

**Photo: The Firstlight Fellowship
Church Seka, Thailand.**



October 2014 News

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

Top Stories pg.2,3
ThaiLights pg.4

* Features:

Article - Daily Breadpg.1
Article - Board Member pg.2
Article - On A Personal Note .. pg.4
Item - Prayer Points pg.4

Donations:

Online via PayPal
www.firstlightinternational.net

By Mail, payable to:

Firstlight International
P.O. Box 252
Springdale, PA 15144-0252

As a registered public charity 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation, all financial contributions are U.S. tax deductible by making checks payable to Firstlight International.

Contact:

www.firstlightinternational.net

Tel: 724.254.6145

E-mail: helloeckers@gmail.com

Look for us:



Daily Bread

“But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:4 NAS

Bread is the substance of life. It is seen in our culture and our customs. When we work, we are ‘making bread.’ When we share fellowship over food, we are ‘breaking bread.’ Jesus referred to Himself as the Bread of Life, and promised that if we came to Him we would no longer hunger. Jesus taught His disciples to pray: Our Father... give us, THIS DAY, our daily bread.

When the children of Israel gathered manna in the desert, they were told to ONLY gather what was needed for the day. Some of them were disobedient, and gathered for the next day, as well. Their surplus became wormy and putrid. Why? Because, God knew that it would be necessary for us to come to Him daily for bread, our fresh word, from His heart.

By reading the scriptures, we learn so much about God. We learn how He thinks, how He works. We learn of His ways, and this His ways are higher than our ways. We learn what His will is and what He wants from us.

There will be times in our lives that we face things that are hard. Situations where there is no win. Life changes that frighten us to our very core.

Losses that threaten to completely undo us. Then our hearts cry out: Lord! Give us, THIS DAY, our daily bread. In answer, God sends His

manna, His word of life for that moment, for that challenge, for that situation. BY HIS SPIRIT He breathes that word into our hearts; and, when we receive this Manna from heaven, we are changed. By that word, faith arises. Confidence that we are not facing our challenges alone fills our being. We are no longer broken; but empowered. Empowered to face ANY Goliath that may be attempting to undo us. We are empowered to do the impossible, to go forward when there is no way forward.

This is the miracle of Manna from heaven. This is the mystery of Christ in us. This is the miracle of His word alive and living and active in our hearts. The word spoken, by God, to our hearts, by His spirit. And this is why Jesus taught us to look to Heaven and pray: Give us, this day, our daily bread.

Jesus is the living bread that comes down out of Heaven and gives life unto the world. And He is the One who brings His Word like fresh bread to us each day!



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Going For God: *Our daily pursuit of Him*

My body is not as flexible as it used to be. I see little children squat and stand effortlessly, bend and twist in all directions, and do endless somersaults and cartwheels as they play, and I wonder if I was ever that malleable. It takes more effort to do things that once came easily to me. Sadly, the news is not good. My golf swing will get shorter and my shoehorn longer. As we age our joints wear down, muscles tighten, and bones become more brittle.

Similarly, our faith can become more brittle as we grow older. We take fewer risks, embrace less change, and tend to live in the past. Our steps of faith turn into shuffles rather than leaps. This tendency is not limited to chronological age, however. I know many older believers who are young in faith and

young believers who suffer early-onset spiritual arthritis.

When questioned about why his disciples were not fasting as often as John's disciples, Jesus answered using two metaphors. A new patch sewn into an old garment will pull away from the old garment causing a greater tear, and new wine poured into old wineskins will cause the old wineskins to burst (Matthew 9:16-17). His point? God is doing something new and it will do you well to flex your faith to embrace it.

At every stage of life God is challenges us to flex our faith. Throughout scripture, from Abraham to Acts to Revelation, God calls his people to believe him for more. Paul's personal theme and constant encouragement to the early church was "forget the things that

are behind and strain toward what is ahead (Philippians 3:13)."

A.W. Tozer's book, *The Pursuit of God*. This classic of Christian book said this: "To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love."

I am inspired to be part of a ministry like Firstlight International with leaders like Dan and Debbie Ecker who are "straining toward what is ahead" as much as ever!

Flexing (my faith, that is),



BILL ELLIS
Lead Pastor
Riverside Com. Church
Board Member
Firstlight International

Ministry News

Top Stories: *A decision to follow Christ*



This is happening in Thailand! A decision to follow Christ was made by a Thai girl during a recent visit with our Firstlight Fellowship Church in Nong Bua Lam Phu, Thailand. She now is in a much better place to discover God's great plan for her life. Through faith in Christ her sins have been forgiven and she now has eternal life with him. An exciting moment in the life of the church there also.

