



August 2015 News

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

Family News pg.2
Top Stories pg.3

* Features:

Article - Kingdom Life pg.1
Article - Board Member pg.2
Article - George Rooney pg.4
Item - Prayer Points pg.4
Article - On a personal note pg.4

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Look for us:



Kingdom Life

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32 NAS

Human life is often an inescapable balance of trying to keep ourselves and those we love and are concerned about safe. From the most primitive tribes on the face of the earth to the most modern and affluent families, our desire is universally the same. For the peace and security of our family, our children, our elderly.

These burdens can be overwhelming, particularly in these times where nation rises against nation, and conflict with one's fellow man seems unavoidable. If your circumstances are in the midst of a real life conflict and loss, there can be true fear, true anger, and panic. I have heard it preached that the opposite of love is not hate. It is fear.

God offers to all entrance to an incredible Kingdom where we can always and at all times find the grace and strength that we need to face the future. The courage to bring love, not fear into unspeakable situations. Jesus said: 'Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God....'

This past month, we saw people who truly understood the Kingdom of Jesus. Even though they had every right to hate, to want revenge for the

lives of their beloved pastors and family members who had been gunned down brutally in Emanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina. But even while they were still rocked with grief, they were able to voice words of forgiveness to the killer. The world was shocked. I saw prominent newscasters' eyes grow wet with tears. They were completely undone by the beauty of that forgiveness. The wonder of that grace.

These people knew what it was like to be Kingdom people. They knew and were secure that God would help them. They trusted that if they forgave, then God's wonderful work could begin to bring healing to their torn lives.

To be a part of His Kingdom means that we are not constrained by fear, but rather by love. Lord. Help us to do what is right when the pressure is great. Help us to obey you when we are tempted to do otherwise. Help us, Lord, to know that our heavenly Father delights to give us the Kingdom.



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

It's All About Letting the "Light" Shine.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 KJV

Firstlight is all about letting the "Light" shine. I remember Dan and Debbie's wedding clearly as pictures were taken by many of us in front of the huge wall map of the world. They were joining their lives together to serve the Lord in His purpose of evangelizing the world.

We have to understand our purpose and be obedient to be able to see the fruit and blessings of the Lord. Abraham did it? God gave him lineage and heritage. Noah did it. God birthed a new earth and redemption.

Moses and Joshua did it. God made Himself visible; He was with them. Daniel did it. God protected him. Jonah figured it out a little less quickly--but still did it. God spoke through him to a whole city. Peter, Andrew, John, etc. did it. Paul did it and many others did it. We can do it too. We can obey God and others will see our good works and glorify God. They may get saved, healed, or inspired to obey God themselves.

Oh my that sounds hard. Do I have to go to India or Africa for the rest of my life?! Well maybe, but that isn't a usual request from the Lord. Mostly it's Love the Lord with all your heart and mind and being and love others as you love yourself. (not as easy as it sounds). Of course when you do that you see the needs of others and you

want to do something. It may be giving them food, shelter, clothing, education or medical care. If you can't think of anything or anyone to help just call Firstlight International or email (the number and address is on this letter) and they will suggest many things you can do to let the Light shine and Glorify God.

Get involved, keep praying and you will be blessed, Jesus will be glorified in all the earth and there will be more than enough still left in your basket--it just multiplies.



ELLIE GEPPERT
Board Member
Firstlight International

Family News

Well done Josiah Daniel James Ecker

We are so proud of you and we love you with all of our hearts!



The Graduate: Josiah Daniel James Ecker

We had a WONDERFUL time in Seattle with our precious boy - Josiah Ecker.

On Saturday June 13th, we witnessed his graduation from Seattle Pacific University (SPU). He graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology. We are so proud of him and thankful to the Lord for this season of blessing, and accomplishment in his life: Congratulations Josiah! We are all proud of you!

It was a proud moment for McKenna Rose, his soon bride to be. They are presently engaged and are planning to be married August, 2016. Whoo Hoo! They are an amazing couple and we are looking forward to the wedding

celebrations next year.

Part of our time in Seattle, Josiah and I planned a day of fly fishing for trout in one of the nearby streams. Although west coast fishing is quite different from the east coast style - we did quite well. Both of us caught a good number of wild Rainbow trout on two different streams. Awesome!

