



## September 2016 News

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Look for us:



# World View

**“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”**

**Revelation 11:15 NAS**

It all depends on how you look at it... is a phrase that comes up often in discussions. Religious ideals, politics and family matters are all open to ideas and opinions. A world view.

*Our* world view. Everyone has a perspective that is put in their minds and hearts throughout our lives. If our parents modeled good citizenship, or faithfulness to one another, then we might carry that mindset deep inside. If we were raised in a culture perhaps, that places more upon saving face or feelings than anything, then an occasional half-truth might not seem so bad. To one who comes from a culture where ‘honesty is the best policy’ there is no place for half-truths, even at the expense of feelings.

Everywhere we have been, the communities where we are raised, the faith that we follow builds in us a way of thinking. This in turn shapes us, and shapes the world we live in. Much like a carbon footprint, we create an imprint on our world.

The Christian can be assured that we have a bedrock for our world view. An Anchor for our souls. A Rock that does not move. His name is Jesus, the uncompromising Word that remains forever. His truth IS truth. His ways are the best ways, for He Himself said that He is THE Way. Jesus is always on the Throne; His worldview is perfectly clear. When

He was on this earth, He said that He could only speak what the Father was saying and only do that which He saw the Father doing. His world view was anchored in heaven; earthly events could not shake it.

Sometimes our focus can become obscured. In distraction we forget how tightly we are anchored to the ONE who is immovable. Unshakeable. Unfailing. Ever Present. It is then, that we need to FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS. He is the Author and Perfector of Faith. He will never fail. Period. His Kingdom is an eternal Kingdom and it has NO end.

The ways of man are like sinking sand. We look, but we do not find. We hope, but we are disappointed if our hope is in man. Beloved. If our hearts and our hope are fully fixed on the One Who has conquered fear and death, then all the unbalance in our lives will become steady. Our view, our world view, will once again be clear and simple. To live like Jesus, to love like Jesus, to see others the way He does is not difficult. It is a matter of looking up, and seeing things the way He does, from His heavenly perspective.



DEBBIE ECKER  
Vice President  
Firstlight International

## Soul Surrender - We All Must Have One

There seems to be a sweet fragrance exuded, or aura radiated, from Believers who are completely surrendered to the Lord. You can often recognize them by their Galatians 5 fruit. It's a brother-in-law who has asked the Lord for joy in the midst of intense struggle with an illness. It's a son who moves his family into a blighted urban neighborhood, bringing peace and reconciliation through incarnational relationship. It's a 65-year-old Caucasian mentor from the suburbs faithfully meeting every week with an inner city 12-year-old African American mentee. It's a daughter who visits the shut-ins in her church community, expressing acts of

kindness and love. It's a mother who faithfully prays, patiently waiting for that phone call from her only son who has separated himself from the family. It's a teacher who responds to an angry and rebellious student with gentleness and self-control.

Firstlight International is a ministry totally sold out to the Lord from its inception. If it were a tree, it would be pregnant with ripe fruit with names like FWF, SEKA, MEDIT, REAP, RH, and KAT (*Those are the names of a few Firstlight projects and ministry planforms.*) Children who never knew the love of an earthly father experience the love of their heavenly Father. Mothers steeped in

poverty are receiving a hand to start up a micro-business to help feed their families. Communities in remote parts of Thailand are getting much needed eye care. Promising students who lack the means are getting an opportunity to better their lives through education assistance. Homes that are falling apart are getting repaired. Communities of new Believers are popping up everywhere. Knowing Christ, loving him, living for him – this is what surrendered life is all about; this is what produces fruit.



KIRK (MAC) MCCABE  
Board Member  
Firstlight International

## Planting Seeds of Hope

**Eye Care Screenings for Evangelism in northeast Thailand this month**



The Gospel is making a difference in rural villages in northeast Thailand through eye care screenings for evangelism.

Every year (*around this time*) our Firstlight Area Teams along with Dr. George Rooney and Dr. Fred Martin, and a small team from His Servants Ministries (HSM) serve the eye care needs of a local Thai hospital, in Khon Kaen province. It's always an opportune time for the Gospel.

**Please join us in praying this month September 24-30th** as we reach out to hundreds in rural Thai villages where there is very little or no Gospel witness.

