



Passionate Pursuit

September 2015 News

**“When You said, “ Seek My face,” my heart said to You,
“Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.” Psalms 27:8 NAS**

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

- Eye Care Screenings pg.2
- Top Stories pg.3

* Features:

- Article - Passionate Pursuitpg.1
- Article - Board Member pg.2
- Article - E5 Project pg.4
- Item - Prayer Points pg.4
- Article - On a personal note pg.4

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Look for us:



What causes one to pursue passionately? The athlete, who rises before dawn to go out to the running path and run into the dawn? The musician who will play until their fingers are numb...all to bring just that extra step toward perfection? The lover whose every waking moment is toward his intended, and how to win her heart?

What is it that makes our hearts cry out for a more real, a more clear experience in the presence of God? Is it pain, the pain of loved ones in dire trouble, that robs our sleep and causes us to spend the wee hours with the only One who can help? Is it our own brokenness and neediness, finding finally in Christ, a Man who will NOT lie, a love that never disappoints? Is it the smoldering love that comes from a heart always melting with gratitude? Gratitude for answered prayers, loved ones rescued and delivered, life breaking needs met, bodies healed of dangerous illness, children restored? Prodigals returned?

All of these things can drive us, to run, with all that is in us, towards the One who is the ultimate Lover and Bishop of our souls. Our precious Friend who sticks closer than a brother. Our Lamb who took our sin upon Himself, so that we could find

favor with God. His passionate giving of Himself becomes the impetus for our passionate pursuit...of Him.

For, ultimately, the truth lies here: We love, because He first loved us. Before any of us could pursue God, He came running after us, passionately pursuing us. In our lost state, in our pain, in our anger, in our brokenness. At our most unlovely, He did not bail. He stood fast; His love our anchor.

The wonder, to me, of this passion, is that it is forever renewable. You may feel from time to time that your passion has become cold, that your limbs are tired of the pursuit. But, in only takes a moment. One moment. One moment in the presence of that Amazing Grace. In the face of Boundless Love. In the memories of His goodness in years gone by. It only takes one moment, for the fire of that passion to fully ignite again, as full blazed as in the years of our youth.

There is an old chorus: He’s as close as the mention of His name: Jesus. I pursue You!!



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Sending Spirit and a Going Church

In the book of Acts we see the church in it's early stages going because of persecution, and pressures from Rome.

However, later in Acts chapter 13 we find the church leadership in Antioch being prophetically spoken to through the prophets present in a meeting saying, "set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.

This prophetic word put the first century church into the Go mode. It set the tone for missions in the church. After the leadership in Antioch had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on Barnabas, and Saul, and sent them off. Inspired by the prophetic the church was catapulted into the greatest modern

missions sending movement ever to begin.

These first century believers were not only prayed for and commissioned, but were *sent on their way by the Holy Spirit*. So in a sense the first century church was indwelt with a "Sending Spirit" that had prophets who spoke to them that brought forth clarity and direction who was going, and then the Holy Spirit led them to where they should start their church planting endeavors.

If the church today continues to go into the nations that are without Christ they will be surly led by the Holy Spirit, taught by the Holy Spirit, and sent by the Holy Spirit to build His kingdom among the ethnoses of the world. Spirit filled and leader

sending. When people go because the Holy Spirit sent them, they tend to do better and have a much better success rate than those who go on their own brain power and wits.

May the church arise in this very hour to bring closure to the great challenge of planting churches in every ethnic group; giving someone who has never heard the name a Jesus a chance to believe.

Let's be a going church being led and empowered by the Holy Spirit to get the job done!



CHUCK LENHART
President
Frontier Harvest Ministries
Board Member
Firstlight International

THIS MONTH: Eye Care Screenings for evangelism in Thailand

September is always an exciting month for our Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand, and for each of our Firstlight Area Teams. It is the time of year when Dr. George Rooney, and a small team from His Servants Ministries (HSM) join with us to conduct eye care screenings for evangelism in Thailand. Through this partnership, every year the results are encouraging.

Join us in prayer during September 19 - 25th for these opportunities to change lives. We are planning for 500 plus eye examinations per day among thousands of unsaved, Thai Buddhist in multiple villages in the province of Khon Kaen, in northeast Thailand. The potential is great for the Gospel. Ask the Lord for souls to be saved!



