



## January 2023 News

# Hope Anew

**“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 NASB**

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Look for us:



Hope is such a powerful word. It is difficult to properly define with other words, because Hope is not just a figure of speech. Not only both a noun AND a verb, Hope is a state of being, a frame of mind. Hope is the food that nourishes our spirits while waiting in the dark for the worst to pass. It is the spark of the Divine within our souls that beckons us to hold on just that little bit longer until we are safely through our testing time and are able to become stable once again, and thrive.

Beloved. It is 2023. We are at the cusp of a brand new year. And we, along with mankind are once again inclining our ears to hear something fresh for this very new year. We are longing. We are reaching. We are yearning.

We are hoping.

For in spite of the cataclysms of the past several years, we, who were created in the Image of the One who created all Hope, reach out to the new as if by instinct. We reach out to the unknown. And God, by His Holy Spirit pours in just the right amount of elemental hope that we need to face what is ahead.

We reach out and take the hands of those around us: our loved ones, our spouses, our children, our grandchildren. Our dear friends. Our

sisters and brothers in Christ. We take their hands and say, “ Come on. We can do this. We can live in hope.”

One thing I have learned in my 65 years of living on this earth, is that hope thrives on gratitude. When we set our minds on all the things that bring us joy, fill our hearts with love, these things are the seedbed for renewed hope. For it is our resounding songs of Thanksgiving that usher us into the very Courts of God.

And there, in that space, our hearts thankful, eyes fixed on He who IS hope, we are filled. Filled to all fullness with what we need to proceed. To continue. To remain, steadfast, and immovable.

We receive Hope anew. Like a sweet wine of refreshing, we find ourselves able to once more rise to the task. Walk in grace. Speak with love. Act in kindness. For He who is all of those things, rises in our hearts to bring all these good things, through us, to our needy world around us.

Happy New Year my Beloveds.  
Together let us have Hope Anew.



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

What a lovely Christmas time we had, enjoying the fellowship of our dear friends and families after several years when being together was not possible. We so enjoyed our Christmas eve candlelight service, Christmas day meal with some of Dan's family, and a special weekend visit with one of my dearest friends on this earth. Oh! My heart is FULL. Looking forward to 2023. Happy New Year to all!

## Best Foot Forward



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

There is a lot that can be said about stepping into a brand new year. For some it simply means a date change on the calendar and it really is no big deal. With Scriptures that declare: "My times are in Your hand" Psalms 31:15 and others brings hope for a fresh start as each new calendar year proves another opportunity to walk in the plans and purposes of God - only this time applying the lessons learned to new challenges and opportunities that are now before us.

For others stepping into a brand new year requires breaking free from one's comfort zones that were created in the former year. This is necessary for any type of annual renewal to occur. We go from glory to glory, from strength to strength and from faith to faith.

For Debbie and I and for Firstlight, we are putting our *best foot forward* towards a future [in God] that is filled with potential and promise. Join us each month as the journey continues in 2023.

## Phuket Outreaches ...

Over Christmas there were plenty of opportunities to share about Christ in many places throughout Thailand. It is the time of year when believers of all ages find a *boldness* to share with their families and friends the true meaning of Christmas, of Who Jesus is and why He came to earth!

The Rapha Ministries Church in Phuket, were in the streets of several communities sharing the "Good News" that a Savior has been born which is Christ the Lord!



## Kingdom Advance Partnerships ...



Meeting up again with Pastor Nott (*to the right*) this time back in Thailand, was filled with rewarding moments and renewed friendship. We were able to catch up with all that the Lord is doing in both of our lives, our families and what we are hoping to accomplish as we continue to walk together.

Pastor Nott leads a network of Thai churches in rural settings in different parts of the country. We are asking God to give His thoughts on how we can best serve these churches in 2023 and beyond!

## Prayer Points

"In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all — the most important place on earth."

Micah 4:1 NLT

**Timing is everything!**

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