



November 2023 News

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Look for us:



Abundance

“But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house, At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.” Psalm 5:7 NASB

My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. Through the years we would prepare to open our home to friends, sharing the blessings of coming together to give thanks.

In Scotland we gathered the pastors and their wives to our table and they were perplexed by the holiday. “So, is this when you Yanks celebrate your independence, is it?” With laughter I assured them that in fact, it was pretty much the opposite. It was a day to acknowledge our utter dependence upon the Lord. His bounty, His blessing, His protection. His abundance.

In the Philippines one of the local farmers raised a turkey knowing we were to be with them. The local bakery owned by a member of the church was offered for me to prepare the feast. Before I could stop them, they had burnt the feathers off the bird, tribal style, which I knew would give the gravy a distinct burnt feathers flavor, (lol) but I was able to stop the food prep before the big bird was chopped into a million small pieces, stir fry style.

“NO!” I cried. “Keep it whole, I want to cook it with stuffing.” They looked at me with great skepticism. Many in the church would come, at least 35-40 people. If we were to keep the bird intact how to feed them all?

Because there was no pan large enough, I used an oversized stainless steel mixing bowl as my roasting pan. I chopped up bread and onions and garlic and herbs and vegetables and stuffed the bird, laid it on top of a mountain of carrots and onions and covered it with foil. It went into the large bakers oven set to 375. For 5 hours. I had an army peel and chop potatoes and chose the largest pots to boil them for mashed potatoes. I stuck sweet potatoes into the oven next to the turkey to roast.

When it was done, I took the burnt feather flavored drippings and made a large soup pot of gravy. A sister from the church arrived with a pumpkin pie, from a recipe she had from a relative in the US.

And, their eyes wide at the sight of such a HUGE un-chopped bird, they gathered, all thirty five men women and children to dine on the feast. And beloved. We experienced God’s great abundance! There was even food left over!

We pray this year that you and yours will know God’s rich blessing, and His abundance on your lives. Happy Thanksgiving and God bless you all.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

How we love the change of seasons. It refreshes our souls and reminds us of happy times in years gone by. This year we are especially happy to find ourselves home together at the same time for Thanksgiving (have been on different places or continents for a few of the past) and the blessing of gathering with family. May you all feel God's great love around your table.

To be like Christ



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

One of the promises we have as followers of Christ is to become like Jesus in thought, word and deed. Our internal world [*what is happening on the inside by the Spirit*] matches or reflects what is taking place or is being lived out on the outside so that our Christianity is both seen and heard. Paul says "For me to live is Christ" and "when Christ who is our life is revealed we will be revealed with Him in glory." (See Phil 1:21& Col 3:3. We are to walk in the same manner as He walked. (See I John 2:6)

As challenging as that this is at times, [*the desires of the flesh are real and are in opposition of a life in the Spirit, see Gal 5:16-25*] we soon learn that we cannot live His life without His life.

The lesson here is coming to terms with the fact that we have been crucified with Christ, "and it is no longer I that live but Christ who lives in me." (See Gal 2:20)

Becoming more like Christ requires allowing Him to do His work in us who believe. (See Phil 2:13; I Thes 2:13)

Global Training Platforms ...

Throughout this year we continue to offer teaching and training to the faculty and students of Emmanuel Theological Seminar (ETS) in Kalaymyo, Myanmar.

This was one of our teacher cohorts earlier this year. Each of these online trainings are designed to assist with course development, classroom delivery, spiritual gifting and impartation.

They are well into their subjects this year with great dependence upon the Lord as a good number of students are being trained.



Becoming a follower of Christ ...



We continue to serve the churches and ministries that the Lord has connected us to in Thailand, and in the region.

In each of these locations the Lord is bringing others to Himself through the faithful witness of churches that are meeting regularly in His name for worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching, training and more!

They are representing Christ by the Spirit in the cultures of the people that are being reached. One by one lives are changing!

Prayer Points

**“Seek the Lord while He may be found;
Call upon Him while He is near.” Isaiah 55:6**

Seek Him Now!

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 2024 and beyond! *projects, *people, *places, *increased funding!
4. For God to arise in all that we do!