



December 2015 News

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Look for us:



Heaven's Song

“And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God,” Luke 2:13a NAS

There are times during congregational worship when people are so abandoned in their praise, when the atmosphere becomes so permeated with the Presence of God that weeping and rejoicing break out simultaneously. Prophetic visions come to the worshippers. Faith is revived and hearts are flooded with a heavenly gift..

I have felt it during the moments of highest praise with our Covenant family, people who worship God with such a holy desperation that I never cease to find my place before God there. It has happened to me in our Families Without Fathers Camps, up on a cold mountainside worshipping among my Thai family there, widows and orphans. I have seen children laugh and weep in that moment of His loving Presence come among us. I also heard it this past weekend at Abundant Joy Fellowship, when there was such exultant joyful worship breaking out, I could see young and old dancing before the Lord, together.

It is in those moments I hear an ‘extra’ sound. I have been hearing it for years. I can hear more voices than the room holds. Sometimes, I try and sing along with it. Sometimes I just bask in it. Sometimes, like those around me, I become undone by that incredible loving Presence of Jesus.

Sometimes I can even feel it rumbling under my feet. A long ongoing rumbling coming from underneath....and when I have spoken to others who were in the meetings, they all agree they have felt it, too!

What does it all this mean?

At that first coming of our Jesus, on that first Christmas morning, God sent His mighty angels to light up the sky and SING TO HIGH HEAVENS the praise of the One who had come to save the whole world. Can you imagine the sound of it? Can you imagine the impact on those who could hear it? Surely the earth trembled at the sound.

Could it be? Could it be? That through the hungry prayers and crying out of the saints of God all over this earth, that He is, once again, releasing His heavenly choirs to join in, to encourage, to worship the One who is our Soon and Coming King, heralding a new coming? Preparing this earth to once again receive it's Glorious King!

May this be the year that we all are awakened to heaven reaching out to prepare us....for the next one. Merry

Christmas! Come Lord Jesus!

DEBBIE ECKER

Vice President

Firstlight International



Give God's Greatest Gift!

As we all ready ourselves for another Christmas, scripture reminds us to prepare our hearts to receive the baby Jesus. When a child is offered to anyone, they reach forward to hold and embrace the infant and dream of its future. We know the ultimate gift and sacrifice that the Lord has offered to us in His Son. This innocent child who started life in a very lowly and humble place came to serve mankind and not to be served.

The seasons gift giving had it start with the greatest gift, Jesus, and then the wise men, maybe hundreds of them who traveled great distances just to gaze upon the child and offer him very special offerings.

Let us prepare our hearts to follow the model of the godly life and offer

to the Lord something treasured in our lives, time.

Time to spend with our loved ones, time to spend with our church family, time to spend with neighbors, co workers and strangers. Wherever we go, bring salt and light into the world, be very deliberate and loving. We all have a limited amount of time, but the Lord has blessed us with exactly the right amount of time to do His will when we set our hearts on following Him and serving others.

When the lawyer asked Jesus which commandment was the greatest, He responded With "Love the Lord you God with all your heart, mind and soul and the second is like it, Love your neighbor as your self. This is the sum of the Law and Profits". The

vertical and horizontal, together they form the cross of the ultimate sacrifice. Lets display the love of Christ this Christmas season with our time, in a way that others notice something very special about us and most importantly when they ask why we are different, we take the opportunity to boldly explain His saving grace by sharing our faith.

May you and your families have a blessed Christmas by blessing others, as scripture says: "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death." Luke 1:78



BOB ROTH
Board Member
Firstlight International

Thank you for helping to make all of this possible!



Your prayers and financial giving each month has brought forth a bountiful harvest of righteousness in places like: Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, and China in 2015.

With your help, the work of Firstlight International has prospered and God's kingdom is advancing through Health, Education, Moral, Economic, and Community Development.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Firstlight International, Firstlight Foundation in Thailand, Firstlight Area Teams, Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand, and on behalf of the many people in the place where we serve, thank you for helping to make 2015 a remarkable year.

The Lord's plans for us in 2016 are great! Join us as we follow Him into a brand New Year!

Dan & Debbie Ecker

Top Stories - *Thailand's youth hearts are turning!*

Last month we were privileged to have John Paul Sprecher and his family, in Thailand serving with our Firstlight Area Teams, and the Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand.

Visiting several schools in Nong Bua Lam Phu, and in Nong Khai, hundreds of Thai students were given an opportunity to hear the gospel message and about the love of our Heavenly Father.

John Paul speaks with fresh fire from Heaven and a promise from Malachi 4:6 of the hearts of the fathers being restored to their children, and the hearts of the children being restored to their fathers. Ultimately being restored to their Heavenly Father. And it is happening!

It is being reported that many have given their lives to Jesus in each of these schools. Pray for good follow ups on those who responded in their hearts. Pray for hearts changed and lasting fruit.



