



May 2016 News

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

Helping Hands in the Harvest .. pg.2
Top Stories pg.3

* Features:

Article -The Harvest is Now pg.1
Article - Board Member pg.2
Article - Things to come pg.4
Item - Prayer Points pg.4
Article - On a personal note pg.4

Donations:

Online via PayPal
www.firstlightinternational.net

By Mail, payable to:

Firstlight International
P.O. Box 252
Springdale, PA 15144-0252

As a registered public charity 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation, all financial contributions are U.S. tax deductible by making checks payable to Firstlight International.

Contact:

www.firstlightinternational.net

Tel: 724.254.6145

E-mail: helloeckers@gmail.com

Look for



The Harvest is Now!

“Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.” John 4:35 NAS

On April 9th, Azusa Now took place in Los Angeles commemorating the original Azusa Street Revival of 110 years before. It was reported that nearly 100,000 gathered in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Make no mistake. This was a Holy Spirit event. Jesus, not man, was front and center.

Worship teams from Bethel Redding CA, as well as Native Americans in full Native dress led in worship. Afterwards, representatives from both Canadian and US churches came and knelt before them, repenting for the genocide committed against their forefathers and asking their forgiveness. Representatives from the Catholic Church, one who knelt before Lou Engels, the organizer of this event, kissing his feet as a sign of love and acceptance, and repentance for disunity between Catholic and Protestant.

Arthur Blesset, who has carried a cross around the world since the 1970's, carried his cross up to the podium. He gave a charge to win the lost. To win the world to the love of Jesus. It was their turn. He cried out to that crowd. “I’m old! It’s your turn now! Now GO!”

Dan and I watched it together, he from his phone in Thailand, I at my computer in Pittsburgh. We messaged each other throughout the event, worshipping and praying together.

Beloved. The harvest is HERE. The harvest is NOW. This year, Firstlight has been part of a 55 man sending of evangelists to the Pulang people, an unreached people group in northern Myanmar. For the first time, there is a church planted among those people. There are 10 church planters working alongside of our host couple, Luke and Genevieve, doing the follow up.

This past month in Thailand, Dan traveled by motor bike to mountain villages of the Luwa people with our co-worker there, Pastor Nott. Over the past 2 years, Nott has planted 8 churches in those villages, and will plant 3 more this year. Dan and Pastor Nott will bring training to the leaders of all these new churches. The fields are ripe. Our friend Tony Foster brought a team from Louisiana, and saw 40 baptisms in just a few weeks!.

The harvest is NOW!



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Going Forth at Christ's Command

Hi everyone. You are most likely reading this article because Dan and Debbie Ecker have affected your life in a positive way for the Kingdom of God to grow and multiply. It may have been through a speaking or teaching platform or Debbie's book Upon Love's Wings, or a more personal encounter of prayer or conversation. In any event your life was changed and you tapped into the power life of Jesus Christ.

This is their daily commitment to Christ--making a difference. They wouldn't have it any other way. Debbie has just been given a clean report on a bout with cancer and it was the doctor who was amazed continually by her strength and testimony. Dan has become an expert in winning the battle over negativity and choosing faith--something we all face at times. Together with the Lord they have organized a national foundation in Thailand and

watched God raise up Thai and Lao leaders for the work in the Firstlight churches and charity outreaches such as Families Without Fathers (FWF) that are existing and growing. Dan continues to teach in several Asian countries even to the point of being recognized in Myanmar, by the Emmanuel Theological Seminary with an honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree.

Most recently I have watched them take on the commitment of mentoring a local U.S. ministry Son-Burn Encounters so they can become all that God has for them in ministry legally, spiritually, and financially bearing much fruit in the Kingdom. This is a big undertaking but they are helping prepare these evangelists, teachers and pastors for mighty exploits in Faith. Supporting young people in the faith is the best thing we do as we grow up in the Lord.

Now back to you the reader--you can be a big help right now in the life and ministry of Firstlight International. How you ask? just tell people about them. Their testimony in your lives will go a long way. Share Debbie's book with other people. If you lack faith to speak to others begin by giving financially to Firstlight and your faith and commitment will grow. Host a group in your home and invite one or both of them to share. You will be changing the lives of all those you talk to and then both you and Firstlight International will fulfill the great commission of Jesus Christ. They know they can only do what they're doing with the support of others.



ELLIE GEPPERT
Board Member
Firstlight International

Helping Hands in the Harvest!

Join the team today! *Pray! *Give! *Go! *Send!

Often times we are asked by people how things are going, and what is happening in the work of Firstlight International. Making reference to the reports in each of these monthly newsletters our answers are always encouraging as we focus on what the Lord is doing through our current projects and ministry platforms.

