



## April 2023 News

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Look for us:



# Son Rise

**“He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. ”**

**Matthew 28:6 NASB**

“He is not here” are four of the most glorious words in the entire New Testament. They were spoken to a small group of women, faithful friends who had not abandoned Him like the others during His tortuous crucifixion and death. They rose before dawn to go and anoint their beloved Teacher’s body, to fulfill Jewish tradition. They braved facing any Roman guards to come and minister to his dead body.

“He is not here.” Imagine the confusion, turning to fear, turning to...what? They fell to the ground in front of beings whose clothes shone brighter than the sun. “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” The angels asked them.

Turning to...joy. Glorious, radiant joy. Joy brighter and louder and more life changing than anything that had happened leading to this moment in their lives. They had seen Jesus heal the sick, had seen Him raise the dead. He had fed multitudes. But when it came His time to need deliverance, to be rescued from the cruel lash, be saved from the humiliation of being stripped naked and hung on a cross, there was no deliverance. He who was the very definition of Power and Life became at once humble and obedient, even to death on a cross.

This was the darkest night of their collective souls. They mourned what they could not prevent. They grieved what they could not keep. Now, this

joyful revelation of Christ’s resurrection filled them with joy unspeakable.

Later He would appear to them and to the others. In Corinthians Paul writes that Christ appeared to over 500 men and women after His resurrection from the dead. At the time Paul wrote those words, he said that most of those people were still living!

Beloved. The very center of the heart of the gospel is this most important event, both cosmically and spiritually and historically in the history of humanity. Jesus Christ, who was crucified and died, has risen from the dead. He is a Risen Savior. He is alive forevermore!

Through His death He conquered sin. By His resurrection He conquered death, which He called, ‘the last enemy.’ This is such amazing good news.

For the resurrection of Jesus Christ is, indeed, the Son Rise of our souls. The call to life of every living breathing soul who has ever lived. Love was nailed to the cross on that Good Friday millennia ago. Life, and life more abundantly walked out of that Tomb on that first Easter morning. He is risen! He is risen, indeed!



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

This time of year we look forward to the glorious blooming of the two huge trees in our front yard. They are magnolias and the blossoms are gorgeous pink and white, literally covering the entire yard like a canopy. We also celebrate Josiah's birthday in the spring...32 years terrific he is. He is happy and healthy and blessed in Seattle. We are so grateful for all of our blessings.

## Trust the process



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

How many times in life have we heard that phrase: "Trust the process"? I used to think that phrase was meant for those who were so clear of their destination of where they were going that the whole idea of "the process" of how they got there really didn't matter.

For some, as long as the destination was clear the idea of "the process" isn't that important to them. However, some may fail to see is that the whole idea of "the process" is equally important as the destination of where you are headed and in some cases even more so.

This phrase is often times used when you are going through something that you know is right or that you are being led in a certain way but because of some of the twists and turns of life [for a multitude of reasons] you are not so sure.

That's when it's time to "trust the process." You see, who we become in "the process" on the way to our destination is determined by the One we are beholding along the way. (\* See II Cor 3:18; Rom 8:29; II Cor 4:17-18)

## Towards a Brighter Future ...

Every month throughout the year children like these from fatherless homes are being reached in Thailand, through a support and care ministry project of Firstlight called *Families Without Fathers (FWF)*.

School fees and related supplies are being provided for every child involved in the program. Some families receive a monthly care package of breakfast food items and hygiene supplies.

In Christ, their future is bright! Weekly visits to homes and areas schools are taking place through a partnership with Thai churches.



## Project REAP in Thailand ...

Project REAP *Regional Educational Assistance Program* continues to provide financial scholarships to assist collage age students pursue a wide range of educational opportunities in selected areas around the country. Most of which have come through our *Families Without Fathers (FWF)* initiative and have transitioned into REAP as they seek to enter university, collage and technical schools.

In 2023 another 10 students like these will advance in their education through Project REAP.



## Prayer Points

“For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”  
Jeremiah 29:11NASB

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 2nd 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!

### Follow His Lead!