

Recent water baptism



## July 2014 News

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Look for us:



## Worshipping Warriors

**“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Psalms 34:1 NAS**

We can never underestimate the power of praise. So much so, that many of the great victories in our lives depend upon it.

Often times because of the business of life, we can easily forget that you and I are in a spiritual battle. And that the things that we are up against in our personal lives, our family, job or the business of what is called ‘life’ and we are told that things just happen.

As much as that is true, it is also true that there are other factors involved that one must pay attention to. The Bible tells us that our enemies are with: the world, the flesh and the devil. (I John 2:15, Gal 5:17, & John 10:10.) Make no mistake about it. These verses and many others tell us that it’s a war! And given a chance, anyone of these three enemies will fight us every inch of the way and can keep us from pursuing God’s great plan for our lives - whatever that may be. I believe it was Joel Osteen that said: *“The enemy doesn’t fight you for where you are. He fights you for where you are going.”* This is certainly not a time for us to shrink back but to do our best to move forward in fighting the good fight of faith in every area of our lives. (I Tim 6:12) Jesus has won the battle. (John 19:30) It is finished!

Praise is one of the keys to breaking through the fog and the cloudiness of our daily fight. Praise helps us to

maintain a proper focus. We take our eyes off ourselves, off other people, and we place our focus on God. And by doing so, praise invites the Lord into our circumstances like nothing else can. It’s as if, through our praise, God Himself steps onto the scene and begins to take charge. Suddenly our mind is clear. Our confession changes. Joy is expressed and the Presence of God is released. Divine order is being established. Right here, right now.

One of the major themes in the life of David was an emphasis on prayer, praise, worship, and the presence of God. David is known as the Psalmist of Israel. The book of Psalms gives us an account of the things that David went through and how he dealt with them. In the midst of conquering giants, being chased by King Saul, killing Philistines, dealing with personal sin, family problems, overcoming attitudes in his own life, and leading a nation, David knew that praise was his only weapon that insured victory against his enemies.

Whatever battle you might be going through today, become a worshipping warrior and give God praise!



DAN ECKER  
President  
Firstlight International

## Thoughts About Prayer Big And Small

We often pray and look for answers to prayer. Answers for our needs both big and small. Issues of our hearts and minds. In our families and in our lives. Issues of health and direction, finance and wisdom. Prayers for many areas and we look and wait and hope for answers. We have heard messages on prayer and read many books about prayer. If we pray this way, or, if we pray that way, God will hear our prayers and move on our behalf. We bring two or three together, we go to altars and we look and we wait and we pray.

How many times do we pray to be an answer to prayer?

On a recent trip with Firstlight International and Frontier Harvest Ministries to Myanmar I experienced

this. One of our purposes was to visit different churches, preach the Word, and pray for people.

During the service in a small village church in Kalamyo, there was a time when people could stand and testify to what God was doing in their lives. There was a moment of silence and an elderly saint stood up. With much emotion she started to speak. As the translator worked, tears came to my eyes. She gave thanks to God that in her lifetime she was able to see missionaries come to her church. That we were the answer to a prayer she had been praying for decades and she was so thankful to the Lord and to us. I was in stunned silence and reverence to God to be part of this. Her praise brought a sense of humility to my heart and soul as well

as a new level of perspective to the ministry. It still continues.

Throughout our days, there are people who pray prayers that we can readily answer. Prayers for fellowship, prayers for compassion, prayers for understanding, prayers to know that they are not alone. Taking time to listen, to walk with someone a mile, to share a visit. These are very real needs that God is desiring for us to answer. We are His body; we are his people. Let us be His family to the world around us. Let us be His answers to the prayers of the world around us.



SCOTT GOURLEY  
Board Member  
Firstlight International

## New Believer Cells Are Being Planted In Khon Kaen, Thailand

Through the network of Firstlight Fellowship Churches in Thailand, we are adjusting our strategy to reach into rural areas in the province of Khon Kaen through weekly house church meetings. And so far, the strategy is working.

