



December 2016 News

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Look for us:



The True Light Shines

“There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.” John 1:9 NAS

In the fullness of time...God sent His son into the world. This is a verse that Christians often equate with the Christmas season. But this verse is PREGNANT with the plan, the purpose and the will of God. The word “time” in this verse is the Greek word: Kairos. The Kairos time marker is an event when eternity crosses over the timeline of the temporal...and forever changes the temporal from that moment forward. History. Changed. Boom.

A little over 2,000 years ago, Jesus was born. He was born at exactly the right time in history for His powerful message of reconciliation and love to be able to go out all most of the world. Three hundred and some years before Christ was born, Alexander the Great arose and conquered kingdom after kingdom. He marched and conquered over 22,000 miles, from Greek to India. In those places, he established Greek culture, and, more importantly a single language. For the first time in history, people living in diverse places and kingdoms were able to communicate by reading, writing and speaking a common language: Greek. Greek is the language of the New Testament.

Around 200 years before the birth of Christ, the Roman began to expand and in fact took over vast parts of the Greek empire through a series of

wars. By the time that star shone brightly over a lowly stable in Bethlehem, there was a network of a thousand or more roads and highways crisscrossing over most of the known world for the first time in history. A single, Roman government and the rule of law was established in all those places that guaranteed safe passage to travelers.

In that moment, that Kairos moment, God said: Now! Boom. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. The Light of all Lights came into the darkness...to light the heart of EVERY man. Not just certain people. Not just certain places. But His light, His marvelous light penetrating the darkest corners of the earth. And even today, that Light shines even brighter still.

This Christmas season I am mindful of Jesus coming into our worlds. Into our darkness, to illuminate us to truth and wisdom. And, most of all, He became the Way for man to have peace with God.

Jesus is the Light of the World, and in Him, we carry His light to the nations.



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Receive the Gift and Give it Away!

Be a leader--it's a gift! Jesus was sent by God as a baby to live among us and become the greatest leader the world has ever known. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only son that whoever believed in Him would not perish but would have eternal life. (Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.)

He lived what we live, saw what we see, felt what we feel, and heard what we hear. Except, living a sinless life, He heard from God and in that sinless freedom He obeyed His commands. We tell ourselves that we can't hear God and it's hard to be obedient because we are not sinless. It's difficult to believe

our sins are forgiven and God is speaking to us. But it is true-- we are separated from our sin forever when we receive Jesus and ask His forgiveness. We are forgiven according to I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"

When He was only 12, Jesus began to lead through God's word as He sat in the Temple with the religious leaders and they were amazed at what he knew. He was a gift sent to us at Christmas by and with the authority of the Father. Later He told us to receive the gift and use it with faith. Then He sent us with that same authority to go and tell the story and we too would have the authority. Firstlight works with young people and old daily making leaders for Christ who will obey Him.

Beloved, this Christmas when you open gifts remember the gift God gave you and use it. Tell someone your story of salvation and lead them to believe in Jesus too. Then you will be an obedient leader. Don't stop there though...make disciples wherever you go.

Firstlight International invites you to join us in making Christ followers by praying, going, giving, and leading other people to Jesus. Be a leader today under authority having authority Matthew 8:8-13 and have a Merry Christmas.



ELLIE GEPPERT
Board Member
Firstlight International

Celebrating a Year of God's Goodness



Dan & Debbie Ecker

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

With your help throughout this year, 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, our 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 2016 a remarkable year.**

Together we will pursue the promise of a preferred future: The advancement of God's kingdom going into all the earth in our generation.

Join us as we follow Jesus into a brand New Year! The Lord's plans for us are GREAT in 2017. **The best is yet to come!**

Top Stories - *Empowering Thai Church Leaders*

Here is a core of local Thai church leaders being trained in Nan province, in northern Thailand in October. Debbie teaches on how the original twelve apostles, and the first century church took the gospel thousands of miles from Jerusalem to places like India. At a time when travel and communication were quite difficult.

This was to show these Luwa church leaders that what they are seeking to accomplish is much more doable in today's world in spite the many challenges that we still face in remote places on the earth. And that Jesus said go!

30 plus leaders were trained that day. Pastor Nott and his team are doing a remarkable work among the Luwa people group with eight new churches planted over the past two years. Our goal is to help them to plant three new churches among the Luwa in 2017. More trainings are being planned to further equip the Luwa church to reach even further into this mountain region of northern Thailand and Laos.

