



June 2023 News

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Look for us:



Faithful

**“ Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will do it.”
I Thessalonians 5:24 NASB**

I celebrate this month a most sacred anniversary. For it was 40 years ago this month that I graduated from the Dayspring Christian Bible School. At age 25, I stepped out into this great big world and turned my face to the nations.

40 years of planes, trains, busses, auto rickshaws, and tuk-tuks. Trucks, long boats, and jeepneys. And walking and walking and walking endless miles on dust covered paths as well as concrete sidewalks. 40 years of sights and sounds and smells and tastes far removed from home.

The beauty and majesty of the North Sea and the Taj Mahal, the Himalayas and the mountains of Hong Kong. The beauty of both the tribal peoples and their culture of open hearts and hospitality. SO different from our private dwellings and inward-gaze culture.

Open faces. Open hearts. Food shared with me on a bus into the mountains by a family with only rubber flip flops for shoes, because they saw that I traveled alone and had no food on me. Huts on stilts open for me to share with them, sleeping on teakwood floors gleaming from coconut oil. The smells as I drift off to sleep reminding me of my Coppertone covered childhood.

40 years of never being turned away. Never missing a meal unless I chose

that in a time of fasting. Never sleeping in the open, unless I chose that for the sake of the gospel. 40 years of rides when I needed them. Phones when I needed them. Friends every where I turned, over and over and over again. SO many precious friends.

40 years of His Presence going with me every single place I went, whether traveling by myself or in the company of a beautiful man of God who loved me, and a son who has his smile. For just as was written in the scriptures: “And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them...”. Mark 16:20a.

40 years of knowing the faithfulness of a God who had promised me that if I trusted Him with all of my heart, and did not lean on my own understanding; if I acknowledged Him in all my ways, then He would make my path straight.

And He has. And He did, Over and over again He has been faithful. Thank You, Lord Jesus. And thanks to the many dear friends who have loved me, cared for me, prayed for me and our little family these many, many years. You have been a part of all that my life has touched. May God richly bless you.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

This past month Dan and I also celebrated 36 years of marriage. What a blessing to walk through this life with someone who holds the same love, the same call, the same purpose. And who loves me with all of his heart, as I do him. We are blessed, grateful and cared for. Looking forward to the years ahead, looking toward Jesus together. Always.

Blessed is she ...



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

I want to take this moment to honor a faithful follower of Christ, my wife Deborah Graham Ecker as she celebrates 40 years in ministry this month. She is the one person in my world for nearly four decades now who has impacted me the most. I could not be the person I am today without her example of what it looks like to follow Jesus no matter what! She has given me [and so many others] the example of proving God's incredible faithfulness against all odds time and time again. Her ability to trust the Lord through some of the most challenging times in our lives has been life to me. Withholding nothing she is always the first one to say "yes Lord" to anything the Lord has asked us to do no matter how ridiculous to our flesh it may seem or how costly it has been.

And so I honor you, Debbie Graham Ecker for who you are as a person, a lover of God, a follower of Christ, a historian, and a fisher of men! Thank you for carrying the cause of Christ.

In the Land of My Call ... India ...

Every picture tells a story, and this picture reminds me of one of the most impactful relationships in 40 years of missions. My dear Lily Philip, wife of Pastor Philip, mother of 10 and a multitude of orphans over the years. Her life of devoted prayer, loving, joyful service to others was a standard I have carried in my heart since the first year I met her in 1983. Her love for Jesus and love for others left an imprint on my soul. My favorite memories were the hours I spent with her, just the two of us, praying and singing and laughing and laughing and laughing.



Laundry Day in the Philippines ...



So many places through the years where the Lord would send us/me, were places WAY off the grid. No bathrooms, no electricity, no running water. Camping, I would tell myself, we're just camping...lol. But honestly, now that I am a senior citizen I am so very grateful for the opportunity to meet people who live as our ancestors did, to get to know them, share in their lives, even for just a little while. To experience their community as one of their own circle and to receive their love. So very blessed!

Prayer Points

“Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the **the salvation of God**”

Psalm 50:23 KJV

Sing His praise!

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!