



December 2023 News

Savior

“When I was brought low, He saved me.” Psalm 116:6b NIV

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Look for us:



There are two great ‘seasons’ which are celebrated by the church world wide. One is Lent, the six weeks leading up to Holy Week and the Passion of the Christ, leading to Easter. The other is Advent, a quiet, contemplative time ‘Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.’ (From *O Little Town of Bethlehem.*)

In this season, I find myself pondering two things. First, the ‘why?’ Why would the Heavenly Father allow His only Son to enter the world as a small, poor, vulnerable baby? Why would He not give him the protection of Kings’ palaces and royal guards, instead relying on the dreams and ability for those given His care to discern the Still, Small, Voice and obey it, to be the Holy Infant’s protection? How much faith, love, devotion to mankind did the Father show in the amazing Gift of His Son entering this world. He was sent to save us.

“Long lay the world, in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.” (From *O Holy Night.*)

Which brings me to the second thing I am pondering this year: That the very reason the Godhead decided to send the Savior into the world this way was to remind us that age after age, century after century, year after year, God does INDEED enter into our

world, and that intersectionality is part of His character of compassion towards not only we who believe, but indeed towards all mankind. All whom He created.

For we have NEVER not needed a Savior. Not even in the longest years of peacetime (*of which there are precious few in this strife torn world*) or in the greatest seasons of prosperity.

For though our hearts and flesh long for wealth and security for our well being, it is still the songs of the angels, and heralds of the prophets, the words of the preachers and the Still, Small, Voice from within that sees us, steadies us, holds us secure. It will be no other way.

Jesus told his followers, ‘In this world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer. For I have overcome the world!’ (See John 16:33) It is IN HIM that we find the victory, safety and peace for which our souls cry out.

Praise be to God for such a glorious Savior. The One who came to seek and save that which was lost and who takes away the sin of the WHOLE world. (See Luke 19:10; John 1:29)

Blessed be His name: Savior.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

Another holiday season is upon us! Our sweet Josiah is coming to be with us for a whole week! What a blessing! Also, this will be the first Christmas since the passing away of four of our beloved family: my brother, Ted, Dan's brother Chuck, our sis in law, Julie and my dear mother. We are so mindful of them and grateful for the love they poured into our lives. Thank You, Lord.

Christ has come



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

Its Christmas ya'll! That time of year when Christians from all of the world take time to celebrate the first Advent, *[the coming of the Lord]* who came to save us from our sins! (See Matt 1:21-23) Emmanuel - God with us! What an amazing thought!

I can remember my very first Christmas after giving my life to the Lord *[that was quite a long time ago]* walking through the shopping malls listening to all of the traditional Christmas carols being played over the sound system throughout the stores. Realizing for the first time at a heart-level the meaning of what those songs were all about. I was overwhelmed.

Even to this day I still get choked up when I realize the first time the "penny dropped" and I knew what those Christmas songs were all about. *"Oh come let us adore Him ..."*

Even through we are two thousand plus years into the future from the moment Christ was born, Jesus is the reason for the season and wise men still seek Him!

Outreaches in Northeast, Thailand



This past month we were in northeast Thailand, (Isaan) to conduct eye care screenings for evangelism with Dr. George Rooney, and His Servants Ministries (HSM).

This was our first eye care outreach since Covid 19 and it sure was good being back in those places again with the gospel.

800 plus received eye exams and reader glasses in four underserved districts of two major provinces in the north east region, of Thailand. More in 2024!

Kingdom Advance Partnerships

We continue to serve the Z Gen Network of Churches with their base of operations in Chonburi, Thailand. The wider Z Gen vision to move across the nation is starting to gain traction in selected areas with a good number of local Thai church leaders.

With a steady stream of conferences, seminars and workshops, the Lord is using each one to fan the flames of Holy Spirit guidance and apostolic breakthrough in each location.



Prayer Points

“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.” Luke 1:45 NASB

Have faith in God!

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!