Ask the Lord  
to make a way  
for His Word to  
go forth!



DAN ECKER  
President  
Firstlight International



## Top Stories - *Families Without Fathers (FWF)*

**FWF 2016 is off to a wonderful start!** The first term started in May, and depending on the area, runs until the mid / end of October. There is a short two week break and then the second term starts in November, and runs all the way through till March. Quite different from the western school system.

We are happy to report that school fees and related supplies are being provided for every child involved in the program. Our FWF project staff are providing weekly visits to the homes and area schools to bring Christ into the homes of 70 plus children in seven locations.

Next month is our annual project / church Family Camp!



## Top Stories - *Firstlight Fellowship Church, Seka*

**So thankful for our Firstlight Fellowship Church in Seka, Thailand.** Worship services and training sessions are taking place on a regular basis and the kingdom is advancing. There are a good number of FWF families that have come to Christ, and have become members. They have found a Family where they belong. Each one has a vital part in the daily life of the local church.

Pray as this church seeks to become a stronger witness in the region. Through several house church gatherings, the Lord is raising up a core of believers who are shining His Light to those around them. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill each and everyone with power from on high! (Act. 1:8)



## Up Coming Events & Opportunities

We are blessed to be walking through the doors of opportunity that the Lord is opening to us in Thailand, and the region. These next several weeks and months will prove to be meaningful and productive.

**\* SEAPC Friends:** Next month we are planning to attend the SEAPC annual Friends event in Malaysia. A time to gather as a network of friends and ministries to re-connect, and to be refueled with passion and strategies for the South East Asia region and beyond. We are blessed to be a part of this amazing event.

**\* BOTCA Annual Meeting:** The Blessing of Thailand Church Association (BOTCA) will be holding their annual meeting in Hat Yai. I am on the Board of

Directors of BOTCA representing the Firstlight Fellowship Church Network. It is always a great time to listen and to learn as each of these churches gives their annual report, share prayer updates and lay out their future plans.

**Firstlight Fellowship Church Network & FWF Family Camp:** Next month also will be our Firstlight Fellowship Church Network and FWF Project Family Camp. This will be our 10th year and Debbie and I have been asked to be the main Camp speakers for multiple sessions for both children, and adults alike. We are asking the Lord for a MIGHTY impartation of His Spirit.

**\* Asia Fathering Centre (AFC) follow ups in Bangkok:**

Together, with John Paul Sprecher (*Forerunner Flame Intl, USA*) we will do some of the initial follow ups to the AFC launch that took place on July 11th. There are several churches who have expressed an interest and they are wanting to know more.

**\* Local church leadership training:** I am planning to teach a group of local Thai church leaders with Pastor Nott in Nan province, in northern Thailand. His goal is to plant three new churches among the Luwa in 2017. Time to prepare leaders to reach that goal.



DAN ECKER  
President  
Firstlight International

## On A Personal Note



What a great summer this has been!!! I feel like I finally have experienced a true Pennsylvania summer, with days so sunny one could delight in entering a pool, and weather so humid it made all of our hair frizz!! It is nice before heading into another cold winter to feel as if we truly had summer. Selah. One of the sweet things we did this summer, is to visit our dear Josiah in Seattle. They were also experiencing great sunshine, so much of what we did was outside. I particularly loved a day we spent at the Pike's Market down on the water front. We also enjoyed meeting he and McKenna's new dog, Koda...what a sweet, sweet dog and about the same size and temperament of our dear Sandy whom we had for 11 lovely years in Thailand. Watching Josiah with Koda made me think: a boy and his dog...it should always be thus. Haha. Also had a wonderful time marking my dear Dad's 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. His life of love and service to his country and especially to his family is a bedrock in so many of our lives. His example has been a great shaper of my world view, and I am grateful.



DEBBIE ECKER  
Vice President  
Firstlight International

## Prayer Points

**"But blessed are your eyes,  
because they see; and your  
ears, because they hear."  
Matthew 13:16 NAS**

### Please pray for:

1. Eye care screenings of evangelism - see pg.2
2. For our Firstlight Projects, Area Teams & Churches - see pg.3.
3. Upcoming Events & Opportunities - see pg. 4.
4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during the 3rd quarter of 2016.