



August 2022 News

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Look for us:



Fully Ready

“O God, you have helped me from my earliest childhood—and I have constantly testified to others of the wonderful things you do.” Psalm 71:17 TLB

This month I turn 65, officially becoming a senior citizen. Bus passes, all discounts. Special seating. Special everything! My golden years. Lord. I truly want them to be golden in every way.

I find comfort in the words of Paul: “This is why we never give up. Our physical body is becoming older and weaker, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day.” (2 Cor. 4:16)

I have always said that our victories in Christ begin on the inside. We can declare and decree all we want; until we make a **QUALITY DECISION** within our own being, within our own minds to embrace the strength, grace and victory that Christ is offering nothing will change.

There come moments of decisions throughout our lives. OH, how I wish it was a once for all, but, alas it is not. Yes, there is undeserved grace. Yes, there are miracles. There are oceans of mercy. But the reality of victory is that God uses the age old ingredient that He sowed into the hearts of mankind since the dawn of creation. Our free will.

Without this ingredient, we would be nothing but puppets acting out the will, plans and desires of a Deity in whose image we were NOT formed.

Because by adding free will into the cosmic mix of humankind, God truly made us like Himself. Creative. Thinking. Interactive. Able to choose right from wrong. Able to choose death or life.

And so in this autumnal season of my human life, I must make a choice. I must choose to stand ready. I must choose to BE ready. I must press on in the high calling for which Christ has called me. I must watch out that I not lose what I have worked my whole life for, so that I might receive my **FULL REWARD**. (2 John 1:8)

Beloved. This life is a marathon. I used to be a distance swimmer so I understand the dynamics of marathon. We may start off strong, but we must save some and prepare for that last part of the race, so that when that finish line comes into site, we can pick up the pace, being **FULLY READY**, to run in such a way that we will receive the prize.

Lord, in this silver haired section of my life, I pray You make me fully ready for my next chapters so that I might serve You well. I want to declare your goodness to a new generation. Help me, Lord! Amen.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

Dan and I were SO blessed to get away for over a week to Lake Erie! Our first vacation in well over a decade and we were blessed to go to a place that holds happy memories for us. We love to set our beach chairs up right on the water's edge and when we get too hot, we jump in just like kids! We were also blessed to drive around the region and meet up with dear friends. A true refresh! Thank you, Lord!

Spiritual Senses



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

I have always been amazed by the many verses throughout the Scriptures that describe those who have encountered God at significant stages of their lives.

Starting with Adam and Eve, to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob from Moses onward [and the like] leading into the New Testament all filled with real life stories of those who perceived Christ well before He arrived, including Jesus, and all of His earlier disciples and how the early church was formed and spread throughout history. All of whom seemed to have an ability to perceive God [as Spirit by the Spirit] and to walk with Him: A challenge for us today to learn how to develop our spiritual senses in the same way they did. Recognizing one's own spiritual senses is the first step towards developing them. As with our natural senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch help us to perceive the natural world we also have similar spiritual faculties that help us to discern God.

Global Training - Myanmar

Another academic school year has started for the students enrolled in the Emmanuel Theological Seminary (ETS) in Kalaymyo, Myanmar.

Schools like these across the country have now reopened and classrooms are filling up!

Our role as off site core teachers is proving to be one of "highlight" of this first term of classes. The opening ceremony was well planned with a good number of special songs, corporate prayer, freshmen acknowledgements and key note speakers. More news coming soon!



Phuket Happenings, Thailand

These are just a few of those who are gathering each week in Phuket, Thailand as part of the Rapha Healing Center.

As a new church is being planted there Sunday morning services are well attended and teams like these are going out regularly to share Christ in selected areas across the city. Friendships are being formed with educators, construction workers, students, taxi drivers, business owners and more - something fresh is happening there. Our partnership each month is working!



Prayer Points

“I will bless the Lord who has advised me; Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night. I have set the Lord continually before me” ...

Psalm 16:7-8a NASB

Practice Watchfulness

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 3rd 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!