



October 2023 News

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Internal Shifts

“When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You, “Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.”

Psalms 27:8 NASB

While living in Thailand in 2014, Dan and I experienced 3 large earthquakes: a 5.8, a 6.0 and a 5.9 one right after the other in quick succession. It was during a time of prayer as we were seeking the Lord about moving our base back to Pittsburgh for the first time in decades. We felt we had heard the Lord on this, and were seeking confirmation.

I was on the couch playing my guitar, Dan was walking around the apartment. We were deep in worship, singing “Through It All” by Bethel Music which had captured our hearts and we had been singing it over the past few days. It begins like this:

“Grander earth has quaked before... moved by the sound of His voice, And the seas that are shaken and stirred, can be calmed and broken for my regard. Through it all, through it all, my eyes are on You. Through it all, it is well...”

Then, literally right as we were singing the words: “Grander earth has shaken before” for the umpteenth time, the floor of our 4th floor apartment became a moving sea. The couch I was on was suddenly turned into a raft undulating on water. Dan who was standing looked as if he had seen a ghost. It went on and on and on for

many minutes. When it finally ended, we ran to the internet and saw the epicenter was only a 35 minute drive away! Wow!

That moment was a turning point in our lives. We were so used to living our lives in Asia: the people, the land, the culture, that it took a true inward shift in our thinking to bring us to faith to believe God to make a way for us in this move. Somehow God used that earthquake to confirm to us that He was indeed speaking to us and that we needed to make a move.

Internal shifts occur when we find the grace to let go of what is known and comfortable, and turn towards a new and unknown way. It is also a change in our thinking. Sometimes we get bogged down in our everyday living and begin to sink into outdated or ungodly mindsets: “We have always done it this way.” or “Nothing can help. Nothing will ever change.”

We need a change in our thinking patterns, an actual internal shift in our focus so that we can be positioned for the next chapters the Lord is writing for us. As we keep our ears close to His heart He does what is necessary for us to move in the right direction.

Amen.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

My dear mother went to be with her Lord. At age 93 she was more than ready, and even looking forward to it with a happiness that was a great gift to us who loved her. She showed us the reality of heaven through her anticipation and her total lack of fear. She was laid to rest with love and tenderness by her family and our friends. We are so grateful to have had her.

Change is here ...



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

How many of you have ever heard it said that *change is here to stay*? It's one of those phrases in life that is used to explain that *change* is one of many constants in our lives. You can count on it - *change is here to stay!*

Using our critical thinking skills, if that is the case [*and our experiences say that it is*] the question then becomes what are we going to do about it when *change* does occur? Or in those moments in life when you recognize that a *change* is underway [*or about to occur*] how are we going to respond to it?

You can either deny or resist the *change* or embrace it and grow through it. The later is always the better choice. The lesson here is: *Change* is inevitable but *Growth* is optional.

In the light of the many *changes* that do occur in our lives there is also a superior constant - God never *changes!* Promising to be with us always and never to leave us nor forsake us. (See Mal 3:6; Heb 13:5&8)

Whatever the *change* embrace Him!

Care For Kingdom Families ...



Children and families like these from fatherless homes are being reached in six locations across Thailand, through projects like Families Without Fathers (FWF) and Project REAP (*Regional Education Assistance Program*).

Weekly visits to homes and area schools are taking place through a network of local Thai churches in each location.

Your prayers and financial giving to Firstlight each month is helping to provide school fees and related supplies to every child involved in both of these projects.

Kingdom Advance Partnerships ...



Across the globe the Lord is raising up the next generation of harvest workers. They are those who have hearkened unto the voice of the Lord to consecrate themselves for such a time as this.

This new breed of Christ followers may look and sound different. Often times appearing to be much younger than what one might think and in Thailand this is definitely the case.

Having watched the lives of those who have gone before them they are answering the call!

Prayer Points

“I love the Lord, because He hears My voice *and* my supplications.”

Psalms 116:1 NASB

We have an Advocate!

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 4th 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!