



November 2014 News

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Look for us:



For Such A Time As This!

“Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days — You would not believe if you were told.” Habakuk 1:5 NAS

We have said it before: We are living in incredible and unprecedented times. Communications from nearly every spot on the globe are available to us in an instant. Video of people's highest accomplishments and worst nightmares can be uploaded and shared with every other person on the planet minutes after it happens. We can get on a plane and get to those people within one day. One. Single. Day. NEVER has there been a time like this.

Never has this world been so connected, and yet, so divided. Fraught with opportunities to learn, to give, to love, to go, these are the days the prophets LONGED to see.

In a recent study done by the Center for the Study of Global Christianity, the top twenty countries in the earth where Christianity is growing the fastest are the most surprising. Nepal is number one, followed by China. After that is a long list of Muslim nations. You read that correctly! The Lord said, in the last days, I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh. He is keeping His word. Get excited!

In our most recent medical outreach in Thailand, we saw very nearly 200 people open their hearts and pray for

Jesus to touch them and to come into their lives. Dr. George Rooney who spearheads this effort with us said, 'I asked the Lord to give us hundreds of souls this year and He did. Next year I am going to ask for thousands.'

One thing I am sure of: our expectations in these days are not high enough. God is meeting every target we have prayed toward, and gone beyond. This is a season for us to press in for even MORE. To bring the power and presence of Jesus into every situation we are in. Reaching out to our loved ones that one more time. We need to look to Him, and expect MORE. He is waiting to do what we are asking.

This is a season that HE has orchestrated, to bring the world together almost living in the instant, side by side. This is HIS time. This is HIS season. Let us position ourselves and be ready to do His bidding.

For such a time as this.



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

The Harvest Is Ripe

It had been ten years since a famine drove her family from her beloved homeland and friends. Now Naomi found herself a widow, living in the midst of Moab, a pagan culture. Her husband and two sons had died there; her only family was two pagan daughter-in-laws, Ruth and Orpah.

In despair, she asked to be called by a new name, Mara, for “the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me”. Then came the good news: “the harvest is ripe” in my homeland; “the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread”. Ruth also heard the good news and said to Naomi, “your people shall be my people and your God my God”.

Three thousand years later Firstlight is delivering that same good

news to widows and orphans living in bitterness and hopelessness in faraway pagan lands. It is the message of a Kinsman-Redeemer who is offering a never-ending harvest to those who will believe in him.

The good news Firstlight brings is being carried out through projects that go by names of: The E5 Project, Families Without Fathers (FWF), Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand, REAP - Regional Education Assistance Project, evangelistic eye care and medical clinics.

Through each of these ministry platforms, The Lord of the Harvest has been so gracious to Firstlight; please pray about how you can get involved in supporting this great

outreach to Thailand, Laos, and adjacent lands - a region of the world where a large percentage of the un-evangelized peoples live. And in that region, the Lord has placed Firstlight and other like minded ministries in the middle of a mighty harvest ready to be reaped. More can be done with partners like you.

Our heart is to hear the nations say, “...and your God will be my God”.



KIRK (MAC) MCCABE
Board Member
Firstlight International

Inside Myanmar - An opportune time



I am always amazed how the Lord directs my steps. When I first went into Myanmar it was in 1997. Our team of three went in to prayer walk strategic places around the country: Rangoon, Mandalay, Pagon and the city of Phee to the west. By God's grace we led several to Christ and found a great door of effectual service.

Seventeen years later as a ministry we find ourselves being led by the Lord back into this amazing place with countless numbers of opportunities to teach, train, and to mobilize a network of Spirit filled Baptist churches in the region of Kalaymyo, and in Yangon to reach the unreached. Last month, I taught a group of 60 current and alumni students of the Emmanuel Theological Seminary in Kalaymyo. Next month we return for more training among these precious people. December 10-20th.



