



June 2022 News

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Overflow

... **“In Your presence there is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore.” Psalm 16:11 NASB**

When I think of the word ‘Overflow’ I am put in mind in some churches rooms are opened when the crowds are so big there are not enough seats for the people gathering. “We opened up the overflow,” when the pews were full to the brim and more people were pouring in the doors.

It must have been like that when Jesus would visit a household and the people from the town would gather, listening at the doors and windows, having to open up the very roof to pass a sick friend into the room to receive prayer.

The word instantly brings the excitement of gathering and being together. There is a draw, and wonder of being in a place together with like-minded people, being of one heart, one mind, one accord. Seeking God together. Worshipping God in one Spirit.

Over the past 2 years corporate gathering has taken such a hit. So many things to be wary of, so many other things clamoring for our attention. Masks or no masks. Vaccines or no vaccines. Most services went online in order to accommodate. Our sanctuaries stood at about a quarter full. Now, even though things have gotten better, many have still not returned. I no longer have to worry

about finding a seat in the sanctuary, so many have decided to remain home.

I miss them...

For there is something truly miraculous that takes place in our midst when we gather together unto Him. There is a release one to another of love, and faith, joy and fellowship. His presence manifests in our gathering. And in His presence, He knits our hearts.

And we need that. We need to remember that we need one another, and that in His presence together we are strengthened. One brings a hymn. One brings a gift. One brings a spiritual song. And as the Holy Spirit pours out among us there is overflow.

Overflow of faith. Overflow of belonging. Overflow of hope and reassurance that together we will get through these terrible times to the other side. We remember that we are not alone.

If you have found yourself not yet returning to your gatherings, if you have become more used to isolation then of walking into a sanctuary to find your place among the throng, may I lovingly encourage you today to try again. It may be time. I want to be there, too.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

For our 35th anniversary we did something we love to do: road trip to somewhere we had never been: Gettysburg. It fell on Memorial Day weekend so we were joined by throngs of others, which actually we found very nice. We had a very meaningful time to pray for our nation as we took a driving tour through the battleground. We felt united in prayer and purpose as we cried out to God to unify our country.

Pray it Forward



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

Much of our success in life is determined by our willingness to keep moving forward. In spite of difficulties, setbacks, delays and challenging circumstances, the key is to stay the course and not to give up.

The same can be said in the prayer life as a believer. It is something that we must learn to do often and always - not just in times of great need for prayer although it does include that. (See Luke 18:1; Colossians 4:2) It should be as natural to us as it is breathing. Air is needed to sustain life - it releases oxygen to the rest of our body in order for us to function properly. That's what prayer does.

Prayer brings an awareness of God into everything we do. If we draw near to God, he will draw near to us. (See James 4:8a.) Seek the Lord while he may be found call upon him while he is near. (See Isaiah 55:6; Psalm 105:4) The Lord is wanting to be found!

Take some time this week and whatever you are facing Pray it Forward!

Kingdom Advance Partnerships

Just this past month I had the privilege to sit down with a dear friend Isaac Almo, while he was passing through Pittsburgh. Isaac is the Pastor of U Can International Church in Bangkok, and co-founder of Life of Grace Foundation (LGF) also located Bangkok, Thailand. A door has opened for them to put the gospel message in a story book form into the hands of thousands of Thai students in selected schools across the country. We are being asked to join the journey. Pray, Pray, Pray!



Global Training Platforms



We are assisting in the efforts to put an Online Classroom in Emmanuel Theological Seminary (ETS) in Kalaymyo, Myanmar. This will enable the university to offer on-site students the opportunity to learn from a wider range of teachers and lectures on a global scale. Online classes are set to start in July with yours truly *Dan & Debbie Ecker*. We are excited to have this opportunity to pour into emerging leaders waiting to be trained in Asia and beyond.

Prayer Points

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.”

II Peter 3:9 NASB

If He said it - He will do it!

1. Pray for our Global Training Platforms in Thailand, & Myanmar.
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!