



## January 2017 News

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Look for us:



# Harvest Now!

**“But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle because the harvest has come.” Mark 4:29 NAS**

Casting out our eyes upon the open spaces of 2017, I see: Harvest. A harvest heavy, fully ripened and waiting. I see in my prayer closet, workers raised up from prayer communities who are standing with them even as they go. Workers whose reach will go as far as those prayer communities faith stretches. Because this is how it works: ‘for how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach, unless they are sent?’ Romans 10:14

Harvest. Now. For through this unprecedented time in human history, the Lord is tearing up the stumbling blocks to His kingdom going forth in every direction. Air travel, open borders, internet connections have made communications not only easier, but at lightning speeds. Literally, in real time there are people who are ministering to Muslims and Hindus and seekers of all back grounds, all over the internet, in private messages and open forums. Where some choose to argue and postulate, others choose to love, listen and A-postulate!! Ha! Now THERE’s a word! I think I just made it up.

They go forth, carrying only Jesus and Him crucified. Only His message of love, hope and reconciliation. If we die to ourselves and live for Him., then anything is possible. Anything and everywhere are suddenly at our door.

Harvest. Now. What does that look like to you? How do you see yourself in

position to be a part of bringing in the might harvest that is waiting in this marvelous year? Will we be part of prayer communities, gathered around the ones being sent out, long trips, short trips. Committing to pray and give and stand with them as they go out on their assignment, allowing God to make it our assignment as well? For truly even as we see in that verse from Romans, it takes us all to bring the message of the Kingdom to every place.

Perhaps Harvest Now means that the Lord is tapping YOUR shoulder for a particular team, a particular trip, a particular assignment. Perhaps you are hearing about a mission opportunity, either in another country or right here in your own community? Perhaps your heart quickens when you hear people talking about that opportunity. Perhaps you are hearing, as I once did, ‘and you are going, too...’

Perhaps this is your year: 2017. Unprecedented opportunities await. A dear friend spoke to a missions group and one thing he said stuck as a motto for this coming year: Just show up. Lord! That is what I want to do this year. Blessed times await us, dear friends, as we look to Him. And just show up.



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## Partnerships for Purpose



WRITTEN BY,  
YC CHEN

A boy courageously, but unsuccessfully, attempted to move a heavy log to clear a pathway on his hiking trail. His dad stood quietly nearby,

watching his son straining against the load. Finally he said, "Son, why aren't you using all of your strength?"

Confused and disappointed, the boy responded, "Dad, I'm using every last little bit of strength I have!"

"No, son; you're not," his dad quietly responded. "You haven't asked me to help."

Effective leaders know to reach beyond themselves for strength. This holds true for effective and healthy organizations; they develop and build healthy strategic partnership both internally and externally.

Even our heaven Father is the embodiment of a perfect partnership. In a truly mystifying way, there has always been perfect communion, perfect community, and perfect partnership within the divine Trinity. We also have a human example in the life of King David. At one of the lowest moment in his life, David still was intentional in

forming relationships with diverse groups of people. When he escaped to the cave of Adullam, 400 men who were distressed, in debt and discontented gathered around him. From fighting on the battlefields to preparing the materials for the Temple, David possessed the foresight to know that he could not do it alone.

Before we engage in the routine in making 2017 New Year's Resolutions, it is good to take a moment to review various partnership we have in our lives. As for Firstlight, I know your precious strategic partnership has makes a tremendous difference year after year. I have seen first-hand the impact on the lives of children in Thailand, the seminary students in Myanmar, Chinese believers and pastors, passionate worshippers in Pittsburgh and more. Everyone's part and contribution counts for the Kingdom of God.

The world will be surely be brighter place as we connect, inspire, encourage and support each other in partnerships with purpose as we press toward the goal of our high calling in Christ Jesus!

### Ministry News TOP STORY

## Our Projects & Ministry Platforms in 2017 ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

Firstlight International is a ministry committed to bring fulfillment to the great commission through evangelism, discipleship and church planting. This is being done through a good number of projects and ministry platforms geared towards: Health, Education, Moral, Economics, and Community Development.

As Thailand continues to be a primary country where Firstlight is focused, projects like Families Without Fathers (FWF), REAP: Regional Education Assistance Program, and The Firstlight Fellowship Church Network, *(and a few other projects)* we are bringing Christ into seven locations across Thailand where there is very little or no gospel witness in their communities. New churches are being planted among responsive people. In the larger region, we are currently partnered with like minded ministries and churches to train leaders and national church planters in places like: Myanmar, Laos, and China. Trainings like these are taking place in each location on a regular bases throughout the year.

### Why not join the team today? ..

As we are preparing to step into a brand New Year, we have prayed over and have put together our ministry plans for 2017 and beyond. The work of Firstlight is prospering and we are ready to do more!