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International



Top Stories - *FWF Monthly food distribution*



In each location, the Father's Love is in demonstration through Families Without Fathers (FWF). Your prayers and financial giving is providing aid, encouragement, and connection to children, and families from fatherless homes in six locations across Thailand.

Each week families like these are receiving weekly visits to homes and area schools with school fees and related supplies are being provided twice a year in May and October. 80 % have come to Christ through FWF over the past 8 years. What a mighty God we serve!

Healthy Food items: Eggs, canned fish, sugar, salt and soy milk packets etc, are being distributed each month. This helps to insure a healthy breakfast before going to school.

Top Stories - *Helping flood victims in Myanmar*



We got word last month that heavy rains caused severe flooding in Kalaymyo, Myanmar. Many have been evacuated from their homes and hundreds are without clean drinking water.

Through our partnership with Myanmar Evangelical Mission For Christ, and the Emanuel Theological Seminary, we have been able to release \$1,000 USD from Firstlight International to help the flood victims in the region. So far 30 large bags of rice and a good amount of bottled drinking water has been purchased and distributed in two affected areas. 484 people have been helped. We are blessed to be able to help the flood victims in Myanmar. Please pray as the recovery process continues.

The E5 Project: Meeting Felt Needs

Empowering the local leadership to be a blessing to their own community is the very first component of the E5 project. The first “E” stands for – Engage community for evangelism. Our work in the Boklua district of the Nan province in Northern Thailand has seen tremendous success as the local leadership under pastor Nott.

In order for local leadership to be successful in meeting felt needs, they first have to know the difference between a felt need and a real need.

Felts needs are those immediate needs that just need to be met so the real needs can be met. For example, if someone has a toothache, the felt

need to be met is to stop the pain. However, the real need is to pull the bad tooth. Going even deeper real need is learning proper oral hygiene.

Jesus gave us a perfect example how meeting felt needs in Matthew 9:35-38. **1. These people have real needs:** they are harassed and helpless.

2. Those needs touch the heart of Jesus – He feels compassion for them.

3. The reason those needs exist is because they are without a shepherd – this is the real need.

Pastor Nott in Boklua, in the province of Nan in northern Thailand has done this. Not only has

he been successful in starting a good sustainable small business that meets the needs of his family, he has reached out to the local leaders of the villages of Boklua and helped them learn how to launch and grow a small business. That has given him the much needed face to preach the gospel where people want to listen to a man who serves a God who truly transforms lives. Meeting felt needs has empowered him to meet the real need of bringing them to the Great Shepherd.



TONY FOSTER
Church Planter, Bible Training
Owner, E5 Project

On A Personal Note



Well dear ones, by the time you read this, I will have already had surgery for endometrial cancer. These things can happen quite quickly in our lives. Once that diagnosis is reached, the date for surgery and the prep for that is quickly set. I was diagnosed on July 9th, and it has taken roughly 6 weeks for me to be ready for surgery, I have been tested and prodded and tested again. Several things are flooding my mind while all of this is happening. First, the wonderful loving presence of God at every single step. His voice, quietly confirming that He is with me and that He will work all things out for good. Second, the miracle that for the first time in my adult life, I have health insurance; and with that insurance, access to one of the most amazing hospital systems in the nation: Magee Women’s Hospital and UPMC. I am SO blessed by my doctors and nurses there. Last, I am overwhelmed that when we decided in 2014 to base for a few years from the states, while Dan continued to travel minister, that unknown to us, I would be facing this. I am SO THANKFUL, that I am facing this surgery at home, near family and friends, with a home to come home to quietly recuperate in. THANK you all for your prayers for my healing. I will keep you updated.



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Prayer Points

“ O Lord, I love the habitation of Your house And the place where Your glory dwells.” Psalms 26:8

Please pray for:

1. For Debbie has she recovers from surgery - see personal note pg. 4
2. Eye care screenings of evangelism - see pg.2
3. For our Firstlight Projects, Area Teams & Churches.
4. God’s abundant provision for Firstlight International during the 3rd quarter of 2015.