The worship that day was amazing. It didn't take much effort from the worship team to bring us into the presence of God through worship, prayer and singing. Testimonies were given by a few members which set the tone for what was about to take place. Everyone was ready to give God praise.

For this young girl she now has a common experience shared by all of us that day: To know the love of our Heavenly Father through his Son Jesus Christ and to be born again by his Holy Spirit. As an invitation was given to receive Christ she came forward and asked the Lord into her life. **PTL!** This is what Firstlight is all about.

Top Stories: *God cares for kids*



These three are part of our Families Without Fathers project (FWF) this year. They and 75 others are receiving weekly visits to their homes and or area schools in six locations this year. School fees and related supplies are being provided for each child involved in the program once in April / May, and once in October. Each one has been affected in some way by a fatherless home. Through FWF, we are reaching them with the Gospel.

These kids in particular are from the Suwannakhuha area in northeast Thailand. The FWF project is giving them an opportunity to learn about Jesus and God's great love for them. During a Saturday morning outreach these and many others our learning how to put God *first* in their lives. Little by little progress is being made.

Recently 13 of these kids joined with 15 others FWF kids from from our Seka work and attended and ISERVE concert in Udon Thani, Thailand. For most of them, this would have been the first time they would have experienced anything like this. A life-changing moment!

Top Stories: *The Unstoppables*



These are those who are sharing Christ regularly in Thailand. As part of the Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand, we are becoming more intentional about training and releasing others to share their faith.

In 2014 we set a goal to hold quarterly evangelistic outreaches in each location where Firstlight is planting churches. Hundreds of tracts and Bibles are being distributed in local Thai communities in the region. Next up are the Seka, and the Khon Kaen areas later this year.

When small teams like these go out they are prayed up, filled up, bold, and excited to share Christ with their neighbors, family and friends. Often times those they have come in contact with are invited to attend a church service in their area. In one location the following Sunday after one of these outreaches took place, we experienced over 15 new people attend a service and 9 of them gave their lives to Christ that day! PTL!

Please join us in daily prayer as Christ is being shared in Thailand through the work of Firstlight. We are blessed by your partnership in so many ways. You, too, have a part in all that is taking place. *Thank you!*

ThaiLights: *A strategic time to pray!*

Beginning this month Debbie and I would like to ask you to pray for us and for the nation of Thailand. The country is at a critical place the nations history and more prayer is needed as we press on in the work.

With the help of our Firstlight area teams and Area churches together we are bringing the light and love of Jesus into rural areas across Thailand that have very little or no gospel witness in their communities. And as a result we are seeing



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

souls saved, disciples made, and new churches are being planted among response people. It is a strategic time to pray!

Over the next 90 days, we are in a good place to see a lot accomplished for the kingdom. * 2nd Thai school term beings for our FWF project - 75 plus children being reach this year in 6 locations. * 20 more more are being added in the Khon Kaen area as the project expands there this month. *E5 Project with Tony Foster and Nott beings in 56 villages in northern Thailand. * 150 alumni students trained in Myanmar and more later this year. Join us as we seek to finish strong in 2014 and beyond.



Featured Article

On A Personal Note



Hard to believe the Fall of the year is fully upon us! How we love this time of year and we hope to catch a bit of fall colors here and there, even though we will be traveling. September was a full to the brim month, I was able to spend some time with my folks in South Bend, as well as visit with a dear friend in the DC area. We had a lovely family celebration of Dan's mother's 81st birthday on September 14, just before Dan's trip to Thailand and Myanmar. Now, Dan finished up his time in Myanmar, and is hurrying back to da burgh for...of all things...JURY DUTY!! Well, it happens to us all, I suppose and it finally caught up to these old missionaries...lol. Josiah has just begun his final full semester at Seattle Pacific and we sure do covet your prayers for him as he studies and as he contemplates his next steps. He's looking to get into a good internship program this year. Pray! We are ever mindful in these seasons of our need, step by step, of the Word of life, Jesus, who is the Manna from on High. His daily bread is our portion and our cup. In Him we have our being and we are blessed. Thank you for your continued partnership in all that we do. Love to you all!



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Featured Item

Prayer Points

**“I love You, O Lord,
my strength.”**
Psalms 18:1 NAS

Please pray for:

- 1. Thailand: Powers of darkness broken. Repentance. Holy Spirit conviction. Souls saved. Strong Church.**
- 2. For Firstlight International: All Projects. People. Churches. Leaders. All members. Growth!**
- 3. For God's abundant provision during this last quarter of 2014.**