**A financial gift of any size each month or a ONE-TIME gift of \$50.00, \$75.00, \$100.00 or more, makes you a Support Team partner and it would mean a world of difference in the lives of those being reached this year.**

When sending your gift, please use the return envelope enclosed. This same envelope can be used to send us your prayer requests each month. We would love to have the opportunity to pray with you!

**Thank you in advance for your continued partnership this year.**



## Sharing Christ in rural villages in Thailand ...

During last month's visit to the Isaan region, (*the northeast region of Thailand*) our Firstlight Area Team shared the gospel with many in several villages. People came to Christ and others were healed after receiving prayer, in Jesus Name!

One lady in particular, (*on the left*) was wheel chair bound and could not walk. However, after our team prayed for her, she got up and with some assistance she was able to take a few steps on her own. She then came to Christ that day!

Beloved, the Harvest is here! The harvest is now! Miracles like these are talking place on a regular basis as our Firstlight teams are going to preach the gospel.

JESUS is the Light that shines in the darkness. As co-laborers together with Christ, we are taking His light into places like these - to people who so desperately need Him.



## Together we can make a difference in 2017 ...



Meeting children and families like these happens monthly in rural Thai villages. Each one is waiting to be reached!

Therefore, bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who dwell in darkness is our mission in 2017.

Our Firstlight Area Teams are bringing Christ into fatherless homes through Families Without Fathers (FWF) in seven locations across Thailand. Out of that a growing network of Firstlight Fellowship churches are being formed. Each congregation is growing into a witness of righteousness to advance the kingdom for generations to come. And for that we praise Him.

Your prayers and financial gifts each month are not taken lightly and we consider it a great honor to be supported by you. Thank you for helping to make all of this possible!

## Heart Change Nation! ..



WRITTEN BY,  
JOHN PAUL  
SPRECHER

Greetings  
FirstLight  
Family, It  
has been  
our  
supreme joy

to partner with you in the nation of  
Thailand.

This past October, my family of  
seven were serving alongside Dan and  
Debbie during a true hour of *history  
being made* in Thailand!

As you most likely know, Thailand  
lost its long-reigning king on October  
13, 2016. This day has FOREVER  
changed both the natural and spiritual  
direction of Thailand, and I can say

without reservation that there is a  
“New Thailand” before our very eyes!

During this shift, Dan and Debbie,  
our family, and friends in the city of  
Bangkok gathered together to pray  
and seek God’s face. The time was  
very intense, but few times in my life  
have I ever felt more purposeful and  
moved to pray and stand in the gap  
for change!

The king of Thailand was seen not  
only as the “King” of the nation, but  
also the “Father” of it. Two positions  
that radically effected the spiritual and  
physical climate of the Thai people.

Now, in one day, that had all changed!  
God has told us as a ministry to

clearly reveal the Heart of our Father  
God into the nation of Thailand over  
the past 10 years. Considering this, in  
July, with the support of Dan and  
Debbie we launched the “Asia  
Fathering Centre” in Bangkok. Of  
course, we had no idea the king would  
pass away in the next three months...  
but our ABBA FATHER knew! We  
are so ready to partner with FirstLight  
more than ever in Thailand.

The harvest, and it’s a BIG one, has  
*never* been more ripe! Hearts have  
been broken, and Jesus is ready to  
heal and bring HOME Thai people to  
Father!

For His Kingdom Come in Thailand.

## Together Again!

*On a personal note ...*



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

Happy New Year 2017! Debbie and I so much  
enjoyed our Christmas and Holiday season. Josiah  
came in for a ten day visit from Seattle and it was  
soooooo ..... goooood to have him home again with  
us here in Pittsburgh.

The three of us had hours of unbroken  
conversation, shared lots of snuggles, watched some of our favorite movies,  
eat some good home cooked meals, and spent time visiting family and a few  
close friends. He and I even made some deer sausage and later we smoked it,  
in a meat smoker that we made and set up behind the house. It was great fun!  
Our Christmas morning was quite - just the three of us.

Leading up to Christmas, I was able to do some deer hunting through the fall  
and that was rather rewarding. Hoping to get out again for a late season hunt  
and as time permits, I am planing some steelhead fishing with my brothers  
before the pace of ministry and travel picks up later this month. Before too  
long - it’s full steam ahead with meetings in Ohio, California, Texas,  
Singapore and Thailand.

Let’s do this together in 2017. Your part means so much each month.

Thank you each and every-one!

## Prayer Points

**“The wicked flee when  
no one is pursuing,  
But the righteous are  
bold as a lion.”**

**Prov. 28:1 NAS**

- 1. Ask the Lord to release:  
Divine Favor, Abundant  
Finance & Lasting Fruit.**
- 2. Increase and  
breakthroughs for all  
Firstlight projects, peoples,  
- Area Teams, Area  
Churches.**
- 3. For an abundant harvest of  
souls saved in each  
location in 2017.**