



## July 2016 News

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Look for us:



# At The Cross

**“But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” Galatians 6:14 NAS**

The cross is universally recognized today as a symbol of Christianity even by those who have no idea its connection to Jesus. Worn on the neck as fashion and put on the side of buildings to welcome worshippers, it is a symbol of honor. But that was not always so.

When the Romans built their empire they were known both by their efficiency in building society, as well as their brutality in enforcing their laws. Hence, they used a most demoralizing and painful form of execution for prisoners who were particularly loathsome. It was used mostly for slaves, disgraced soldiers, Christians and foreigners.

‘He humbled Himself to the point of death, even death on a cross.’ Phil. 2:8.

The cross in the time of Christ was a symbol of utter contempt. It was failure. It was shame and complete degradation. Christ, our Savior allowed Himself to be put to death in this way. Stripped of clothing, reputation and identity He was set up in a public place to be mocked as He died. He did not seek the easy way.

Even then our Redeemer began to change the identity of that cross. Two pieces of wood, set perpendicular. One horizontal, symbolizing the redemption of our relationships, one with another. One vertical, symbolizing the redemption of our lives to God. For it was at that intersection that Christ laid down His life and made the great exchange: His life for ours.

Now that cross symbolizes another picture. Christ calls us not only to be believers, but followers. Jesus said, ‘if any man wishes to be My disciple, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.’ To be a disciple of Jesus means that we lay down our own identity, and take up His cross/His identity. Our lives becomes hidden in Him. In another verse Jesus said, ‘anyone who seeks his own life will lose it, but he who loses his life for My sake, will find it.’ The word for life here is Psuke, the Greek word for soul. Jesus was not asking them in this verse to die physically for Him; rather to die to self and selfishness. He was asking them to LIVE for Him. It is the second part of the great exchange. Our old life for new life in Him. A life led by love to do His work in this world and the joy of knowing Him. What a wonderful exchange!! Sign me up, Jesus!!

Jesus said if anyone would lose their Psuke for His sake they would SAVE it. The Greek word for save here is SOZO: to heal, save, preserve and rescue. The cross is for our rescue! In the cross God has cast a life line to humanity. We can grab His outstretched hand, and be saved.

Follow on then, with all joy; complete in the great exchange of the cross.



DEBBIE ECKER  
Vice President  
Firstlight International

## That None Should Perish

Imagine if none would perish! Imagine if every time we set out to reach a tribal group, a neighborhood, or someone at the work place, that we would have a “none would perish attitude”. We can cultivate a “none would perish attitude”, through praying, giving, going, and sending. As we do this God gives us a harvest of souls. If it is one soul or thousands, God works through our faith to touch others, and win them over to Him. As each of us play our part in these four areas of prayer, giving, going, and sending God uses us in our own unique ways to reach the world for Christ, so that none would perish! I believe God is releasing this to the body so we are restored to have a new heart for souls, a new drive to win people to Christ. It is a lost art that God is challenging the church to be involved in, in a greater way. The bible says: He

who wins souls is wise. Prov. 11:30  
Saving the lost at any cost so that none would perish!

Two years ago while at a Harley Davison shop in Colorado Springs I ran into a young down and out salesman who was battling drugs and hanging with the Hell's Angels. This fellow's biker name was Cub. You could see on his face he was distressed, and worried. After sharing the gospel with him, the Holy Spirit prompted me to give him some money. Upon receiving the money, Cub began to cry, and ran off to the restroom to have a Holy Ghost meltdown! After Cub composed himself, he told me before he came into work that day, that he prayed, and asked God for help for the first time in his life. He told me he prayed, and said: ‘God if you exist please help me today,’ and then

he went off to work. Cub was busted, and disgusted, had just got a job with Harley, and his wife and him were going to be evicted from the place they were staying that day. Cub asked Christ into his heart right on the spot that day, after hearing the gospel, and receiving a gift; the Holy Spirit transformed him. After two years, two weeks ago I received a phone call from Cub saying he, his wife, and new daughter are moving into their first house. He thanked me for being the real deal, and told me he and his whole family are now believers.

Hallelujah there is power in the simple gospel. Power to save, and to set free!



CHUCK LENHART  
President  
Frontier Harvest Ministries

### Ministry News

## Myanmar: A Work in Progress

**Doing our part to strengthen the church and to reach the lost.**



Children presenting a special song during worship

I have always been taught and have come to believe that as we ask the Lord to direct our steps, He would be faithful to put us in those places in the earth where He has intended for us to be a part. Myanmar happens to be one of those places.

