



February 2017 News

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Real Time

“So Moses declared to the sons of Israel the appointed times of the Lord.” Leviticus 23:44 NAS

I have always enjoyed reading places in the Bible where there appears to be special moments of time that the Lord has appointed: Preplanned, or preordained, if you will, for things to occur in our lives that seem to come from ‘nowhere’ and BOOM it happens!

One could call it a breakthrough moment. Or an opportune time. An opening of time when God, who is Eternal, steps into our temporal lives and things are changed.

The greek word for this type of appointed time or breakthrough moment is the word Kairos. It's when eternity crosses into temporality and changes the course of temporality from that point onward. When Jesus came to earth it was a Kairos moment. (Gal 4:4) In the fullness of time! When the Holy Spirit was first poured out in Acts chapter two, it was a Kairos moment. (Act 2:1) When the day of Pentecost had fully come. A point in time when the Lord says NOW! And there are many.

In the above verse, the appointed times of the Lord which Moses declared to the people were certain times of the year (*basically three times a year*) when they were to gather for worship at the tent of meetings to present certain kinds of offerings and sacrifices which the Lord required. Things like: First fruits offerings from their fields, grain offerings, offerings by fire, and other types of burn offerings.

The key was they were not to come before the Lord empty handed; and that also included a portion of their finances.

Further studies show that the offerings presented during these appointed times of the Lord where to be in addition to their daily offerings that were required. And it seems that what was offered during these special times released a greater measure of God's presence and blessing into their lives until the next time they gathered. And that what took place during those appointed times of the Lord may not have happened during other times in their lives. They were special moments when God breaks through.

In 2017 don't let yourself get stuck in what we know to be clock time. The dictionary describes time as “the point or period at which things occur.” In clock time all time passes equally. In most cases clock time is irrelevant. Because in real time, things happen! We need to make the shift from clock time to real time! In real time all time is relative. We don't live in or access to clock time. In real time life occurs. Real time is created. It is the stuff that takes place on a daily basis where those appointed times - Kairos moments are happening all the time in our thoughts, conversations, actions and deeds. Real time is here!



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

Five Streams of Discipleship



WRITTEN BY,
TONY FOSTER

In this article this month, I am excited to share with what I call the Five Streams of

that flowed from the life of Jesus, which is made available to the disciples of Jesus.

The first stream is intimacy with the Father. Richard Foster points out: Nothing is more striking in Jesus's life than His intimacy with the Father. "The Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise" (John 5: 19). We cannot deny that when we examine the intimacy of Christ, it stirs up a longing in us to be that close and intimate with our Father.

The second stream is the life of purity and holiness. There was a holiness ingrained in the life of Christ that made him attractive to even the worse of sinners. His holiness calls out to us to live a more obedient, fruitful, and consistent life. The third stream is a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. From the moment he rose out of the

waters of baptism to the arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus moved in the power of the Holy Spirit. He offers this life to all those who follow Him. (Mark 16:17-18)

The fourth stream is the stream of compassionate involvement. (Matthew 9:36-38) Disciples must learn to grow in compassion for the world around them and get involved in their healing.

The fifth and last stream is the stream of living on mission. Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost. He came to heal all those who were oppressed by the devil. He came to do the work of the Father. The disciples we make must understand that they are disciples for others. Jesus made disciples for others and commissioned them to make disciples for others. We, too, must go and do the same.

Discipleship. Ultimately the Great Commission is going into the entire world and MAKING disciples. Jesus called His followers to a radical lifestyle that would transform them into sources of living water for the world to drink from (John 4:13-14 & John 7:37-39) a progression from a person who drinks from the well of living water to a person who is providing living water for others to drink from. Notice that Jesus announced that from them would flow RIVERS – plural not a river – singular.

The life of a disciple of Jesus Christ is a person through whom the Rivers of the Holy Spirit would flow. And from Gospels, we can identify five streams

God's Call Says It All



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

In 2017 we are launching into the deeper waters of the call of God on our lives. As we harken unto the voice of our Heavenly Father, our hearts are full of promise for what about to unfold.

This will be a significant year with many challenges to overcome as we pursue the '*wide door of effectual service*' (1 Cor. 16:9) that we see standing open right in front of us. Already the schedule is filling up with multiple opportunities to advance the kingdom in the U.S. and abroad. The first five months of this year we would have been in Singapore, Myanmar, Thailand, Ohio, and Texas.

Pushing further into the fabric of Thai society we are forging new pathways for prayer, evangelism, leadership training, church planting and for healing deep rooted father wounds that exist among many Thai church leaders. The potential for Thailand coming to Christ this year is massive! Our Firstlight projects and ministry platforms will prove to be successful with many coming to Christ this year.