On that day, too, Josiah received a phone call that he got the job that he had interviewed for. Right in line with the degree he just earned! Yes, and Amen!



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

Top Stories - *Training the next generation ...*

It was great to be with the first year students of the Emanuel Theological Seminary in Kalaymyo, Myanmar for Spiritual Emphasis Week 2015. The Lord gave us an amazing week in the Word. Pastor Go Mun Thang is committed to providing these students with a learning environment where the Word is taught in the context of practical ministry. Twelve years running with 150 graduates. In February 2016 another seven will receive their degree.

Firstlight International is blessed to be a part of their learning experience. Over the past two in a half years we have been involved in helping this school to raise up the next generation. Myanmar is a country that is approaching a “watershed moment” in the history of their country. We are blessed to be a part of bringing this nation into it’s enteral destiny. Join us as we capture the Father’s heart.



Top Stories - *More are water baptized!*

The Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand is doing well. During this past month, we witnessed another 13 water baptisms in two locations where Firstlight is planting churches. What a mighty God we serve! I was able to preach and conduct training in these two locations while working with our Firstlight Area Teams. We are presently preparing for several eye care outreaches with Dr. George Rooney from His Servants Ministries (HSM) next month in Khon Kaen, and in Seka. Dr. Rooney comes every year and we are asking the Lord for many to be saved again this year! Amen!

Thank you for your prayers, and finance each month. Together we are bringing Christ into rural areas across Thailand where their is very little or no gospel witness in their communities. The Gospel is going forth!



A Three Stranded Cord is Always Best

Firstlight and His Servants Ministries have been partnering together since 2008. Our joint efforts to entwine ministry and medical emphasis continue to shine brightly and stronger each year. We minister in rural locations throughout NE Thailand where Christianity is about as foreign an idea as the Thai language both spoken and written is to us in the US.

During 2014, this partnership saws over 100 come to faith in Christ. We also were able to minister to many believing brothers and sisters in Christ providing much needed eye care. Dan, Dr. Martin, Dr. Sparks, the

Firstlight team, and I are looking forward to serving again in Sept. 2015. We are praying for thousands to come to faith in Christ during 2015-2016.

In light of the social, physical and spiritual challenges in Thailand today, now is the time to step out in faith. Even though culturally we are different, we all have the same Creator who is actively pursuing us to connect with Him on a personal level.

The Firstlight Team always impresses me with their willingness to step forward in faith. Nearly all take off a week from their jobs to help minister

to their fellow Thai brothers and sisters. Their love for God and for each other harmonizes with the call of Christ on their lives. What an encouragement to me since this is NOT the Thai way of thinking. Their sacrifice encourages me to press on each year.

We can stand boldly together for He is faithful, He is mighty, and He is able. We need only to watch, pray, believe and go where He leads. Will you go? Will you pray? Be a part of the Triple Cord Team this year.

Love in Christ --Until all have Heard,
George Rooney

On A Personal Note



Well August is upon us, always one of my favorites. My birthday month and also that of my dear Dad. We turn 58 and 86 respectively, and can I say how wonderful it is to still have the privilege of having he and my dear mom still in my life? Though they are frail, they increase in their preciousness to us all. All that is sweet and good about them seems to be condensing and growing stronger as they grow old. I pray it is the same with me!! Josiah and his beautiful McKenna will be joining us at the beginning of next month. I am counting the days with great longing. Our time in Seattle with him was perfect, perfect, perfect. SO much love and joy between us. We may be a small family, but we maximize on the love. Dan and Josiah had a great chance to go fishing in the mountain streams surrounding Seattle, and we had one very special night, after graduation, at a celebratory dinner, right on the water. Ah! Oh, and lest I forget the BEST meal we had was our own dear son grilling steaks for us at his apartment. WOW. So much smoke and SO much flavor!! Ha!! Hope you all had a blessed summer, as well.



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Prayer Points

“For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

Matthew 7:8 NAS

Please pray for:

- 1. For the first year students of the Emanuel Theological Seminary.**
- 2. For each of our Firstlight Area Teams and Churches.**
- 3. Divine favor, abundant provision and lasting fruit in all areas where Firstlight is working during the 3rd quarter 2015.**