



November 2015 News

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Look for us:



He's a good, good Father!

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!” Matthew 7:11 NAS

One of the major themes that keeps coming up over and over again, in our lives over these past few months is this: He's a good, good Father!

Debbie and I both along with many others that we are associated with, are coming up with this same awareness that God is a good, good Father: Something that the Lord wants us to pay attention to.

Much of Jesus's teaching in Matthew chapter six, and in chapter seven shows us just how amazingly wonderful our heavenly Father really is.

From the words of Jesus, we find that our heavenly Father dwells in heaven. His name is holy. His kingdom is something that comes as we ask it to. His Will can be done here on earth, as it is done or being done in heaven. He provides our every need. He forgives our sins. He demands that we forgive others. He sees in secret. He rewards openly. He knows what we need

before we ask. He leads away from temptation. He protects us and / or He keeps us from the evil one. His kingdom is glorious, powerful and eternal. Amen!

In the context of chapter seven, Jesus makes a this amazing statement: “Everyone who asks, receives.” (v.8). He then goes on to say that if anyone one of us had a son, would asked us for a piece of bread etc, we wouldn't give him a snake or a stone would we? The answer is simple: No! And then He says if we being evil (*meaning being evil in the light of God's goodness*) know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more will our heavenly Father give what is good to those who ask Him!

Let those words sink in today and begin to see our heavenly Father in a whole new light! He's a good, good Father!



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

Become Mission Minded

My wife, my oldest daughter Shannon, and I took a short term mission trip to Russia in 1996. I remember meeting Dr. Sherry Ifft our missionary, at the airport, weighed down with bags of supplies she would use to train Sunday school teachers throughout Russia and the Ukraine. Shannon decided to extend her stay in Russia and travel with Sherry.

Following Shannon's return, she announced that the Lord had spoken to her about a call to mission in China. She spent the next eight years in China and Malaysia. God was preparing her for her current call, Director of Missions at a large church in Pittsburgh.

My son Bryan and I were sitting on the porch at our farm overlooking a beautiful valley in suburban Pittsburgh.

He and his family lived in the Chalet 100 feet away, providing us with access to grandchildren on demand. Life was good. Bryan was in the fourth year as director of LAMP, a program to mentor children living in Homewood, a depressed inner city community of Pittsburgh.

I had joined the LAMP program in 2006, driving weekly into Homewood from my comfortable, safe suburban neighborhood to help mentor six boys. Then came the surprise. Bryan announced that God was calling him into "incarnational" ministry. He explained that he was going to move his family into Homewood and live among those he was serving. God was preparing him to become a pastor.

Just like Shannon and Bryan, all of us are "called" to participate in God's great adventure. It starts by being open and vulnerable, followed by steps of obedience.

Whether you are a prayer warrior, giver, goer, or sender, Jesus has reserved a place for you in building his kingdom.

Perhaps the Lord has spoken to you concerning Firstlight International, a tested and fruitful mission. Might he be preparing you for a blessing?



KIRK (MAC) MCCABE
Board Member
Firstlight International

Planning the Work - Working the Plan



Learning how to provide the proper leadership that is required, meetings like these are held regularly for each project and ministry platform that Firstlight is involved in. And I am always amazed by what we come up with every time we get together as a team.

Right now close to 1500 follow up letters are being prepared to be sent to each person who attended the eye care screenings in Khon Kaan. The FWF project prepares for a 2nd Thai school term with school fees for 70 plus children in seven locations. A series of Young Lions Arise meetings are being planned for five schools in the northeast of Thailand, with John Paul, and Paula Sprecher founders of Forerunner Flame International.



Join us in this opportune time!

DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

Top Stories - *Eye Care Screenings ...*



Close to 1500 people were served in multiple villages in Khon Kaen, Thailand during five days of eye care screenings for evangelism with Firstlight, and His Servants Ministries (HSM).

The Lord gave us favor with a local Thai hospital which helped us to make a connection for bringing Christ into these communities.

51 salvations, 31 still needing time to learn more before they decide.

Top Stories - *A platform for sharing Christ ...*



Hundreds of gospel tracts per day were distributed to just about every person who came to each of these eye clinics.

Much of this was conducted by a local group of Thai Christians who are planting a network of house churches in three provinces in the region.

We are thankful for the opportunity to work together with them to bring these new believers into the process of discipleship.

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future. - John F. Kennedy

Worship changes the worshiper into the image of the One worshiped. - Jack Hayford

Effective leaders expect more from themselves than they expect from others. - Dan Rockwell

Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm. -Publius Syrus

Accomplishing the impossible is all about seeing the invisible. - Steven Furtick

30% of all Thais have been affected in some way by a fatherless home. As Families Without Fathers (FWF) is in it's seventh year, over 100 children have been touched through FWF in seven locations across Thailand. Approx. 80% of all FWF children have come to Christ, have been water baptized and are tending church regularly. In 2015 70 plus children are being reached. Thailand's school terms run from May through October 1st term, November through April the 2nd term. FWF provides weekly visits to the homes and area schools throughout the year. FWF also provides school fees and relates supplies to every child involved in the program. Our FWF goal every year is to reach 100 kids. In 2016 will have another chance to reach our goal.

On A Personal Note



Thank you all - each and everyone for your love and prayers for us over these past few months. Particularly, your prayers for Debbie. She has finished her chemo treatments and by the time each of you read this newsletter, she will be finished with her all of her radiation treatments as well. The plan is to let her rest for four or five weeks, and then to have laparoscopic surgery for a full hysterectomy. It hasn't been without it's challenges but she is doing so well! Since getting back from Thailand, I have been with her through a good part of these treatments and I can tell you that she is the strongest person I know! A BIG thank you to those of you who have written, sent cards, made phone calls, sent texts, and for all the 'likes' and 'comments' on Facebook. Your love, prayers and support is greatly felt and very much appreciated. Thank you! During the month of November, we are hoping to make a few family visits while Debbie is resting. One visit to Seattle to spend Thanksgiving with Josiah and a second visit to South Bend to visit with Debbie's folks as well. She hasn't been able to get out there since July so this visit will be very timely. Happy Thanksgiving everyone! With heartfelt thanks!



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

Prayer Points

“And looking at *them* Jesus said to them, “With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”
Matthew 19:26 NAS

Please pray for:

1. Follow up process on the eye care outreaches in Khon Kaen, Thailand.
2. FWF second Thai school term \$5,000 needed for 70 plus children in 7 locations.
3. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 4th quarter of 2015.