With your help each month we are partnered with some great people who are doing amazing things for the kingdom. Our training platforms in the Emanuel Theological Seminary (ETS) are good. We are providing partial monthly teachers salaries and partial support to a small Children's Home that is associated with the Seminary. Every year students are

graduating with degrees in biblical studies and children are being cared for. It is with great joy to see this part of the work prospering in Jesus.

Our commitments to the Harvest Home in the north is reaching 13 children at risk, supporting 10 national church planters, 1 host couple and multiple church planting trainings and sendings for reaching an unreached people group called the Pulang. There are millions of them without a church. Each month YOUR HANDS are helping to reach them.



DAN ECKER  
President  
Firstlight International



## Top Stories - *Small group learning*

Thai kids are great! They so much enjoy the simple things in life even if its learning English on Saturday!

Children like these are hungry to learn - not just any subject but English in particular. And because of that our Firstlight Area Teams are always looking for ways to bring Christ into the context of learning in places like these.

With the use of games, songs, paper, pens, - crayons, simple conversational English is taught and of course bible lessons are shared. Remember: God's word is like a 'seed' that is sown in the ground. Pray that it would find 'good ground' in their hearts that will one day become a MIGHTY TREE of the Kingdom in their lives that cannot be shaken. Amen!



## Top Stories - *Meeting educational needs*

**As you pray, declare with us over these kids!**

**“Train up a child** in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Prov. 22:6 NAS

**“All your sons (*children*) will be taught of the Lord; And the well-being (*peace*) of your sons (*children*) will be great.” Isa. 54:13 NAS**

Pray for our Families Without Fathers (FWF) project this month! A new Thai school term has begun and these children are being reached!

We are asking the Lord to touch and to save each and everyone!

**Thank you!**



# Forget not, despise not, be not, withhold not!

In the early days my custom was to read the Psalms and Proverbs on a daily basis. I learned that if I were to read one Proverb and five Psalms everyday, I could read through the entire book of Psalms and Proverbs in a month. And for the longest time, I did that. I received lots of direction and wisdom for my life. Lessons that I still carry with me to this very day.

However, as time goes on so does your reading and study habits. Even though I have moved on to other types of annual reading plans I often find myself going back to this simple one Proverb - five Psalms a day method when I am feeling like I need something different. Just the other

day, I found myself in one of those moments and what I learned (*or indeed relearned*) is encouraging.

On that particular day, as I read through Proverbs chapter three, my eyes seemed to notice words like: Forget not, (*My law*) 3:1, Despise not, (*the discipline of the Lord*) 3:11, Be not, (*wise in your own eyes*) 3:7, and Withhold not, (*good from whom it is due*), 3:27. In fact, there are nine or so types of these '\_\_\_\_ not's' in this chapter - the above are of just a few.

I have learned enough to know that when words like these become so apparent when reading the bible that one can only conclude that the Lord

is trying to say something to you. It was a great day of bible reading.

The days, weeks and months that followed are the 'next steps' for my walk with the Lord and my dealings with others. May it ever be so in my life.

From that day onward my meditation of Him has been sweet! His Word and Will is life to my soul!



DAN ECKER  
President  
Firstlight International

## On A Personal Note



Time to get to put away the winter things and bring out our summer clothes! What a long, slow process a Pittsburgh spring can be. Summer is upon us and we are fully blessed to be enjoying the fellowship that brings with it. While Dan is in Thailand I always try and stay busy and often go and see my family in the Midwest. I was able to celebrate Father's Day and my Mother's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday with them in late June. We cherish every special day that we can in this season. Back in the Burgh I had wonderful visit from Mark and Dana Ritchie who are stateside to put their eldest daughter, Miriam, into college. Dana is originally from the area where our house located and so I am very happy to host them in her hometown. Mark and Dana and the girls were at our table every year for 10 years for Thanksgiving and often for Boxing Day, the day after Christmas. Sometimes Dana's parents, Gordon and Barbara Conner would join in as they came to visit for the holidays. I actually knew Gordon and Barbara years before I ever met Dana, through their work as phone counsellors at CTV where I was often a guest soloist. What a wonderful, lovely small world it is in the family of God.



DEBBIE ECKER  
Vice President  
Firstlight International

## Prayer Points

**“ ... ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.” Zach 4:6 NAS**

### Please pray for:

1. Myanmar ministry projects: ETS, & the Pulang. (see pg.2)
2. For the FWF project - new Thai school term in seven locations.
3. 3rd quarter 2016: Divine favor, abundant provision and lasting fruit.