



June 2021 News

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Look for us:



Behold the Lord!

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved”.

John 3:17 NKJV

We are living in the greatest time of communication that the earth has ever known, perhaps since the days of the tower of Babel. Several major languages, English being foremost, unite the human population, and with the internet available in nearly every nook and cranny of this great big globe, never has there been a chance to share with and get to know others outside of our communities.

What a great time for the gospel, one would think. But any time I begin to read the comment section of a post, or an article, I nearly have to double my heart medication! So much anger! A lot of fear. Very strong opinions about...well not about Jesus. Other things. Distracting things. Things that have become battle grounds instead of little molehills for us to easily walk over and live lives of peace.

I am NOT lifting any political side. But I will speak truth. If God needed any particular person to be in the White House in order for full revival to come to the United States, then, why are the fastest growing revival filled churches in the world in China and the Middle East?

From the beginning, Jesus refused His followers who wanted Him to engage with their Roman oppressors. With His power it would be nothing for Him to vanquish them. He refused.

Instead, He laid down His life, like a lamb to the slaughter, and forgave His enemies. And told us to do likewise.

The early church won the world they were in through kindness and loving their enemies. Their witness inspired the heathen world to consider Christ. Their poured-out lives changed their world. God! Help us to do the same!

Heartfelt repentance with tears will draw the presence of the Almighty. I speak to myself. I speak to my community. Come. Let us seek Him and only Him. Surely, He will come to us.

I see Jesus climbing over top of all the rhetoric and high and lofty words said on His behalf by those who would somehow use His name and His power to their own advantage. I see Him, racing to the top of the piles of empty and lifeless words, saying ...Let....Me....OUT! And as He hurdles over the highest barrier, that of human pretense, pride, and hubris...I see Him leaping to the forefront of the entire world...taking a big look around at everyone everywhere...and saying with a big loving grin all across His face:

“BLESSED....are the poor in spirit....”



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

After nearly 18 months we were blessed to be able to go visit my dear Mother in South Bend where she lives with family. So many hugs and so much joy! She will turn 91 this month!

Also, Dan and I just celebrated 34 years of marriage and ministry side by side. We are so thankful and still so much in love. Jesus definitely gives us joy for the journey!

Staying Power!



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

A repetitive theme that you find throughout the Scriptures is one of “staying power.” That ability to remain when everyone else departs. In fact, that is the exact Greek definition of the word *hypostasso* or “endurance” that you will find in James 1:4, and in Hebrews 12:2. In both these texts; the Scriptures imply that there is a need for one to voluntarily remain [to stay put] in whatever situation you might find yourself in at a time when everyone else wants to depart. This word here can best be described as *situational patience* translated endurance, steadfastness, or in some cases to tarry long in a place! This type of “staying power” - [endurance if you will] is required if one is going to be successful in following Christ on the path of life! It’s worth it!



WRITTEN BY,
JENNA
BIERNESSE

Trust Turns ...

God is continually growing me deeper to trust Him. In January, my boyfriend, Benjamin and I went on a Mission Trip to Mexico with a group of young adults. Before this trip, Benjamin heard from God that we were to be married in March of 2021. Both of us thought this was too soon, but maybe that was our engagement date.

On the trip to Mexico, God spoke to both of us again, individually, about this date for our wedding. Returning home, God solidified the specific day to Benjamin, March 20th. After he proposed, we had 48 days to plan a

wedding! I was interning full-time for a refugee organization in Pittsburgh and a full-time student for a master’s degree in refugee care. How would I squeeze in wedding planning in an already busy schedule.

When feeling overwhelmed or not knowing where to turn, we stopped the planning and worshipped God.

On the day of our wedding, the presence of God showed up so sweetly! The Gospel was preached, healing and deliverance was available to family and friends that I had been praying for years to encounter Jesus.

As we are now married and adjusting to this new season, I am excited for all the plans God has in store for His Kingdom purposes!

Training Focus: Myanmar ...



As the country of Myanmar continues to encounter economic and civil unrest; preparations are underway for an other academic year to start soon for the students in the Emmanuel Theological Seminary (ETS) in Kalaymyo. We are in the process of curriculum development and teacher training. Regular Zoom trainings are taking place with the core leadership and instructors in 2021! Myanmar now!

Prayer Points

**“My eyes are continually toward the Lord, For He will pluck my feet out of the net.”
Psalm 25:15 NASB**

Focus On Him!

1. Pray for the country of Myanmar:
 - *for the church to remain strong,
 - *no loss of life, *peace and safety in the streets
 - * training others!
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!