In most of those conversations we are sure to bring up several future opportunities we are working on - things that we would like to see happen as we press on to launch new initiatives for the kingdom expansion in the places where we serve. In each of these

conversations we are always careful to bring up the financial side of what costs are involved. People, too, like to know how are we doing financially. Here, too, we are always confident to declare that the Lord's provision is abundant and that He is faithful to meet every need. If you are reading this newsletter, this is one of those conversations.

Please help to grow our team of prayer and financial partners.

If you are already supporting Firstlight International, thank you for your prayers and financial

giving. Please keep up the good work each month. Thank you!

New to Firstlight or haven't given in awhile? Why not become one of 50 new support team partners this year by sending a financial gift of \$40.00 a month?

Or Send a 'One-Time' gift! You can help with a 'one-time' gift of \$50.00, or \$100 or more to help upgrade our ministry vehicles in Thailand, this month. \$12,000 needed still! **Your gift can help!**



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

Top Stories - *A Luwa man accepts Christ!*



While visiting a Luwa village with Pastor Nott last month in Nan province of northern Thailand, I (Dan) had the privilege of leading the husband of this family to Jesus during a house church meeting.

This church meets in the home of this family who operates a small store right out of their home. We worshipped, prayed, had fellowship, shared testimonies, taught, and listen to the Word. As people stopped by to make their purchase of simple food items, they were invited in to listen and to learn. A tremendous witness of what it looks like to become a follower of Christ. We announced God's Kingdom and prayed for healing of people who complained of sore backs. The Lord reigns!

Top Stories - *More are water baptized ...*



Another 8 were water baptized on Easter Sunday in two locations of our Firstlight Fellowship Churches in the northeast of Thailand.

These churches are located in rural areas where there is very little gospel witness in their communities. Everyday throughout the year we are breaking through. They are meeting in cell / house churches throughout the week with celebration church services on Sundays. The believers here are learning how to love the Lord and are growing into a vibrant Christian community where Christ is at the center of everything they do. So thankful for every soul being saved.

It is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our sight.

A Picture of Things To Come ...

Looking ahead there are several opportunities for us to be back in Myanmar and Thailand multiple times this year.

In Myanmar we continue to serve the Emmanuel Theological Seminary (ETS) to train students in practical theology and biblical studies. We are a part of raising up the next generation national workers in a country that is opening up more and more. The next five years will be key. Each of these lives are the future and we are blessed to be a part of it.

In the areas of unreached peoples, the Lord has us partnered with an amazing couple in Lishio in the northern part of

Myanmar among the Pulang, 55 trained and sent - they preached in 48 villages and 32 have come to Christ as the 'first fruits' among many more to be saved! We now have established a 'beachhead' for the Gospel among that unreached people group. Praise God!

In northern Thailand, we are partnered with Pastor Nott among the Luwa - eight churches planted in the past two years, a core of 20 leaders to be trained this year, to plant three new churches next year! Our first training for these 20 leaders will be in October of this year. I am excited to have this opportunity to pour into these hungry hearts for Jesus!

Our Firstlight Area Teams are presently preaching the Gospel in 5 major areas where our Firstlight churches are located. The FWF project has been launched for 2016 with close to 80 children in 7 locations this year. Prescription eye glass distribution is under way among hundreds in the Khon Kaen area from last year's outreaches and preparation are under way for a return visit by Dr. George Rooney and His Servants Ministry (HSM) in September. The Harvest is Now and we are ready for it ...



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

On A Personal Note



Well, dare I say it? It seems that spring, at long last has arrived. I must say my heart is lifted by the warm air, the sunshine. Dan has been enjoying fishing for trout and getting ready to hunt wild turkey with his older brothers. An Ecker tradition. I am getting stronger by the week and could not be more grateful. I was able to drive, by myself while Dan was in Thailand, to my parents home in South Bend, In and enjoy their company for Easter. Hoping to do this again in May, time with them is always precious. So much is going on, mostly in the realm of the Spirit, and we are just in awe, watching and wondering, LORD! What next? Where next? We have been blessed to be a part of a School of Passion being held in Abundant Joy Fellowship in Tarentum, that is being run by Son-Burn Encounters. Our times with this group is always rich and eventful. Their hunger for God is palpable, and we always see the Lord moving in our meetings. As always, we are so grateful for in this season in our lives, the Lord is using us, to entrust what He has placed in our hearts and lives to this next generation. MORE LORD!

The harvest is NOW!



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Prayer Points

**“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;”
II Cor. 8:9 NAS**

Please pray for:

1. For 48 who were recently water baptized.
2. For the fifty new support team partners \$40.00 a month.
3. Ministry vehicles upgrades in Thailand, \$12,000.00 still needed.
4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 2nd quarter of 2016.