



April 2022 News

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**Look for us:**



# From Death To Life ...

**“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” John 12:25 NASB**

Throughout creation we can see a central theme, over and over again. There is a seed. That seed is put in the ground. It dies, as a plant springs up from it and pushes through the earth.

When that plant is fully grown it produces many, many seeds that create future harvests. In order for the future harvest to come, there had to first be a death.

Death is common to man, and the fear of death has throughout history held mankind in its bondage.

When Jesus was taken by the Romans to be crucified, His disciples were terrified. The One they had seen cast out demons, heal all the sick and even raise the dead, was put on trial, found guilty and put to death. Their world was going to pieces. Nothing made sense anymore.

(Do you ever feel that way, in these terrible, topsy turvy times we now live in?)

Praise be to God. We know the One who has conquered the grave. We know the One who has conquered death. The One whose power rolled the stone away from the tomb. The One who brought Life from Death. He invites us to join with Him in a fearless pursuit of a future free from the bondage to fear.

In this Easter/Lenten season we share a time of reflection, and of putting to death the things in our lives that are hindering us. Hindering our prayers. Hindering our freedom. Hindering our love. Hindering our ability to make decisions with clear thoughts. There are so many distractions to grab our focus from the One who has the Answers. The One who holds life. The One who IS Life!

Jesus brought life from death. As we allow the things in our lives to die that are not helpful, that are holding us back from living fully in that resurrection joy, His grace causes new life to spring up all around us. These are the great and mighty promises that hold us.

The Resurrection is the true center for all human history. For it was the day that Love Came Down and rescued us, triumphing over the one thing that held our hearts in bondage to fear.

Thank you, Jesus, that You bring life from death. Thank you that You live forever more, and in You will live and move and have our beings. For You are the Author of Life. Amen.



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

YIKES!!! .. Spring has sprung here in Western Pennsylvania, although most days it doesn't yet feel like it with bouts of snow squalls, cold nights, and frosty mornings with bits of sunshine and warmer afternoons. Dan and I have been enjoying this season with short drives on the warmer days with several planned dates around town. We are planning some upgrades to the yard and bedding areas soon! Oh the joys!

## Out of dead things



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

He is risen - He is risen indeed is not just meant to be a liturgical phrase most commonly said during our Easter Sunday services each year, but rather a forever central theme of the very foundation of our Christian faith. Christ died, Christ was buried, Christ was raised from the dead is the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints: A message that all of the early church fathers sought to protect and proclaim. (See Jude 1:3; I Peter 1:3; Acts 2:24; I Cor. 15:3-13)

Throughout the ages the message that Jesus is alive connects the past, present and future of our Christian faith for all eternity. Jesus having been brought back to life was proof that sin and the grave has lost its power. We, too, are raised [together with Christ] and we walk in the newness of life:

*Resurrection life!* (See Rom 6:1-12; Rom 8:16; Eph. 5:14) For many the reality of resurrection has occurred and for some it is time for us to walk out of dead things! *Jesus is the Resurrection & the life!*

## Online Ministry Moments

This past month we held several online meetings with church planting teams and ministry leaders in Thailand, and several more are being planned for Myanmar this month. In each of these locations communities of faith are being established as Christ is being proclaimed in remote places in the region. Pray with us that more will hear the good news of Jesus and His great love for them. Together we are making a difference in 2022.



## Kingdom Advance Partnerships



More news from Phuket, Thailand. Our partnership with Rapha Ministries each month is bringing the message of healing through Jesus Christ to the least, and the lost. Services are being held weekly and regular outreaches to surrounding areas are taking place through a great team of dedicated people. We are asking the Lord this month that those who receive ministry will encounter Jehovah Rapha, the Lord our Healer!

## Prayer Points

**For this reason it says,  
“Awake, sleeper, And arise  
from the dead, And Christ  
will shine on you.”  
Ephesians 5:14 NASB**

**The tomb is empty!**

1. Pray for our Global Training Platforms in Thailand, & Myanmar this month.
2. For our Care For Kingdom Families Projects: REAP: and the FWF in Thailand, during the 2nd 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!