



Lead On!

January 2015 News

“The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion.” Proverbs 28:1 NAS

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

- Top Stories pg.2, 3
- Travel Plans & Ministry Platforms .. pg.3
- ThaiLights pg.4

* Features:

- Article - Lead On pg.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:



Since becoming a follower of Christ close to thirty years ago, I have enjoyed reading books. Not just any book but particularly books that pertain to: Leadership, Prayer, Faith, Discipleship, Missions and Church Planting. Up until that point, I never knew books like this even existed! As a new believer, my world had just opened up to life long study of the scriptures in a pursuit of knowing God’s plan and purpose for my life. Reading good Christian books from authors like: Dick Eastman, Ken Blanchard, Deitrich Bonhoffer, E.M. Bounds, Kenneth Hagan, and Leroy Eimes are just a few that the Lord used to shape my Christian world view - convictions that I still hold to, even to this present day.

One of books that impacted me the most in the early days was a book entitled: ‘Lead On’ by John Haggai. The book teaches the importance of having a vision, mission, goal setting and staying power. This book came into my life at the right time. Even though I wasn’t sure of all the details, it started me on a journey of discovery by asking the right questions about where I wanted to go in life, and how (by God’s leading) I intended to get there. A discipline everyone who intends to make a difference in the world needs to have.

Here we are thirty years down the road, and the journey of discovery continues. We know that the Lord’s plans for us in 2015 are great and as President of Firstlight International, it is my role to help us to understand where we are going,

choosing the right path, and setting the pace. With the help of our Board, our Firstlight Area Teams in Thailand, and through the prayers and financial giving of a great team of dedicated people, we can accomplish much for the kingdom this year.

- **Grow the network of Churches in Thailand - 3 potential new churches.**
- **Expand Families Without Fathers (FWF) to reach 100 kids.**
- **Open two branch offices of Firstlight Foundation in Thailand: in Phuket & in Khon Kaen.**
- **Extend training to national Christian workers in: China, Laos, Myanmar & Thailand.**
- **Grow our prayer and financial support base in the U.S.**

Having a vision is one thing. It’s another thing to see that vision come to pass. Our success can be found in the things that we do on a daily basis. Through prayer, daily Bible reading, giving, faith, Holy Spirit leading, and in partnership with people like you, we are making some bold steps this year and we are trusting the Lord to see us through every step of the way. Jesus ... *Lead On!*



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International



Another Nine Are Water Baptized!

With the help of Pastors Narong and Ruepaw from Khon Kaen, Thailand new believers are being followed up on in two main provinces where Firstlight is planting churches. These are those who came to Christ during eye care screenings for evangelism with Dr. George Rooney, His Servants Ministries (HSM) in September of 2014.

We have been working in the Seka district of Buangan province for the past six years. The Lord is raising up a Thai congregation of 70 plus members in the region. Another nine were water baptized. PTL!

Through this follow up process, the potential for planting three new house churches in the Seka district is great. Around 50 plus are gathering to learn more about Jesus on a monthly basis. Each time they gather, the word is taught, prayer is offered, and testimonies are shared. Raw grass roots church planting kind of stuff!

A cluster of new cells are being planted in Khon Kaen, Thailand as the process of follow up continues there also. Our follow up goals are: 100 new believers in Seka, 100 in Khong Pho, and 200 in Khon Kaen. Thankful to God for His word preaching preached among the unsaved in

Write The Vision



Since February 2014, the Lord has given Firstlight International and Frontier Harvest Ministries an opportunity to serve together in Myanmar (Burma) among the Zommi people group. This group is formally known as the Chin. Baptist missionaries took the gospel to them 200 years ago, and today this group is 99% evangelized.

Because of this it is their time to go and reach their whole nation for Christ. While there in February last year, we brought a strong challenge for the Zommi church to raise up and take their nation and people groups back for the Kingdom of God. On the last Sunday morning there was an alter call for Zommi Christians to give their lives to missions, and become national missionaries to their own people. There were over 300 people who answered the call, so December 2014 (*last month*) we have been invited back to begin equipping young Zommi missionaries to go and reap the harvest in their nation. We are calling this project, Zommi National Missionary Mobilization Myanmar, (ZNMMM).

Our goal is to equip and send 150 to 200 young Zommi Christians into the hi-ways and bi-ways of Myanmar. There are over 130 different ethnic tribal groups, and millions of Burmese who are all stuck and influenced by Buddhism.

Believe with us that God will set a missionary fire under the Zommi church. Pray and believe with FLI, and FHM that God would use us as those missionary sparks that will see a wave of God's harvesters raised up to blaze bright in Myanmar!



CHUCK LENHART
President
Frontier Harvest Ministries
Board Member
Firstlight International

A Support & Care Ministry Project of Firstlight International

FWF



Families Without Fathers



Reaching Children and Families

We are excited to follow through with the vision of Families Without Fathers (FWF) in 2015 and beyond.

