



June 2016 News

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

- Power Of Church Planting pg.2
- Top Stories pg.3

* Features:

- Article - Seeds Of Hope pg.1
- Article - Board Member pg.2
- Article - Follow His Way 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 us:



Godspeed

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 NAS

Godspeed is an old spoken blessing that confers protection, provision and the peace of God on friends when the way ahead was not at all clear. There is a beautiful conversation between God and Moses in Exodus. The Lord is directing Moses where to lead the people. He is assuring him that He will send angels to guard them. Moses humbly interrupts God, ‘If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.’ In His great compassion God promises, ‘My presence shall go with you and I will give you rest.’

Then Moses says the most extraordinary thing: ‘Show me Your glory!’ It is a glorious thing, not just to know the will of God, but to experience His presence going with us. Moses wanted the glory of God to confirm their going out. Beloved, so should we.

These are harsh and troubled times. If we are to do God’s work and do it in His way we cannot do it without the gracious and empowering presence of God. There is only one place to find His glory and His presence, by humbling ourselves before Him, and giving Him preeminence in all we do. It is not OUR kingdom being established in the earth, but His.

The best I can give to those the Lord brings to us is how to get into the presence of God on their own. To experience Him in prayer, in worship. He will never leave them as they serve Him. Whenever I am asked to train new worship leaders, after spending just a bit of time on the practicalities, I have us take up our instruments and worship God together. Inevitably the presence of God falls because He is faithful to show Himself to those who hunger and thirst for Him. For the uninitiated it can be an amazing experience. Tears, laughter, a sense of wonder. We do not come out of the presence of God the way we went in. We receive an empowering that makes all other things seem so very small.

I have seen those worship leaders from that point on lead in a new way. Bold, holy, humbled and empowered. Not a lesson that is taught but rather, an impartation.

We all need ‘Godspeed’ as we go. We pray Godspeed on each and every one of you; that you know the fullness of His glory and the abiding peace of

His presence wherever you go.



DEBBIE ECKER
 Vice President
 Firstlight International

Projects & Ministry Platforms

Firstlight International is a ministry dedicated to bring fulfillment to the great commission through evangelism, discipleship and church planting in the places where we serve.

This is being done through a good number of projects and ministry platforms that are addressing the needs of: Health, Education, Moral, Economic and Community Development. Our passion is Jesus and our mission is to reach the world for Him.

We have always tried to do our best at listening for the Lord's direction for a country, a city, a town or a region, and then begin to ask Him for a way, (*His strategy*) to reach them. If you have been reading these newsletters you have

become well aware of projects like: Families Without Fathers (FWF), Project REAP: Regional Education Assistance Program, the E-5Project, MEDIT: Micro Economic Development In Thailand, and more.

These are the methods of what the Lord has revealed to us for Thailand. As a result, a Thai Foundation has been formed and it is now in its 10th year in 2016. The Foundation has seven Thai paid staff, four registered branch offices and we are reaching 70 plus children from fatherless homes in seven locations. The Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand, has been established with 11 churches so far. We are blessed by the Lord in so many ways. More will happen

as we press on and believe God for the greater works that He has promised. (John 14:12)

Through our partnerships in Thailand, Myanmar, China and Laos, the training platforms are in place for church planting among unreached peoples.

Each one of these projects and ministry platforms are bringing forth wonderful fruit. You, too, have a part in each and every one. We are blessed by your prayers and financial giving each month.

Thank you!



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

With Pastor Nott Nan Province, Thailand



As part of the E-5 Project, Missionary Tony Foster and I (Dan) have been working with Pastor Nott in Nan province, in northern Thailand among the Luwa - an unreached people group who are located there. Over the past two years, Pastor Nott and his Team have planted 8 churches!

Top Stories - *Eye Glass Distribution*



This is exciting news! Prescription eye glass distribution is underway in the province of Khon Kaen, Thailand to hundreds of people. The kingdom is advancing through annual eye care screenings for evangelism.

Thanks to Dr. George Rooney, Dr. Fredrick Martin and His Servants Ministries (HSM), thousands are being helped each year in rural villages in the northeast.

As part of the follow up to the 2015 outreaches, our Firstlight Area Teams are going back into these homes to personally deliver these glasses. There is often an exchange of kind greetings, a warm welcome and an opportunity to share Christ with the unsaved. Pray for remaining fruit!

Top Stories - *FWF project launch 2016*



Sharing God's heart with the families from fatherless homes in seven locations in Thailand through Families Without Fathers (FWF). Last month introduction meetings were held in several locations.

These meetings provide an opportunity for each of these families to come together to review the objectives of FWF, and to listen and to learn how the project will be carried out this year. The need is great and the opportunity to bring Christ into each of these homes is even greater.

With God's help and your prayers and financial giving each month these lives will be changed!

Could you not tarry with Me one hour?

I have always been amazed by the story in the bible where Jesus asked His disciples to stay awake with Him, while He prayed in the garden, just before going the cross. He told them to watch and to pray so that they, too, would not fall into temptation. "The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak", Jesus said.

During the most trying time of Jesus's life His closest friends (*the Apostles that he had chosen*) were not able stay awake. The intense spiritual opposition that surrounded them (*and Jesus*) that day was more than they could bare. This was something new for them. They had been around Jesus before as He prayed, but this was different. The

darkness that day caused them to become heavy with sleep.

So intense was this moment that as Jesus took His prayer posture (*kneeing down*) a stones through away, He prayed three times that the cup of suffering that He as about to go through be taken from Him. "If it be possible? He said, " Let this cup pass, yet not my will but yours be done." He prayed until His drops of blood appeared on His forehead. At this point the battle had been won. He knew that the Fathers will for Him would be to die on the cross to redeem mankind from sin. Even though it meant being separated from the Father, Jesus knew what

had to be done. And He did it!

We know that it is the Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom. (Luke 12:32) And that the Lord's plans for us are for good and not for evil to give us a future and a hope. (Jer. 29:11)

Facing battles today? Why not spend an hour with the Lord and talk things through? Seek higher ground in the Spirit as He leads you to the Rock that is Higher than I. (Psalm 61:2)



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

On A Personal Note



As the longer warmer days of summer stretch before us, I am reminded of the goodness of God. We are surrounded on every side by people who love us and care about us. Our families are nearer as we are based here. I have been able to once again drive out to South Bend, IN to visit my parents nearly monthly. That is a treasure to them and to me. We have not had such regular fellowship in literally decades. We also enjoy Dan's family and are able to share a weekly meal with his dear mother who prayed him into the Kingdom years ago. Our lifelong friendships through the various churches and ministries where we have served have been strengthened. We are lengthening the cords of our tent. We have also been blessed in the new friendships that God has brought to us in this season, particularly the young people of Son Burn, whose passion for the presence of God has fueled us and re-stoked the fires of our passion. Their love and joyfulness is infectious! I have never laughed or giggled so much in prayer meetings as I have in this past year!! Thank you, dear ones, for your friendship and love. In this season we have felt it, and are strengthened always. Godspeed!



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Prayer Points

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, Eph. 3:14

Please pray for:

1. For the FWF project: Every child and family as the new Thai school term begins.
3. All Firstlight projects, Area Teams & Churches: divine favor & lasting fruit.
3. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 2nd quarter of 2016.