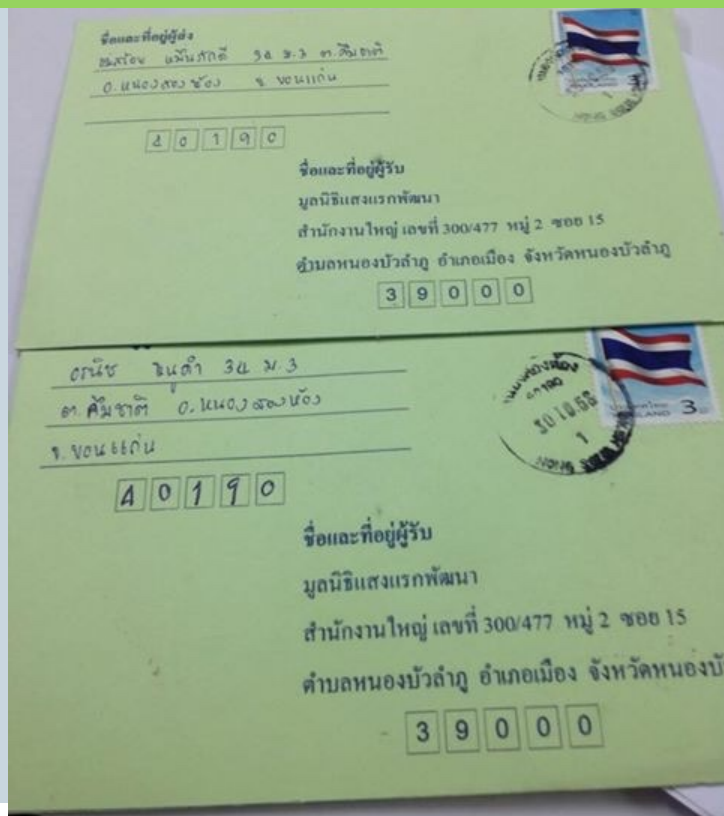
Top Stories - *The follow up process so far!*

As the follow process to the eye care screenings for evangelism this past September with Dr. George Rooney continues, close to 1,500 follow up packets are being mailed to those who came to each of these eye care clinics.

During the initial outreaches, 51 came to Christ in five days. And hundreds of gospel tracks were distributed to just about every person that came. These 51 are in the process of being follow up on with visits to the homes to confirm decisions and to plant a cluster of house churches in the province.

And the respond cards to the follow up packets are starting to come in! People are asking for Bibles, more tracks about Jesus, and they are asking for someone to visit their homes.

The potential of each of these cards is a person coming to Christ. Pray! Pray! Pray!



More on Medical Partnerships

Just a few short weeks ago, I had the privilege of working with Firstlight along with Drs. Martin, Sparkman, Koung and others providing eye care to those in the Khon Kaen province of Thailand. Each year, we strategically look for new areas to bring free eye care to those who otherwise would not be able to obtain these medical services on their own.

What does it mean to give away your time and talents? God was the giver of these talents and skills, and what better reason to give them to those in need than for the love of Christ?

Often we hear the question why? Why us? Why here? Why do you come from the other side of the planet to help us? What did you get? What merit are you receiving? The merit system is

entrenched in the Buddhist way of thinking. It drives many to make sacrifice, or do things for others with motive. Then I reflect. Why would Christ, the infinite God, the Creator, humble Himself to take on human form? Why would He sacrifice His position to come to earth to serve those He created? Why would He sacrifice Himself for our good? Why would He endure torture for my wrongdoing? I believe the call God has placed on our team each year is to love in action. Love intentionally. Love without expectation of praise. Love because we were first loved. In 2015, we examined nearly 2000 precious souls in Thailand. Not only did they receive a blessing, but also even those from government positions as well as Firstlight staff enjoyed the applause of our Savior Jesus

Christ. After the first day, nearly 700 eye exams had been performed. How could that be possible? Certainly, God provided the increase using our meager offering of time and talents and multiplied it for His glory.

The act of giving allows us a platform to share the love of Christ and sometimes we get to use words. My goal for the coming year is to give light, give love, and to give hope wrapped up in the fact that Jesus loves you, died for your sin and He awaits you, to accept Him and to acknowledge Him as Lord.



DR. GEORGE ROONEY
His Servants Ministries
(HSM)

On A Personal Note



I am overwhelmed with gratitude. In 2015 I have faced the trial of cancer, and by His love and mighty power, and the provision of amazing doctors and workers, I am healed. I am OVERWHELMED with the outpouring of love and support from all of you. My house has been filled with cards and notes, I have had phone calls checking in, friends to take me to chemo when Dan was in Thailand, food and meals and times out. I have been BLESSED and have never been so aware that I am not facing this life alone. Not only do I have a heavenly Father who loves me, but I am surrounded by loving earthly relationships. Thank you, each and every one. I especially want to say a special thank you to my dear Danny. He has been SUCH a rock, a blessing, a love. He never flinched in the weeks of care giving when it was all I could do to make it to my daily treatments. He even made me laugh when all I wanted to do was cry.... and sleep! I am also SO thankful for the opportunity once I was feeling better, to travel and see my precious family in South Bend, and also to enjoy a very special time in Seattle visiting our precious Josiah and his beloved fiancé, McKenna. My heart overflows!

God's richest blessings on you all! Merry Christmas!



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Prayer Points

“You will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.” II Cor. 9:11 NAS

Please pray for:

1. Thailand's youth who have come to Christ last month. (see pg.3)
2. Good response from the follow up mailers that are going out. (see pg. 3)
3. Strong finish to 2015, and as we enter 2016.
4. Divine favor, abundant provision and lasting fruit for all of Firstlight Intl.