



February 2015 News

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Contact:

www.firstlightinternational.net

Tel: 724.254.6145

E-mail: helloeckers@gmail.com

Look for us:



It's a Process!

“For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, ... Romans 8:29b NAS

I have often been told: Anything that is worth doing is worth doing well. This is a lesson I learned starting from my grandfather, one of the many people who have had a major impact in my upbringing.

This type of thinking enables us to understand that no matter what we are trying to accomplish, there is usually a system behind how things operate or a process of how things work. If we know this, it helps us not to become impatient when our expected outcome is taking longer to occur than we think it should. If we fail to understand the system or process of how things work, we can end up sabotaging the outcomes or intended results of what we are hoping will happen!

Sometimes if we put in too little effort, the effort doesn't match what is needed for an expected outcome. We can become discouraged and confused, wanting to give up. We find ourselves back at the drawing board to find out where we went wrong or making adjustments in our thinking and approach so that we can move forward in life.

Doing things right the first time is always better and you can only learn that as you live life. With gained

wisdom and insight we know how to proceed in a better way, finding success at what we put our hands to do.

These same truths can be applied in our spiritual lives. Knowing how things are to operate in the Kingdom of God is important for our success.

Realize that the Lord's work *in us* is always done well. It starts well and it ends well. The apostle Paul puts it this way: “*He who began a good work in you will complete it even unto the day of Jesus Christ.*” (Phil.1:6) That's how works!

God's purpose is for each of us to become like Jesus! It is a process of change. Where we sometimes get it wrong is understanding the process that it takes to get us there. (Rom. 8:28)

God's intended purpose is matched with God's intended outcome through a process. It takes time to see the Lord's promise matched with the fulfillment of what God said. If you have a promise, the Lord has a way of bringing that promise to pass! Don't get lost in the process!



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

A Fresh Call To Prioritize in 2015

In my former articles for the Firstlight Newsletter, I often refer to my own personal experiences, since I am neither a theologian nor a Bible scholar! However, I try to maintain a regular practice of prayer and bible reading. This discipline has been a light to my path in life.

Although, like some, I often stray from that path and need a healthy reminder to get my priorities *generally* aligned with the Word of God. Taking the time to listen to what God is saying to me in my heart and in the Word helps me to more *specifically* align my priorities as well. When I take the time to listen to Him, I stray less.

My son and I had many discussions as he was growing and wrestling with

decisions of life. He would say, "Dad, what should I do?" Often my response is always, "What is most important to you and what are your priorities?" Then we would pray and before we ended, I would ask him to listen for that which God wanted to say to him.

My friends, he always heard from the Lord when he listened and the decision usually became very clear, even the hard ones!

As you begin 2015, you have an opportunity to realign your priorities regarding your prayer time, and study in the Word. Take some time each day to read the Word. Pray through God's promises as you come across them. Start a journal or get a note

book to record what you are learning, prayer requests and answers to prayer. Align your relationships and your work with the priorities God has given you. Let your commitment of time and monies support your local church and Kingdom work like that of Firstlight International and what others are doing.

This is the time of *new beginnings*, and there is much yet to be done.

Be blessed in 2015!



JAY DEEMS
Board Member
Firstlight International

Ministry News

This Month: Equipping National Workers in China, Thailand and Myanmar



In Myanmar, December 2014

This month we begin training national workers for Christian service in China, Thailand and Myanmar - places on the earth where we have seen doors open to us.

In each of these locations the Lord is raising up national church leaders who have heard the call of God on their lives. And by His grace, He has given us the opportunity to be a part of their training experience.

In China, with Frontier Harvest Ministries, we will train 200 leaders who are pressing further into the foothills of the Himalayans among millions of Buddhist influenced peoples who have never heard the name of Jesus. The gospel is going forth!

In Thailand I will visit four

new house churches that are being planted among the unreached in the north. There, too, training will take place.

Myanmar (*formerly known as Burma*) brings with it many opportunities for leadership and church planting training for evangelism. 50 local church leaders and 75 plus students of the Emmanuel Theological Seminary of Missions in Kalaymyo, will be trained.

