and set free!

Also in this season of being home, I have met a man, Benjamin Yelovich, who loves Jesus and loves me as well. He asked for my hand in marriage and I said yes! We were married March 20th and we are rejoicing to be able to do mission work together in the Middle East, God willing, by next fall!

## Prayer Focus - Myanmar!



Over the past few months there have been a series of political uprisings taking place throughout the entire country in response to a government led military coup. Once again it appears the military is unwilling to allow the results of the national elections be allowed to occur resulting in wide spread violence and civil unrest. **All of our fellow co-workers in different parts of the country are safe but are asking for prayer during this critical moment in the history of their nation.**

## Prayer Points

**“It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will listen.”  
Isaiah 65:24 NASB**

**Make your request today!**

1. Pray for the country of Myanmar: \*for the church to remain strong, \*no loss of life, \*peace and safety in the streets
2. For our Care For Kingdom Families Projects: Project REAP: and the FWF project in 2nd quarter of 2021.
3. As this year continues to unfold all of Firstlight be strategically placed in 2021 and beyond! \*projects, \*people, \* places, \*increased funding!
4. For God to arise in all that we do!