



## March 2024 News

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#### Look for us:



# Soul Surrender

## “To You, Lord, I lift up my soul.” Psalm 25:1 NASB

We are in the Lenten season again, a time of introspection and soul searching. A time of prayer and repentance. A time of healing and restoration. A time to take hold of that beloved promise in Psalm 23: “He restores my soul.”

In this age, words that we did not use even a decade ago are immediately seen and understood; even nearly universally experienced. Words like, ‘triggered,’ and ‘trauma’, “abuse” and “me, too.” Make no mistake, beloved, there is an onslaught against the soul of humanity going on like unto nothing I have experienced in my nearly seven decades of life and our need for the Lord in times likes is never been greater.

And so, amidst the struggle and strife, I find myself turning to the only One who can help me, and I lift my hands...in surrender. I surrender myself to the Shepherd and Guardian of my soul. I surrender my will to the One who stood resurrected in the garden and found Mary who was heartbroken and bereft at the death of her Lord. He found her in her most broken and heart crushed state and called her...by her name.

He knows my name.

I surrender my intellect to the One who is all wisdom. To the one Who

always encourages me to think and think and think again. But in these days of an overflowing of information, I yield my intellect and my mind to Him. For His ways are higher than my ways and His thoughts higher than my thoughts. I surrender my hopes and dreams, and all of my misunderstanding to the One who can make it all right. To the One who IS right.

He knows what to do.

And I surrender my emotions to the One who is the Prince of Peace and the Wonderful Counselor. My storm tossed soul is safe in His hands. He gives me a peace that the world cannot give me. It is a peace that passes my understanding and guards my heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

He is my Peace, He has broken down every wall.

Beloved, in this Lenten/Easter season, let us raise the flag of complete surrender to the glorious One, the Loving One who hung on a cross for our sins and brokenness, and who rose again victorious so that through Him, we could have peace, freedom from agony and hope for the future.

Jesus is alive. Oh, yes, indeed He is.



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

We are looking forward to an enjoyable Spring-Time season to emerge here in Pittsburgh. Hopefully, soon! Dan and I always look forward to spending Holy Week and Easter together when we slow down a bit to ponder and reflect upon what Christ has accomplished on the Cross. Wow! The price He paid for us to be free. He has risen indeed! Thank you Jesus!

## Seize the day ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

In moments like these in our current culture there seems to be an increase of the amount of information that we have access to and the speed in which it arrives is mind bogglingly making it harder to recognize the world that we all grew up in.

Some reports show that the volume of information that the average person in the 50's and 60's would be exposed to in a week [things like what is happening in the world] is the same amount today, that the average person receives in a day!

Wow! Talk about information overload! Not all of it is bad it's just makes it that much more difficult for each of us to element distractions, stay focussed on those things that matter most and seize the day - making the every opportunity. (See Eph 5:15-17)

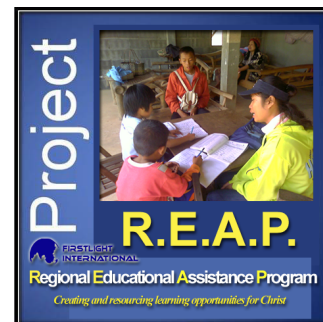
The whole idea of the Latin word "seize the day" carpe diem "enjoy the day", literally "pluck (or harvest) the day") implies more that just living for the near and now. In order for one to seize the day [to be successful] involves having a plan for tomorrow also.

## Care For Kingdom Families ...

Throughout this year we will continue to provide school fees and related supplies to children and young adults from fatherless homes in six locations across Thailand.

Through projects like Families Without Fathers (FWF) and REAP *Regional Education Assistants Program* Christ is being shared in the context of weekly visits to home and areas schools. We are grateful for a dedicated team of Thai churches and pastors in each location who have a agreed to pattern with us this year. A harvest is ripening!

A Support & Care Ministry Project of Firstlight International



## Current Happenings in Phuket ...

The reports of what the Lord is doing through Rapha Ministries Church in Phuket, Thailand are encouraging. We continue to hold services on Sundays for worship, teaching, prayer, fellowship and more!

Most other days particularly on Saturdays, there are regular outreaches taking place in several of the surrounding communities. Here is a recent baptism in the sea. A new life in Christ has begun!



## Prayer Points

**“And He will be the stability of your times, A wealth of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; The fear of the Lord is his treasure.” Isa. 33:6 NASB**

**Be still my soul!**

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 1st quarter of 2024.
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!