Please do remember us in your prayers February 2nd - the 25th this month. We are blessed to be doing our part in the nations!



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

Top Stories - Myanmar Training Updates ...

We are blessed to have the opportunity to extend teaching and training to hungry hearts in the developing countries of Asia - particularly in the country of Myanmar.

Located in southeast Asia, Myanmar (*formerly known as Burma*) borders Thailand, Laos, China, India and Bangladesh. The country consists of 14 provinces; or 7 states representing the areas of 7 main ethnic races and 7 divisions. It is predominately a Buddhist nation, 6.5 % are Christian.

In December of last year, over 120 were trained in church planting, and apostolic ministry among a network of Spirit filled, Zomi Baptist churches in Kalaymyo, in the northwest part of the country. There were great moments of spiritual gift impartation (Rom.1:11 etc.), personal ministry, and great commission equipping and sending. **Life changing moments for many as the Holy Spirit touched their lives.**



Top Stories - Reaching Thailand's Harvest ...

Each month throughout the year our Firstlight Area Teams are engaging the culture daily with the gospel. They are sowing seeds of God's word, acts of kindness, care and commitment among hurting, unsaved Thai people who are living in rural areas in six locations in three major provinces where Firstlight is planting churches. And by God's grace, a harvest is being reached!

The Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand, will continue to grow in 2015. Over the past three months new converts are being followed up on with the potential of starting three new house churches in Seka, Khon Kaen, and Khong Pho. The Lord's love is being poured out in a marvelous way.

Team up with what Firstlight is doing this year. Join us in prayer and in financial giving and support the projects that matter to you most. **Together we can reach more!**



The Cost Of Discipleship

When we think of the cost of discipleship, often we think of how much it costs the one being discipled. However, there is a cost for the person doing the discipling. Nothing echoes discipleship like relationship. And one of the most important commodities that produces relationships is time. The investment of time into the lives of His disciples was one of the most important activities that Jesus engaged in. He knew that the success of his ministry was tied to the success of his disciples.

In order to ask those whom we disciple to pay the cost of discipleship we must match or even surpass that

price by giving to them the love, time, and nurturing that they need. Jesus had no problem asking those whom he discipled to forsake all and follow him. This is because he forsook all to spend time with them. When we give that amount of investment in their lives, we will see them do even greater works.

This has what has been happening with Nott Chankhan in the Boklua district of Nan province in northern Thailand. He has been investing time in the new followers of Christ by training them to be more than followers of Jesus, he has been training them to be the ministers of Jesus. It has taken time and sacrifice

to see these new believers equipped and discipled. Two young ladies from one of the new churches have been reaching out to villages where there is no church.

When we invest time into people and give them our best then God takes that investment and multiplies it into more souls for Christ, miracles, and transformed lives. The kingdom of God is advanced in their lives and through their lives.



TONY FOSTER
Church Planter
E5 Project

On A Personal Note



Well we were 'blessed' to experience another blustery, icy cold Pennsylvania January. But I am beginning to associate this kind of weather with a deep spiritual blessing. This is because, for the 5th January in a row, we have been able to attend many of the daily meetings during Covenant Church of Pittsburgh's season of prayer and fasting they call, 'Times of Refreshing.' This entails the setting ourselves and the coming year apart to the Lord, through deep times of worship and prayer, meditation in the scriptures, as well as hearing prophetic speakers who minister in the power of the Holy Spirit. Each year we feel increasingly strengthened for the year ahead, even as sense of being launched by the Spirit, as well as a sense of wonder as we realize how many of the words we have received from the Lord in previous years are in the full flush of coming to pass in our lives, and in the life of our ministry. We cannot be more grateful to God, that in this middle aged season of our lives, He has given us fresh oil for our lamps;

He has led us beside still waters...and there He restores our souls. This is only good, for us, for our family, for the work.



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Prayer Points

**“May the Lord fulfill
all your petitions”.**
Ps. 20:5b NAS

Please pray for:

- 1. Successful trainings in China, Myanmar, Laos & Thailand this year.**
- 2. For our Firstlight Area Teams as the engage the lost in Thailand.**
- 3. Divine favor, abundant provision, and lasting fruit in all areas where Firstlight is working.**