



**FIRSTLIGHT
INTERNATIONAL**

June 2014 News

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Look for us:



Seeds Of Hope

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Rom. 15:4

As each of us well know it is now early summer. The long hard winter is over and everything is finally green. The seeds that have been planted in the ground, are beginning to grow. Green is the color of life.

Farmers plant their seeds in the ground every year. They do this because they have hope that in the planting, there will be a reaping. Experience of previous harvests in years gone by teach them this. It is not something they wonder about. They just plant: Because they expect that a harvest of what is planted will come. That's how it works.

The same can be said in our walk with the Lord. He chooses to reveal himself to us through the scriptures. When we read His word, it is like seed that is being planted deeply in our hearts. Seeds of faith that one day will reap a harvest of righteousness in our lives. That is the hope that we have. It is not something we should wonder about. Years of walking with Him have taught us that this is true. We can expect a harvest when we plant the seeds of hope, by faith in His word, in our hearts.

It is the same in our efforts in the Kingdom of God. We sow seeds of prayers, financial aid, and time spent

into the lives of those that we are called to reach. Those lives would be like an unplowed field, if someone did not come along and plow in prayer, and plant the seeds of possibility into their lives. Even as the apostle Paul has said: *“I plant, Apollos waters but it's God that causes the growth.”* (I Cor. 3:6) When we sow into peoples lives, we sow into a future harvest.

This is what we see happening in our Families Without Fathers (FWF) project in Thailand. Children and families who's lives have been affected by a fatherless home are being reached by God's great love.

The FWF project begins its seventh year this month. Seven is the year of completion. The past and present sowing is bringing forth a wonderful harvest now, and in the days to come! God's purpose is coming forth and lives are being changed!

Thank you for sowing and reaping the seeds of hope with us.



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

The Nations Are Being Reached

I am blessed to be a small part of International ministries such as Firstlight and others. Over this past year I was part of two mission trips to Mexico, a trip to Nepal, China and one to the Burmese boarder with Chuck Lenhart of Frontier Harvest Ministries. It is wonderful to see these two ministries (Firstlight International & Frontier Harvest Ministries) and others working together to advance the Kingdom. And it that, the nations are being reached.

All the ministries I traveled with are well known to me through direct involvement. Whether it be praying for, financially supporting or being able to be part of a short term team.

The Lord has placed in my heart the desire to travel and most importantly to carry the Good News to places that I had only dreamed of. It didn't happen overnight, and was not until I was 48 years old to take my first mission trip to Mexico.

Most people ask if not knowing the language is a barrier to bringing the Gospel to the people. Interpreters and English being a second language in many countries helps greatly. But the language of love and the desire to serve in any way speaks volumes! In Thailand, and Laos, ministries like His Servants Ministries (HSM) and their eye care specialists together with Firstlight, are the hands and heart of our Lord,

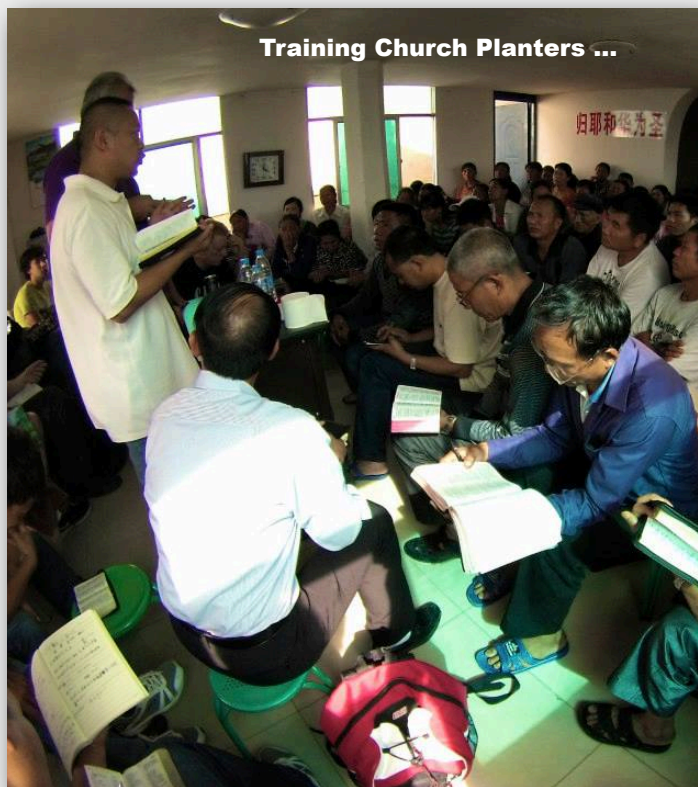
bring improved vision to many. In addition they boldly present the Gospel with scripture and testimonies.