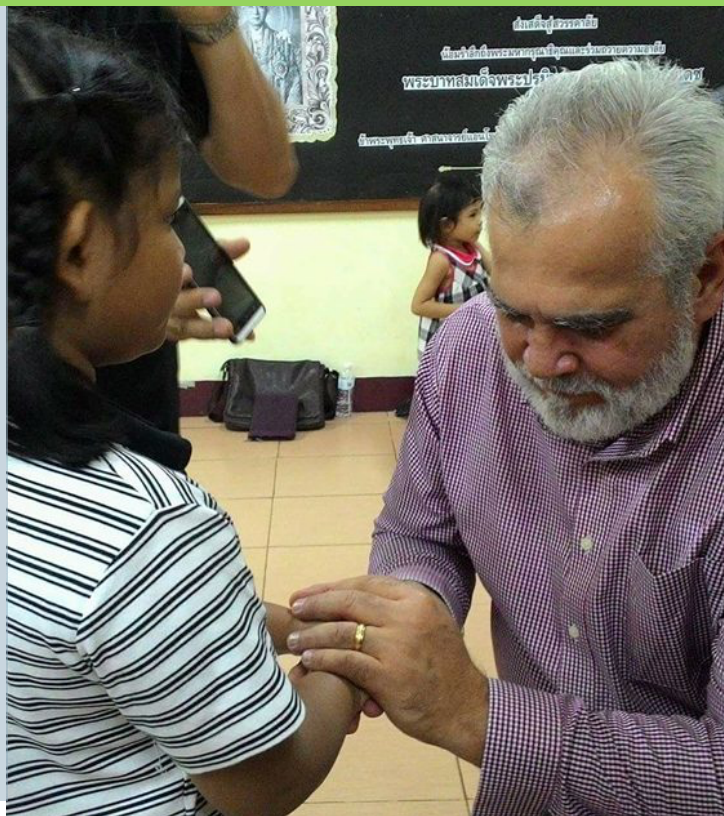


Top Stories - *Inspiring New Roots*

I (Dan) will always be grateful of the many opportunities to pray over, and to prophesy the word of the Lord into those that the Lord brings me in contact with. **It's a season of helping others to hear God's voice and to help them discovery His plans for their lives.**

In the Dayspring Church of Thailand, in Phattya - just south of Bangkok, Debbie and I had the privilege of visiting with Bill and Joanna Samuels and their family. Pastor Tony and Rose Perkins (*Joanna's parents*) are the ones who have planted this church over 20 years ago! And it's a great church. They are in the process of purchasing land in order to build a church - Outreach Center to reach Thailand's promised harvest! We are blessed to be apart of what God is doing there.

One Friday night prayer service, I was giving the opportunity to minister to several children the word of the Lord and to talk to them about their DESTINY! Lord, bring Your Words to pass!



JESUS is the Lord of the Harvest!

Having recently returned from Thailand, we continue to marvel at God's faithfulness with over 1700 eye exams in 5 days with nearly 40 first time decisions for Christ. Just a week following our mission outreach, for the nation of Thailand, was a very sober time as they continue to grieve the death of their honorable King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

We know that God is watching over the people during this period of mourning. I recall how that God was watching over and listening to the pleas of a poverty stricken woman and her son. They were both ready to eat their last meal before dying of starvation. But God!

He sent Elijah to a foreign land during a time of severe famine and drought. Even Elijah's own life was at risk

during this journey. But God. He provided food to sustain Elijah through the miracle of ravens sharing their food with him. Normally ravens are scavengers eating others food, but here through the providence of God, they retreated from their natural inclination to sustain a prophet of God. Elijah then asked the woman to prepare a portion of her last meal to include him as well. What faith. But that act of obedience allowed the oil to flow and the flour for bread to continue until the drought had ended. The woman and her son lived on.

I see God having provided us with miraculous favor. We accomplished a goal greater than we thought possible meeting both physical and spiritual needs. Stretched beyond our comfort zone, we found ourselves exhausted yet refreshed each day.

We can look back over eight years and marvel at how God is using medical / gospel partnerships like that of His Servant's Ministries and Firstlight to reach the lost.

Now Thailand will likewise be searching for hope as they mourn, honor and memorialize the once teenage King Bhumibol who helped rescue a nation. Let us pray that God will give favor during this time, that His plans are fulfilled and that joy, peace and hope once again return to the Kingdom of Thailand. Until all have heard....



DR. GEORGE ROONEY
His Servants Ministries
(HSM)

On A Personal Note



As I pause to reflect on this past I am caught with emotion. Gratitude, so deep, I cannot hold back the tears. This year began so weak. So very, very weak for me. For us really, because my beloved husband never left my side through the darkest tunnel of my life. Helping me, taking care of me. Listening to me weep in pain. Holding me, and always, always being so positive. As were all of you, all of you. Your prayers your notes. Regular phone calls from my sweet Josiah, asking how I am, how I REALLY am... (lol...there is definitely a future counselor in you, beloved son of mine. You always look to the heart of people and I love you so much for that.) In the midst of all the love and prayers, I was healed. God graciously extended His healing hand, and so, I have ended this year in strength. Incredible strength. His strength. Strength to step back on the track and run this race that He has put before me. Keeping my eyes, always, on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfector of my faith. He is still writing my story and it is nowhere near finished yet!

Merry Christmas to each and everyone!



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Prayer Points

**"You have crowned the year
with Your bounty, And Your
paths drip with fatness.
Psalm 65:11 NAS**

Please pray for:

1. Thailand as the country goes through a time of national mourning.
2. Good follow up on the eye care screenings that took place in September.
3. Strong finish to 2016, and as we enter 2017.
4. Divine favor, abundant provision and lasting fruit for all of Firstlight Intl.