FWF serves as a support and care ministry project of Firstlight International in Thailand. Through this project we are providing aid, encouragement and connection to over 80 children from fatherless homes in seven locations across Thailand. Weekly visits to homes and area schools are taking place in each location with school fees and related supplies are being provided twice a year. Once in April / May and once again in October.

2015 marks eight years of FWF in Thailand. Approx. 80% of these children have come to Christ, have been water baptized and are in church regularly.

Your prayers and financial giving to Firstlight is helping to reach them with the gospel. Please do all that you can in 2015. More are waiting to be reached!

... Ministry Platforms

◆ Projects & Ministry Platforms:

Firstlight International is committed to bringing fulfillment to the great commission through evangelism, discipleship and church planting. This is being done through a good number of projects and ministry platforms geared towards: Health, Education, Moral, Economics, and Community Development.

As Thailand continues to be a primary country where Firstlight is focused, projects like: Families Without Fathers (FWF), REAP: Regional Education Assistance Program, and The Firstlight Fellowship Church Network, we are bringing Christ into rural areas across Thailand that have very little or no gospel witness in their communities. New churches are being planted among responsive people.

◆ 1st & 2nd Quarter 2015 Travel Plans:

Plans are in place that will take us through the first and second quarters of 2015 with opportunities to serve in the following four countries:

China: First up is China February 4-9th. Chuck Lenhart (Frontier Harvest Ministries) and their national team along with I (Dan), will conduct training to close to 200 national workers for evangelism and church planting.

Thailand: February 9-14th. Working with our Firstlight Fellowship Church Network, and partner ministries in the north, northeast of Thailand. Families Without Fathers (FWF) Family Camp March 31-April 5th.

Myanmar: February 15-20th we will be in Kalaymayo, Myanmar to participate in the graduation ceremony of the Emanuel Theological Seminary of Missions. The school has decided to give me (Dan) an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

Laos: An E5 Project training for church planting among 40 nation workers April 6-10th. This will be a strategic time of training and spiritual gift impartation.

Let's do this together in 2015! Your part is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

ThaiLights: Eyes & Hearts Are Opening

September 2014 was my third time of serving Christ as a language interpreter during eye care screening outreaches with Firstlight in Thailand. It is always an exciting time for the gospel. More than 300 people a day that had come to have their eyes checked were from rural villages in the Northeast Thailand. And each day there were more than twenty people that accepted Christ as their personal savior. They came to the clinic to get their physical eyes checked, and in the process, their spiritual eyes were opened as they heard about Jesus and and His great love for them. I have

never seen this many people that were hungry to know Christ. God loves them so much to send a team to reach them. Each one of us was using the gift that we had and faithfully give it back to Him as serving Christ and obedience is better than sacrifice. I'm so blessed and humbled to see and learn from all the doctors and servants from afar who flew all the way here to serve and help the people here.

I am so thankful to Jesus for the unity of the team: HSM-Dr.Rooney, Dr.Martin, Pastor Matthew, along with Firstlight International. Can't

wait to see what He will do in the days to come as there are many more who are waiting. Yes, no one will argue having good eye sight is important. And more important, a person's spiritual eyes, too, need to be opened to see the light of Christ. Isaiah 42:7 ... "to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness." Thank you Jesus!



JENNIE SUWAKRAI
Language Interpreter
Firstlight Eye Care Team

Featured Article

On A Personal Note



We have been so blessed to yet another year of spending holidays with our families, creating yet more memories. With our parents in their mid 80's these years are very special, indeed. I am so thankful, each year that goes by that we are here for these times with them. Dan's mom had surgery on a fractured hip last month and is doing well in her recovery. My dad continues to struggle with emphysema but is so brave he makes me proud. Your prayers for our parents is valued. Dan was blessed to be able to get some hunting in, as well as take Josiah with his uncles for a time of fishing. (yes, the crazy Ecker men go fishing in the winter...brrrr!) I was blessed to be able to visit with dear old friends, especially precious was a visit to Virginia to see Mark Milberger and his family. Mark was my first Christian friend in Pittsburgh in 1978, and he disciplined me in the ways of worshipping in the power of the Spirit, as well as seeking after the will of God and praying in such a way as LISTENING to God, expecting His still small voice to tell us what to do. It was life changing for me, those early prayer sessions, and I know I would not be where I am today if not for his friendship in those years.



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Featured Item

Prayer Points

“Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.”

John 16:24 NAS

Please pray for:

- 2015 Ministry Plans: Fulfillment & Fruitfulness**
- For ALL Firstlight Projects, Area Teams & Churches: People - Places: Open Doors, Divine Favor, Lasting Fruit.**
- For God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 1st quarter of 2015.**