



November 2022 News

Thankful, Thankful

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

Top Stories pg.2

* Features:

Article - Thankful, Thankful .. pg.1

Article - Teaching pg.2

Article - Family News pg.2

Item - Prayer Points pg.2

Top Stories - pg.2

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Look for us:



... “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.” Colossians 1:12 NASB

When I go through the memories of our lives, there are so many, so very many times and people who make my heart swell with gratefulness. Times when I/we were vulnerable, out of our depth, and God sent just the right people to make us feel better. Safe. Loved.

One such time was our first day of moving into our home in Chiangmai as a family in 1999. We had just said goodbye to family and friends in the US, all who were near and dear to us. We would not see any of them for a full two years.

Josiah was 8, ready to enter 3rd grade. We did not speak the language and the vast majority of every single person we came in contact with did not speak English. We had rented a house, signed all the documents and made plans to move all of our things from the hotel and our boxes that had arrived from overseas into our new home.

We were feeling overwhelmed. Leaning on the Lord and the strength of our decision to move here, learn a new country, a new culture, a new language, a new people. But.

We felt...lonely.

Just then, we heard familiar voices calling out our names. In ENGLISH? Who was calling us? There, with a pick up truck poised and ready to get all of our things...were...dear, dear friends. Mark Geppert. Ken and Lisa Starkey and their two sons unknown to us were visiting friends in the city Laughing at our shock. Our joy at seeing them. Believe me there were some happy tears in my eyes.

God knew. He knew JUST what we needed to have a happy moving day. Our first day. We needed a home team welcome wagon. And that is just what we got. Josiah was over the moon as well to have two teenage ‘brothers’ to scope out his new hometown with. Perfect. Absolutely perfect.

There is something magnificent in gratitude. True gratitude comes from a deep place, and can change our outlook immediately. It can surprise us by its power.

In this season of Thanksgiving, I pray that we can reflect on the many, many times God has surprised us with exactly what...and who, we needed to see us through. And that in those memories our faith and joy would rise to find new things, and people to thank Him for.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

What a glorious autumn it has been! We have tried to enjoy it as much as possible. Just a heads up, Dan will be heading back to Thailand this month, and our teams Thai coworkers are SO excited to see him in person! He will speak in several churches, visit our Firstlight projects and scope out future locations to advance the kingdom. His travel dates are Nov. 10-24. Your prayers are much appreciated!

Transformation



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

It shouldn't take us very long to figure out that as followers of Christ we are on a journey of transformation, of being conformed into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. (See Rom 8:26-29; Col 3:10-11) All that the first Adam lost in the garden [*his relations with God was distorted; man's authority was usurped by deception; sin, and death was introduced to the world and to all of mankind*] the last Adam Christ has restored through His death, burial and resurrection from the dead. (See Gen 1:27; Gen 3:1-15; Rom 5:12-17; I Cor 15:1-4; I Cor 15:21-22; & 45; I Cor 15:49; Col 1:13; I Cor 2:17-18; Rom 1:16) We now have access to God through the finished work of Christ on the cross. (See John 19:30; I John 3:8; Heb 2:14; Col 2:15; Col 1:13-14)

Through Christ by the Spirit a process of transformation is underway. We go *from faith to faith, from glory to glory, and from strength to strength.* (See Rom 1:17; II Cor 3:18; Psalm 84:5-7) Until Christ is seen *in you*, trust the process.

Phuket Happenings this Month!

Our partnership with the Rapha Healing Center in Phuket, Thailand is bringing forth wonderful fruit each month. The new church plant there is going well. The Sunday services are well attended with regular outreaches and special trainings take place monthly.

The move to a new location earlier this year is proving to be a *sacred space* for all that the Lord intends to do throughout the city and region. We are planning a special dedication service on November 13th. *Let God arise!*



Kingdom Partnerships in Myanmar

Our role as core trainers and academic advisors to the Emmanuel Theological Seminary (ETS) in Kalaymyo, Myanmar has creates a global partnership to advance the kingdom through Christian education. There thirty plus students being trained this academic year.

In January 2023 nine students will graduate with Bachelor Degrees in Leadership & Biblical Studies. We are deeply honored to be a small part of their journey.



Prayer Points

“It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.”

Isaiah 65:24 NKJ

Go ahead, ask!

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 4th quarter of 2022.
3. Ministry plans to unfold for all of Firstlight to be strategically placed in 2023 and beyond! *projects, *people, *places, *increased funding!
4. For God to arise in all that we do!