The year 2017 brings a call into our lives to help further establish the Asia Fathering Centre, in Thailand. This gives Firstlight the opportunity to be a part of giving birth to a much needed ministry platform that will change the course of destiny for many years to come for a nation that desperately needs Him. Join us each month.



DAN & DEBBIE ECKER

Updates: Church Planting in Myanmar



Through targeted prayer, aggressive evangelism, multiple trainings and sendings over this past year, we now have a core of Pulang people who have come to Christ in over 48 villages in the Shan State of northern Myanmar.

Luke (*tall with glasses on the left*) & Genevieve (*to the far right*) are leading this work. They have raised up a team of 10 national church planters that are working with them each month. Your prayers and financial giving through Firstlight is helping to support this great work!

Throughout this year, a steady stream of new believers trainings will take place in April, and November and a new core of 50-60 leaders will be trained and sent in March and May of this year. Water baptisms are next!

In addition to the church planting efforts, we are caring for 25 children at risk that are being housed in what we call the Harvest Children's Home.

Bringing Christ to the Lost!



I (Dan) love our Firstlight Families Without Fathers (FWF) project in Thailand. This is just one of the many ministry platforms that the Lord is using to bring others to Himself in hard reached areas in the north east region of Thailand.

These children and adults alike are coming to know Jesus. Through weekly visits like these to the homes and area schools, the gospel is being shared and God's great love is breaking through. Praise His Holy name!

A project like FWF put into the hands of a wonderful team a tool to reach the lost and hurting. The Harvest is ripening in Thailand as never before. Let's stay the course. In due time we shall reap if we faint not!

ThaiLights: *A Year of Opportunity*



WRITTEN BY,
NATTHIKA
TANTAVEEWONG

As humans we are all born having a basic desire to be happy and to live a good life. Some people get a good chance right from the start because they are born into families that are more fortunate than others. Some who are less fortunate are born into families with broken homes that lack proper parenting, income, and education. As the disadvantaged of society, people like these find it hard to move forward in life. However, my experience says there is hope.

I was one who was born into a disadvantaged family in Thailand and we did not know the Lord. At

a very young age I was unable to live with my parents from the time I was a child; no chance to study in regular classes in school. I pretty much had to work to survive. I had to take care of myself and seek out opportunities towards a better future. And as time went on, I came to Christ later in life and from there went on to complete my education even holding degrees in business administration and Biblical studies. It was hard but with God's help, I did it!

Through my own experience I have lived through the hardships of children who also come from less fortunate families and I understand what that is like. And now as an adult I have a desire to seek out

those who are less fortunate and help to provide opportunities for children and families to better their lives. I thank God that today He has given me the opportunity to serve as the Operations Assistant of Firstlight in Thailand. Together with our Firstlight area teams, and churches - we are helping children and families who are without fathers find a future and a hope in Jesus Christ.

I like the projects: Families Without Fathers (FWF), REAP: Regional Education Assistance Program, *(and others)* because I can see a great opportunity this year to reach many people for Jesus. And whatever we do to the least of these, we are doing unto Him!

On The Road Again! *On a personal note ...*



Written by,
Debbie Ecker

February is proving to be a month of getting back into travel mode. We are attending a conference at Bethel Church in Redding CA, on the how to's of setting up a Supernatural School of Ministry. We are excited to learn more the admin side of what goes into this type of school so that we are more prepared for this next season of our lives. We weren't able to make this conference last year due to my surgery; but as we looked to the Lord for 2017, He had not dropped it from our 'to do' list. Afterwards we will have a few days with Josiah in Seattle. Toward the end of the month, we will be heading out for another long trip, leaving cool and rainy Pittsburgh early spring to the scorching climes of South East Asia. Looking so forward to times with Jeff and Tammy Yuen in Singapore, with the Soakability Church as well as our dear sister, friend, and Firstlight board member, YC Chen. It has been at least a dozen years or more since we have been to Singapore... and we are excited for the opportunity to visit and minister there again. After a week there, we will be busy in Thailand, and Myanmar, going from one event and training session to another. Always and in everything, we are thankful to God for continually opening up the road before us, leading us by His Spirit. Upholding us by the Word of His power. Keeping us in His love. And we are so very thankful to all of you for being on the journey with us as we build the Kingdom ...

Prayer Points

**“Suddenly, in an instant,
I, the Lord of Heaven's
Armies, will act for you.”
Isaiah 29:5d-6 NLT**

Please pray for:

- 1. Pulang people Myanmar:
scheduled 2017 trainings
March / May / April /
Nov. Make disciples!**
- 2. For Firstlight
International: All Projects.
People. Churches. Leaders.
All members. Growth!**
- 3. For God's abundant
provision during the first
quarter of 2017.**