Bringing our heart into alignment with the Lord's heart is all that is required to do His will and serve others as He did. Simply put, make yourself available and the Lord will supply the finances, the country and the people that only you have been prepared in advance to serve, you will be blessed!



BOB ROTH
Board Member
Firstlight International

The Power Of Church Planting



Training Church Planters ...

It has often been said that one of the most effective way to evangelize the lost is to plant a church. And as a church planter for the past fifteen years in Thailand, I would have to say I agree. Church planting is hard work. It takes: Time, money, people, recourses and more. In spite of countless numbers of set backs the key is never giving up. The rewards of finally breaking through are amazing. A church by definition is people - not buildings. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Not that buildings are not important but that's not the focus of our efforts. It's the lost being being saved and formed into a community of believers who know and follow Him. The Kingdom advances through the Church (*His people*) as they go and do the things that He did - and even greater things! (John 14:12) We church plant because we believe it works! Therefore, training others how to plant new churches among responsive people is at the core of everything we do in the places where we serve. Let's go plant another church!

Top Stories - *More are water baptized ...*

What a mighty God we serve! We have had some amazing moments with our Firstlight Fellowship Churches in the northeast region of Thailand. It is exciting to be a part of this amazing work!

Water baptisms like these have become a regular part of everyday church life and we are thankful to the Lord for the lives of those that are being changed. Recently, another two persons from the Seka church, and seven more from the church in Sawannakhuha decided to follow Jesus in the waters of baptism - an important step in their walk with the Lord. Please do take a moment to pray and rejoice with us for all that the Lord is doing through the work of Firstlight International in Thailand!



Top Stories - *Easter Celebrations ...*



A group of Thai believers returning home in the back of a pickup truck (*a Songtaew*) after enjoying a wonderful Easter celebration service with our Firstlight Fellowship Church in Seka, Thailand. A special moment side aside to Lift-Him-Up in worship and praise ... They are one happy bunch of people!

Also, in Suwannakhuha, the church there had amazing outreaches in the community during Easter weekend with special activities for the kids and adults alike - a tremendous testimony of our risen Lord who conquered the grave. The message is clear: Jesus - Is- Alive! The Lord's love was shared in a special way during these events. He-Is-Risen-Indeed!

Follow The Path No One Knew Was There

“Your road led through the sea, **your pathway** through the mighty waters **a pathway** no one knew was there!” Psalm 77:19 NLT

One of my mentors in the early days (*Mark Geppert*) taught that if I would give myself the Word of God and prayer, that the Lord would begin to reveal His plan for my life: A discipline that from day one, I took seriously and the Lord has proven Himself faithful for 29 years of full time Christian service on 5 continents and more than 20 countries.

If you haven't yet made that decision to read the word on a regular basis for direction in your Christian life, please allow me to encourage you

to do so. His word holds much promise and the Lord is waiting to meet you there ... give it a try ... you'll see ... it's never too late.

The above verse came up in my devotions recently from the One Year Bible NLT which has caused me to look again at the ways in which the Lord leads and directs our lives.

Notice the wording: (v. 19) **Your road ... Your pathway, .. a pathway** And in (v.20) **“You led your people along that road, like a flock”**

These verses pretty much jumped off the page that day! “How many times have I read that verse, and

never saw that?” I thought to myself. WOW!

It was God's intention to bring His people out of Egypt (the Red sea event) through a display of God's power (the sea parted, the Egyptians were swallowed up) and the Israelites were free (Promise.) This was brought about by the hands of Moses and Aaron (Leadership) along a pathway no one knew was there (Faith.) Follow His Way!



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

On A Personal Note



Today I sat in a local café here in Chiang Mai, and was blessed to meet up with several friends from various parts of our years here. I am amazed at how much a part of the fabric of this place we are. When Josiah was in middle school, he would get very stern with me in the grocery store: ‘Now, Mom... do NOT stop and talk to anyone!’. Oh how the years have flown by. And yet, by God's great mercy and in His plan, we are part of other fabrics in other places as well. Summer stands before us and we are mindful of how quickly the years pass by. I know they say it is a sign of age but I do wonder if time itself in acceleration mode? We are so looking forward to some special family times up ahead. I will be in South Bend for the last part of June, to celebrate my mom's 84th birthday. Dan will head out to Seattle to help Josiah move into a new place, as he prepares for his final few semesters in school. Hoping to visit some of supporting churches in Pennsylvania during this next time Stateside also. Dan will be back in China and Thailand in July - Thailand again in September and Myanmar in October. YIKES! Working together with you, we are busy and blessed! Thankful that the Lord orders our steps!



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Prayer Points

“Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me” John 11:41-42a

Please pray for:

1. Each of our FWF children and families in 6 locations.
2. All Firstlight projects, Area Teams & Churches: divine favor & lasting fruit.
3. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 2nd quarter of 2014.