This church is being planted by Pastors Nalong and his wife Ruepaw. The church began three years ago with a good number of people coming to Christ - powerful conversions and many sick being healed. Testimonies like these continue to happen as these two preach the gospel, make disciples and plant new cells. It is a happening place to be! Our goal over the next six months is to expand into new locations for outreach to plant another five new cells.



DAN ECKER  
President  
Firstlight International





## Top Stories - *Weekly FWF Childrens Outreach ...*



This is exciting news! Recently, a weekly Families Without Fathers (FWF) childrens outreach was started with 20 children in the Firstlight Fellowship Church in Suwannakhuha, Thailand. The outreach runs from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon every Saturday. The kids are broken up into groups to learn guitar, keyboard, drums, Microsoft Word, Power Point and Excel. There is a short Bible lesson as well as other types of small group activities. 95% of these kids are Thai Buddhist. All of them have been affected in some way by a fatherless home. The potential for them to come to know Jesus is great! Along with the weekly visits to their homes and area schools, these Saturday outreaches will give them another opportunity experience the Father Above! ... His love for them is great!

## Top Stories - *Seka House Church Moments ...*



This is what church looks like for the believers in the Firstlight Fellowship Church in Seka, Thailand. They are meeting in homes throughout the week and for as many who can make it, they hold a weekly Sunday morning service. It is always a joy to be with them and the results of what is being accomplished are amazing.

Each of these members have come to Christ over the past seven years. Our going there has provided an opportunity for a church to be planted in their communities. Trainings like these have become a regular part of local church life. Cell groups and house churches (70 members) come together every month for special celebrations like these. To God be the glory!

## ThaiLights

Thank you for your prayers for all that Firstlight International is doing in Thailand this year. The projects and ministry platforms that are in place are bringing forth wonderful fruit in the places where we serve. We are blessed!

On Tuesday May 20th, Thailand underwent its 18th military coup d'état in its nation's history resulting in a military take over. The military junta has suspended the constitution until further reforms are made. This was due to the anti government demonstrations over the past six months in Bangkok, the military felt that they needed to step in to insure security, peace and order across the

country. Under Martial Law, an evening curfew has been put in place for most major cities in selected parts of the country. Although the curfew times have been adjusted in recent days, it is still in place and followed without question.

These types of military coups are not uncommon for Thailand. The last military coup happened in 2006. Since that time the country has been going through a time of redefining itself as a nation, of its politics and its form of democracy. As much as it is hard for us to understand, we must keep our focus on the Lord and on the people He has sent us to reach. I am convinced more than ever that the

Lord has a plan for Thailand and it is going to come to pass as He has intended it to be.

As I think about what is happening and about the future of Thailand, the following verse comes to mind: "I know that You can do all things, And that **no purpose of Yours** can be thwarted." Job 42:2

Let's pray God's perfect will over Thailand today!



DAN ECKER  
President  
Firstlight International

## On A Personal Note



As we have put our feet down once again, in the cool, green grass of western Pennsylvania, we are ever mindful of the Lord's goodness and protection over our lives. Over the past few months, we have experienced an earthquake, a coup with the accompanying martial law, and, for those who know that our son, Josiah goes to Seattle Pacific University, we have had the shock...the relief...then sadness of the school shooting that took place on that campus on June 5th. Oh! Poor Dan says he never wants to relive those moments after hearing about the shooting via text from a friend and the time when he was able to get a call through to Josiah's phone. As soon as Josiah picked up the phone he said: 'Dad! I'm fine!' He knew exactly the words his father needed to hear from him at that moment. And he IS fine, really, although he says it is a very sad and sobering time for the faculty and students of that fine school. Josiah is impressed, as are we, with how compassionate the school has been toward the students, as this tragic event happened right before finals week began. Dan was able to fly out and be with Josiah right before this letter was mailed. Hugs and kisses will abound. God is good!



DEBBIE ECKER  
Vice President  
Firstlight International

## Prayer Points

**"The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives."**  
Psalms 37:23 NLT

### Please pray for:

1. Pray for Thailand during this time of instability.
2. For Debbie and I as we return stateside: Time with family and supporting churches
3. For our Firstlight Projects, Area Teams & Churches.
4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during the 3rd quarter of 2014.