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

Top Stories - *More Thais are coming to Christ ...*

*** Reports on the eye care screenings last month in Thailand.** Our time in Thailand last month with Dr. George Rooney and His Servants Ministries (HSM) went well. In a total of eight days, over a 1000 people were screened in multiple villages in two main provinces where Firstlight is planting churches. **Close to 200 Thais come to Christ as a result of hearing of the good news of Jesus!** Several healings were reported in each location from those who were prayed for.

Now the process of discipleship begins. A strategy for follow up is in place and is being carried out by Pastors Nalong and Ruepawon from Khon Kaen and others from our Firstlight Area Team. The strategy involves home visits to confirm prayers prayed, blankets and Bible distribution. Pray!



Top Stories - *Reaching children & families ...*



*** Families Without Fathers (FWF) project this year.** We are thankful to the Lord for the tremendous opportunity that He has given us to reach children and families from fatherless homes. **This year 75 plus are being reached in six locations in Thailand.** Regular home visits are taking place where Christ is being shared. New cells are being planted among these families as they open their hearts to the Lord.

This month a second Thai school term begins in each location. Through the Lord's provision, we will add 21 new kids from a school in Khon Kaen.

FWF project budget for this second school term is \$5,000.00. Ask the Lord how you can help and send a special financial gift today!

Victory is mine when the battle is the Lord's

I have always enjoyed reading places in the Bible where you can find a synopsis of what took place in a particular person's life or history of a nation from one chapter or from a few short verses. In second Samuel chapter five, we find that all Israel came to David at Hebron to anoint him king over Israel. It says that David was 30 years old when he started - he reigned 40 years total: Seven years he reigned over Judah from Hebron, and 33 years over all of Israel and Judah from Jerusalem.

At Hebron, David is now in a new place in his leadership of a nation. The kingdom is no longer divided. They recognized David's ability to lead the troops even when he was under King Saul's leadership. They could see God's choice, and they anointed

him as their king. David makes a covenant with the elders of Israel and receives a new assignment from the Lord.

Shortly after this event David leads his army into battle and they captured the stronghold of Zion. David made that place (*the stronghold*) his home. He called it the city of David. A new anointing, a new assignment from God and a fortified place to live. This is now where David begins to lead from Jerusalem.

However as exciting as all of this sounds, events like these that take place in our lives do not go unchallenged. As soon as the Philistines heard that they had anointed David as king, it says that they mobilized their troops and fought against Israel. When

he heard of this attack, it says that David went down to the stronghold.

In a time of intense spiritual conflict David knew that the safest place for him to be was in the stronghold. It signifies a place of safety. A place of strength. A place to rethink our strategy as we plan our next move. This is where David lived!

Our stronghold is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Only in Him is our victory! Find your place [*your stronghold*] in Him today.

The victory is ours when the battle is the Lord's!



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

On A Personal Note



OH! How I love road trips with Danny. We are so good at this. It takes me right back to the early years when we drove everywhere. Talking for hours, singing, praying, laughing. Taking in the scenery as we go. So thankful to the Lord for sending us on a lovely road trip to Kentucky and Nashville, the fall colors were breathtaking and lovely to our eyes. It has been years since we have enjoyed them. We were also blessed to be with dear friends, Dr. George Rooney and HSM, as well as our dear friend of 36 years, Kevin Brockway in Nashville. Dan will also get a chance to head into those lovely woods for a few days with his bow. Praying that he comes out with another deer to fill our freezer for the coming winter. We are also blessed to have the opportunity to join our families for another Thanksgiving this year, between all the coming and going. It is precious to be near our parents in this season of their lives. They are happy to see us more often, as well. Josiah is busy, busy, busy in his last full semester at Seattle Pacific. We will NOT be able to see him at Thanksgiving, but look forward to our time together through the Christmas holidays.



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Prayer Points

“Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”
Jeremiah 33:3 NAS

Please pray for:

1. Follow up visits on those who came to Christ last month from the eye care outreaches.
2. FWF second Thai school term \$5,000 needed. * 21 new kids being added in Khon Kaen.
3. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 4th quarter of 2014.