



May 2023 News

**In This Issue:**

**\* Ministry News:**

Top Stories ..... pg.2

**\* Features:**

Article - Higher Power .....pg.1

Article - Teaching ..... pg.2

Article - Family News ..... pg.2

Item - Prayer Points ..... pg.2

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Look for us:



# Higher Power

**“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”**

**Acts 2:4 NKJV**

It was the dawn of what historians now call the ‘Christian Era.’ (CE). Formerly known as AD or Anno Domini. (In the year of our Lord.) Such terms should give us pause. For history, as we knew it, hinged on a small slice of time, hardly an entire lifetime. 33 years. And written history became researched and annotated from One Life. One Life, that would be, as promised, poured out upon ALL flesh. Upon ALL people. Every tribe. Every kindred. Every tongue. Every people.

Just as the prophets foretold:

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit upon all people. Your sons AND your daughters shall prophecy.” Joel 2:28/ Acts 2: 17.

From our standpoint, from those who choose to call ourselves by His name, His life is the all defining moment in our lives. “And when the day of Pentecost had FULLY come...”. This word: fully, means as if a boat is about to be swamped. One other place where Luke used it in his gospel was when the disciples were in a boat during a storm, and the boat become full to the point of being swamped. Taken under.

This is how that Day of Pentecost, that first infilling day, was described by Luke. When the day had FULLY come. Because they were ready. They were at the tipping point of

history. But in order for them to be able to complete the task their beloved Jesus had given them, they first needed to be filled. Swamped. Overflowing.

“For you shall receive POWER after the Holy Spirit has come upon you...”. Acts 1:8. This was the promise Christ made Himself to His disciples before He ascended to heaven. For He knew, better than anyone, that these folks were going to need a HIGHER power to do the works of God in their generation.

Another important point is that they were in one accord. The word here means to be of one mind.. Unity. No tears in the fabric of their fellowship. They were of one heart, one mind, one spirit. And then, the fullness of the Spirit came and filled them up, swamped their boats. Filled their lives and poured out on all those around them.

Which is why, beloved, you and I can sit in whatever church we attend, in whatever country and whatever denomination and language....and celebrate the day of Pentecost. The day when God came by His Spirit and filled every hungry heart.

And He still is. Lord!! We need Your Higher Power!



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

This month Dan and I will celebrate 36 years of marriage. What a wonderful journey it has been! And by God's grace, we can say that love is not only still present, but growing deeper and brighter. And, OH. The laughing. So many things strike us as funny these days and the laughter comes and fills us with JOY. We are so grateful to God for this wonderful gift of our marriage.

## Opportune times



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

How many of you have heard it said: "Opportunities of a life time only last as long as the life time of the opportunity" - Author unknown.

Although the originator of this phrase may be unknown to some it serves as a motivator for each of us to start to pay attention to certain events as they unfold in our lives and begin to recognize them as opportune times that need to be seized or taken advantage of as they appear or are presented.

The premise here suggests that moments like these seem to have an expiration date attached to it that can be missed or miss interpreted.

Jacob, awakened from a dream (*having seen a ladder extending from earth to heaven with angels ascending and descending on it*) concluded that Lord is in this place and I did not know it. (See Gen 28:16)

God who is at work in us through Christ by the Spirit brings moments like these into our lives in order for us to recognize them for what they are. (See Eph 2:10; I Cor 2:9-10; John 16:12-14)

## Sunday Services in Phu Ket ...



Every Sunday throughout the year worship services like these are taking place. The *Rapha Ministries Church* in Phu Ket, Thailand is bringing Christ to many across the city. Weekly outreaches to several surrounding areas are taking place in selected areas. Children, youth and young adults in each of these communities are hearing about Jesus.

This month begins a "One Day In Personal Training" on leadership and spiritual formation. Something fresh is happening in Phu Ket!

## Global Training Platforms



Next month begins another academic year for the Emmanuel Theological Seminary (ETS) in Kalaymyo, Myanmar. Another 30 first year students are being enrolled. PTL! We are renewing our commitments to serve this university for another year. Our role as academic advisers and trainers will enable us to teach regular classes from a wide range of subjects and academic needs.

This month we will offer a three day intensive training to school staff and lecturers on lesson planning and course development.

## Prayer Points

"It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will listen."  
Isaiah 65:24 NASB

### His Ears Are Open!

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!