



February 2022 News

Love Wins ...

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Look for us:



“Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.” Colossians 3:14 NASB

When I was a child I came across a book written by a young Pentecostal pastor from Pennsylvania who felt ‘called’ by God to go to New York City and reach out to the street gangs there. How this book came to be in our devoutly Catholic home I have no idea, but I was a reader and once I opened it I could not put it down. “The Cross and the Switchblade” became an international bestseller and that young pastor’s name was, of course, David Wilkerson.

One of the most riveting pieces in the book is a conversation where Nicky Cruz, a street gang leader threatens David. “You come near me and I will kill you!” he says to the young pastor, who answers softly, “Yeah, you could do that. You could cut me up into a thousand pieces and lay them in the street, and every piece will still love you.” I was shook! At age 11 I had heard of the sacrificial love of the martyrs of the church, who loved their enemies even those who took their lives. But this love, this passionate, deeply caring and fearless love? This was from MY generation.

And do you know what happened? That love, that triumphant fearless, even reckless love, won the heart of Nicky Cruz who would go on to become a pastor and an evangelist leading many out of a life of drugs and violence.

Because you know what my brothers and sisters? Love wins.

In my lifetime I have never seen our nation more divided. Politics and pandemics, vaccines and theologies. Literally it can feel as if we are at each other’s throats. Ready to pounce. Each feeling judged by the other. Our nerves are so jangled we often fall out with very people we love the most. My heart aches.

Is there hope, then, for this fallen and intransigent world? Is there a way forward in the darkness? Is there a Balm in Gilead?

“When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my Hope and Stay.” My bedrock, then has to be Christ and HIS love for this fallen world. His compassion for our friends, our neighbors, our family. HIS LOVE will hold us together, if we permit. If we permit.

For His perfect love CASTS OUT FEAR, because fear has torment. If we are tormented we need to stop what we are doing/thinking and allow His love to flood in. Change our minds. Change our thoughts. Transform us.

Because when we let His love in,
LOVE WINS!



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

The cold, short days of winter are such a time of reflection. Our church does several weeks of prayer and setting the year apart to the Lord. It may seem more difficult than usual this year, but never have we all needed it more! Also, Dan and I are often called upon to pray for dear family and friends for their healing as this pandemic passes through. God has been so faithful. Eyes on Jesus is the

In Hot Pursuit ...



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

Throughout the Scriptures as believers in Christ we are encouraged to follow hard after God. A prime example of that would be King David, known as the Psalmist of Israel and a man after God's own heart. (See Sam. 23:1-2; I Sam.13:14; Acts 13:22)

The book of Psalms [most of which were written by David] records incredible insights into his walk with the Lord. His constant battle with the Philistines shows his utmost dependance upon the Lord for guidance and how the Lord protected him. Time and time again he sought the Lord and he prospered.

His consistent hunger for the Presence of God was key to his success. Personal disappointments; set backs in relationships, his struggles with personal sin, suffering and loss did *not* deter him away from fulfilling his ultimate purpose and destiny in God. (See Acts 13:36)

At whatever level of fervency you feel you entered 2022 stay in hot pursuit!

His Light Shines in the Darkness



WRITTEN BY
ELLIE GEPPERT

This little light of mine...I'm going to let it shine...

When My husband Mark and I sing and clap and stomp and smile and laugh through this very familiar Sunday School song with our grandkids ages 1 and 2 in Montana, we are so mindful of that light that came to earth sent from the Father in heaven going into the hearts of these precious kids. I myself received Jesus with my family when the

new Baptist minister down the street from our house went door to door in the neighborhood and found our family unchurched and hungry for the light of God's love. I was already 16 years old at that time but that light meant everything to me. I was set free from the fears of darkness and received the Light that shatters and shatters darkness.

Jesus is the Light of the world sent to save us from death and sin. He will be your light and you can take

that light with you to everyone you meet.

Dan and Debbie have given their lives to this and we have been blessed to contribute to their efforts over many years.

At the start of this year, why not help bring the Light and Love of Jesus to others by sending a gift each month to Firstlight. That will get this message to those who need to hear it. Then while in your giving - dance and shout with your grandchildren, children, husbands, wives and parents.

Kingdom Advance Partnerships

These are those who gather regularly for worship and prayer known as Shiloh Baptist church in Kalaymyo, Myanmar. I (Dan) during my first visit with them they were just starting to meet on Sunday's and they were in the midst of a building project. Their witness for Christ continues to shine forth in the villages and surrounding area. Our partnership each month means so much. Pray for continually growth.



Prayer Points

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

Go ahead ... He is listening!

1. Pray for the country of Myanmar: *ETS core teachers healing from Covid-19. * peace & safety in the streets during civil unrest.
2. For our Care For Kingdom Families Projects: Project REAP: and the FWF project in 1st quarter of 2022.
3. As this year continues to unfold for all of Firstlight to be strategically placed in 2022 and beyond! *projects, *people, * places, *increased funding!
4. For God to arise in all that we do!