



FIRSTLIGHT INTERNATIONAL

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Follow Through

“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.” Col. 2:6-7 NAS

One of the things that happens during this time of year for many of us is that we may decide to make changes in a particular area of our lives as we start the new year. We may decide to lose weight, exercise more, quit a certain habit, or even to add a new skill. Maybe plans to save more money, take a vacation, or even a mission trip.

Many of us will decide to do things that help us in our Christian walk. Things like: reading through the Bible in one year; spending one hour with the Lord in prayer each day, or increasing our financial giving. Win three people to Christ this year. Lists like these are endless and we all have them.

As important as any one of these things are, the desire to complete these goals or commitments needs to be matched with a plan to follow through. Most New Year resolutions don't work. The reason is high expectations that never get met. We get discouraged and quit. It's one thing to decide to do something, to complete a goal if you will but it's another thing

to actually complete what you've set out to accomplish. Like most of us, we lack follow through. The same can be true in our daily walk with the Lord.

Change is inevitable - growth is optional. In other words, change is going to happen. The question is will we choose to grow along with that change or not. The choice is yours.

The above verse encourages us that just as we have received Jesus Christ as Lord, *(however long ago that was)*, so walk in Him. The follow through process is as such: firmly rooted, grounded, being built up in Him, and established in our faith and overflowing with gratitude.

As we attempt to move forward in 2014, let this be our follow through plan this year. It's the little things that we do on a daily basis that make the difference in lives. Follow through!



More inside



Dan Becker
President
Firstlight International

■ Making A Fresh Start

It's a new year all! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season. It was fun watching my grandkids get excited about snow, the Christmas holiday and having time off from school. Do you remember these carefree times as a child?

Jesus tells us to come to Him as a child. But as an adult, I often find this concept challenging. Regular prayer, raising my hands in worship, and spending time with godly friends

helps me to keep a childlike quality to my faith.

As this new year begins, please remember Dan and Debbie in your prayers daily. Without childlike faith and trust in Christ, the pressure of living and working in far off lands can be challenging. Be sure to pray for safety for Dan and Deb, continued boldness to share the Good News, and renewed trust in God for great things.

In 2014, would you commit with me to share Firstlight International with one or two of your friends? Purpose to be consistent and generous in your giving. And most importantly, ask the Lord to show you what part you can play in helping Firstlight's fulfill the Great Commission.

Thank you and may God bless you in 2014!



Jay Deems

Owner, Minnesota Rusco Inc.
Board Member
Firstlight International

■ Philippines Disaster Relief Report



Tens of thousands were without power, shelter, food and water.

On November 13, Firstlight International sent a small team of disaster relief workers from Thailand to purchase and deliver aid to the victims of typhoon Haiyan that swept through the region of the Philippines leaving tens of thousands without power, shelter, food and water. Thousands also lost their lives.

Our team of four arrived in central Philippines and were joined by three others, as we traveled to the northern end of the island of Cebu one week after the typhoon occurred. We joined with New Hope Baptist Church near Bogu city, to purchase and deliver aid to the thousands of typhoon victims in that area for ten days.

The outpouring of generosity, kindness, concern and prayer was overwhelming and gratefully received: **\$13,000.00 USD was raised from the U.S., Scotland and Korea for the Philippines disaster relief.**

To those of you who prayed and who gave financially,
Thank you!



Dan Ecker

President
Firstlight International

Top Stories ...

■ Eye Care Screenings for evangelism in Thailand with Dr. George Rooney - 60 plus came to Christ ...



Dr. Rooney screening eyes

During the course of 6 days, together with our Firstlight Area Teams in Thailand, hundreds of Thai people received free eye care screenings in multiple villages in two major provinces where Firstlight is planting churches. These types of outreaches are taking place annually with Dr. George Rooney from His Servants Ministries, (HSM). 60 plus accepted Christ and lots of seeds were sown.

■ A Thai village leader asked to receive a Bible after hearing about Jesus - Pray for an open heart ...



Village leaders received Bibles

This is what it is all about! Thai people who do not know Jesus are hearing about Him - some for the very first time. And, they are eager to learn more. This is what took place at one eye care village outreach in Khon Kaen province. This Thai village leader after hearing about Christ, asked if he could have a Bible to learn more. Our team was blessed to share the Lord with him that day. Pray for this man to have a Christ Encounter!

