



December 2022 News

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Glad Tidings

“And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” Luke 2:10

We were reflecting how many Christmas’s we have spent overseas. (18 for me.) When we first moved to Thailand in 1999, Christmas ornaments were nearly impossible to find. We (the foreigners) all had the same skinny little tree and would give each other tips anytime we saw ornaments in a mall or bazaar.. We bought plain green and red wrapping paper, and often made homemade baked goods to share. It was lovely, and simple. We gathered in the cold evenings and sang carols. We loved on each other’s children.

But, the Thais ALWAYS love a party, and a reason to celebrate a holiday. They seemed to awaken to the more joyous aspects of Christmas: the lights, the gifts, the singing, the food! The PRESENTS!! Suddenly the Thais were nearly as excited about Christmas as we were, even though most of them had not a single clue what it was originally all about.

I remember shaking my head in wonder as I walked through our local mall, marveling at the 4 story tree that shot up through the the center of the place. Elves perched everywhere one looked. Listening as ‘It Came Upon a Midnight Clear’ was piped through the mall sound system. The local Starbucks selling Peppermint Mocha coffees! Wow. Christmas had definitely arrived in Thailand.

Still, there was the disconnect for the ‘Reason for the Season’ so to speak. Not surprising, really. Many would say that we in the west have long ago forgotten what all the celebrating was supposed to be about.

‘For, unto us a Child is born. Unto us, a Son is given. His name shall be called; Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father. The Prince of Peace.’

It was a marvel to see that joy, that happy celebratory spirit come upon a country, a culture, crossing the language and religious barriers. Something of the ‘Christmas Spirit’ was being imparted. And it made our hearts warm.

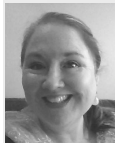
An angel told those shepherds long ago: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which will be to ALL the people.”

Never underestimate the power of the Good News to infuse humanity. Christ’s entry into the world was a sign that God was with us. “You shall call his name ‘Emmanuel, God with us.’” What a joyful thought. God so loved this tired and broken world that He gave us His greatest gift: Himself, to be with us forever. May the glad tidings of Christ infuse YOUR heart with joy and peace this holiday season.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

Thanksgiving season was a bit different for me with Dan away. But the Lord still managed to give me a lovely family feel surprise. My dear friend, Ellie Geppert was in Pittsburgh in the weeks Dan was gone and we were able to meet up twice and lunch, and laugh and share and reflect, and remember and rejoice and feel OH so very grateful for a loving friendship that has spanned 4 decades!! Oh!! Thank you, Jesus!!

Stepping into 2023



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

Like most, I have always enjoyed this time of year when one year is soon ending and a brand new year is getting ready to begin. These natural transitions cause us to reflect on what has been in previous year with anticipation for what is about to unfold in the next.

The Lord's plans for us in 2023 and beyond are great - plans not meant for calamity but plans to give us a future and a hope. (See Jer. 29:11)

Moments like these require that we take a good look around your life in all directions to see where we have been and what things might look like in the year to come. The Lord said to Abram after Lot has separated from him "Look from the place where you are, northward, and southward, and westward, and eastward for all the land that you see I will give it you and to your descendants forever." (See Gen 13:14-15) What does your 2022-2023 Outlook Plan look like? Make a list.

Preparing for Outreaches ...



Dr. George Rooney is back as the His Servants Ministries (HSM) - Firstlight partnership continues in Thailand.

This past month we had the privilege to travel to various locations in the north and northeast regions of Thailand, to reconnect with Thai pastors, Thai church leaders and fellow co-workers in preparations for future eye care teams for evangelism in 2023 and beyond! More news to follow each month.

Ordination in Phuket ...



Almost monthly we have been sharing with you about the Rapha Ministries, Church [a new church plant] in Phuket, Thailand. The reports each month are encouraging.

Last month we celebrated their two year anniversary, dedicated a newly rented facility [that they had just moved into earlier this year] and publicly ordained into the Gospel Ministry our spiritual daughter Rev. Nathika Messiahwong. Let God arise!

Prayer Points

“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

Jeremiah 33:3 ESV

There is more!

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 and in 2023.
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!