



## July 2021 News

# Freedom

**“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; ..”**

**Galatians 5:1 NASB**

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Look for us:



Dan and I have had the privilege of ministering in places where freedom is not secure. We have walked in communist countries, military dictatorship countries, countries where the poor have few if any rights.

In Thailand, we experienced three separate military coups. I remember the surprise of the first one, in 2006, when we awoke to find tanks in the streets and soldiers with machine guns lining the sides of the roads. A daunting site on our drive to school!

Our son, Josiah, when working with Karen refugees driven from their homes by brutal military squads was deeply moved by their love and graciousness towards others. He told us of the elders of the children’s homes asking him about orphans in other countries. ‘Can we take them? We can take them and help them!’ He was moved, as we have been many times, at the generosity and kindness of the poor and the oppressed. “Mom, they are the purest Christians I have ever known!”

We taught a group of Lao students in a school along the Thai/Lao border whose parents were mostly Christians, some leaders. Most of our students had friends or family they had visited who had been imprisoned for their faith in Jesus. Still, here they were, hungry to learn how to minister and plant churches among their own people.

I have seen the joy of Nepali Christians singing along a trail as we took the gospel to unreached areas in their country. Each of them had already done some jail time for being Christian. Each of them risked heavier penalties for this outreach. Their courage and joy took my breath away.

In 1986 I took bibles to the underground church of Moscow. The pastor of the church was in prison, the asst. pastor was on house arrest. The woman they sent to meet us at night in a park led us silently to her apartment. Once inside, her joy and laughter lit the darkened room. She was alive with joy. She was alive with freedom.

Americans are by nature a freedom loving people. We have been so blessed to live in a country that has prized and protected religious liberty from the beginning. Still. It is important that we as Christians understand that for us, freedom begins only with Jesus. Christ paid the highest price for our deliverance.

When our freedom is centered in Christ, no man, no government can rob us of it. Our freedom is real no matter our circumstances. We are forever free because Jesus has made us free!



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

In one month we mourned the passing of Dan's dear mother, Betty Jane Vedro and the 91st birthday of my own mother, Virginia Graham. We actually were with my mom when we got the news of Betty. When I told mom, through my tears, that Betty had gone to be with Jesus, she said, 'OH! I am SO happy for her!' Such perspective! So thankful for our moms.



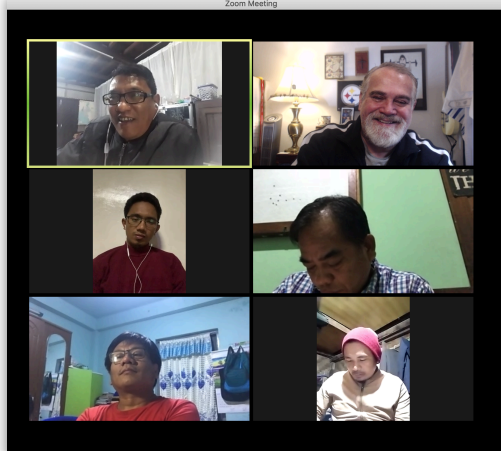
Through projects like Families Without Fathers (FWF), and Project REAP: *Regional Education Assistance Program* children and young adults are being reached in selected areas around the country and 2021 is no exception. Partnerships with Thai churches and related ministries are bringing Christ into fatherless homes on a regular basis. School fees and related supplies are being provided for every child this year. The results are encouraging. Thank you for your prayers and financial giving!

## Follow His Path...



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

Learning how to live out our Christian life is a life-long-discovery of the walking out of what *once* was into what *now* is, and what *wants* to unfold based upon the Spirit's leading and the unfolding of Gods' word to us on a regular basis. The principle of "passing from death unto life" as recorded in John 5:24 has a lot more to do with the totality of our Christian experience than we like to think it does. The the passing from death unto life is a constant journey of walking out of dead things as the resurrected life of Christ dwells in us; the waking out of the old and into the new; the being called out of darkness into his marvelous light and more! (See Romans 8:11; I John 4:4; Galatians 2:20; Acts 17:28) "The path of life leads upward for the wise; they leave the grave behind." Prov. 15:24 NLT



As the country continues to encounter wide spread economic and civil unrest; we continue to stand with the faculty and students of the Emmanuel Theological Seminary (ETS) in Kalaymyo. We just got word this month that several core teachers are recovering from severe cases of Covid-19. Requests for prayer continue to pour in from those who are experiencing hardship in times like these.

## Prayer Points

**"The Lord will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O Lord, is everlasting; Do not forsake the works of Your hands."**

**Psalm 25:15 NASB**

**It Shall Be Well!**

1. Pray for the country of Myanmar: \*ETS core teachers healing from Covid-19. \* for the church to remain strong,
2. For our Care For Kingdom Families Projects: Project REAP: and the FWF project in 3rd quarter of 2021.
3. As this year continues to unfold for all of Firstlight to be strategically placed in 2021 and beyond! \*projects, \*people, \* places, \*increased funding!
4. For God to arise in all that we do!