■ The power of the printed page - gospel tracts were read by those who received their reader glasses

The Lord stands behind His word to perform it. Pray for the hundreds who received Bibles and gospel tracts during the six days of these outreaches in Thailand. Our goal now is to follow up on the 60 plus who have accepted Christ in each location to form new believer cells. We are thankful for the many seeds sown and for the lives of those who have decided to follow the Lord. We are glad to be a part of this amazing work.



Thai women reads gospel tract

■ Moving forward in 2014 ...

Off and running ...

We are beginning this New Year with our annual 21 days of prayer and fasting for 2014 and beyond. There is a lot at stake for the kingdom and we want to be sure that we have the Lord's heart for all that He wants to accomplish through Firstlight this year.

The annual Board of Directors meeting for Firstlight International will be held on January 9, 2014. We will use this time to review 2013 and to confirm budgets, projects and spending for 2014. The Lord has given us a great group of people who serve on the board and the annual meeting is an important time in all of our lives.

Once again, Thailand will be the primary country where Firstlight International will focus its efforts. Through projects like: Families Without Fathers (FWF), The Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand, Happy Life Radio, and the E-5 Project we will continue to advance the kingdom, plant more churches and reach more souls for Jesus. It is going to be an amazing year.

Plans are being formed to serve in places like: Laos, China and Burma also. 2014 has begun and we are off and running!



Dan Ecker

President
Firstlight International

Partnering for the Kingdom in 2014



November 2013 was filled with excitement. We were returning to Seka, Thailand to work in the local hospital providing free eye care. God blessed us with two Laos ophthalmologists to join our team. Providing a medical benefit for free is huge in areas where the closest provider is nearly a four hour drive away. These benefits pale in comparison to receiving the greatest gift ever, that of accepting Christ as Savior. Many have never heard of Jesus nor His sacrificial gift of eternal life rather than suffering eternal death.

We then spent the remainder of the week in the Nong Bua Lam Phu province providing the same free eye

care but in non-medical settings. God opened the doors of heaven as nearly 70 gave their life to Christ as first time decisions. What is a lost soul worth?... Christ's sacrificial death on the cross. But praise God He rose from the dead and now is our eternal mediator, Savior, Lord and King.

There were several times when the teams from Firstlight Fellowship Churches rather than assisting in providing eye care were sharing their faith in Christ. At times we "ran out" of those available to talk to those God had prepared to accept His free gift of eternal life. What a blessing. One of our faithful sisters named Pom said "I wasn't sure what to say at first but God gave me the words." The Holy Spirit used her and the other team member's obedience, and behold many new brothers and sisters were added to the family of God.

I enjoy seeing how mixing medicine with the gospel creates the perfect environment for drawing the otherwise disinterested person to an event where

they can hear God's truth. We will continue to look for new opportunities to serve in 2014. Dan will be joining a group from His Servants Ministries— Kentucky as we return to Laos in February 2014 and then again as we repeat the adventure in Thailand in November 2014. As we use these moments to share the precious gift of Christ's redeeming grace in SE Asia, will you consider joining with us in prayer, in person and or in financial support?

Partnering Together for His Glory,
George Rooney, OD



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" Eph 1:3

■ This month's Prayer Points ...

- 1. Holy Spirit direction, anointing and refreshing as we start the New Year.**
- 2. Ordained plans, guided steps, and confirmed decisions in all things.**
- 3. For God's FULL provision for Firstlight International during this 1st quarter of 2014.**
- 4. Divine favor in all places where Firstlight is working.**

■ On a personal note ...

2013 has been an amazing year...filled with countries, (Thailand, China, Laos, India, the Philippines, and the US), faces, (family, friends, and so many YOUNG people....whooo hooo!). It has also held times of the deeply impacting Presence of God....covering, overshadowing, healing, energizing and directing our prayers and our footsteps. As we look out on 2014, we are once again reminded of the words of Jesus....'Look out on the fields...they are white and ready for harvest...pray then to the Lord of the Harvest...the HE WOULD SEND FORTH LABORERS....' Lord. We pray that you would send, send, send....until the whole earth knows that You came to save them...until Your presence is known in every corner of the globe....that every man, woman boy and girl would have a chance to hear the GOOD NEWS...Lord. Send me. I will go.....



Debbie Ecker

Vice President
Firstlight International