



March 2017 News

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Rapid Advance

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it.” Matthew 11:12 NLT

Depending on which translation you read the above scripture has significant meaning in the modern day in which we live and one that we should pay attention to. Some translations say: “... *the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force.*” (NKJ version and others like it.)

I don't know about you but it sounds rather strange to me when I hear the Kingdom Heaven and the word 'violent' or 'violence' in the same verse. And the thought that the Kingdom of Heaven would 'suffer' anything doesn't make sense to me. God is in need of nothing from anyone let alone His Kingdom in need of anything. He is God! Does that make sense?

However, I don't think Jesus meant the word 'violence' in the way we think it means. It's not a physical doing harm to someone but rather a forceful entry into something - a forceful passionate desire to enter into the Kingdom - something that was lacking even in His day. On one hand it 'suffers' that forceful, passionate desire for entry and on the other hand, there are those who have found it, and that forceful passion is making its way into it.

This word 'violent' or 'violence' in this verse carries with it a deep sense of passion. An unquenchable desire or purpose. A fiery passion if you will, or the forceful desire to push past whatever it is that is hindering you from entering into something of greater significance. In this case the Kingdom. And that the 'violent' or

'passionate' people are 'attacking it' - not letting anything or anyone hold them back from entering it. May we all have such a desire in these days.

Passion can be a funny thing. We all have those moments or seasons in life when our commitment level is not where it once was or where it should be. And that the words of the Apostle Paul comes to mind where he says to Timothy to fan into flame, *rekindle* the gift of God that is within you. (II Tim 6:12) For anyone who has a heart after God this is of utmost importance in their Christian life: To keep the fire burning on the inside!

Looking at this verse from that perspective it makes perfect sense! In essence Jesus is saying that the Kingdom is passionately advancing all over the earth at an unprecedented rate and that extremely passionate people are going after it as hard as they can not letting anyone or anything hold them back from entering it. It is a passionate place (*realm*) where God's love prevails and consumes everything in its path. What this tells me is that the Kingdom of Heaven is an attractive place (*realm*). It is irresistible! And that once you have been touched by it you are forever changed by the power of that Kingdom - God's Kingdom. You can not help but surrender to it!



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

The Word Works!



WRITTEN BY
CHUCK LENHART

One day a friend said to me, "The Word Works". I have found

if you work the Word of God into your life, and the work of the Word of God will begin to lead and transform everything you are doing. The problem is when we don't work the Word of God into our situations; then things don't work out as He planned.

When we speak and act in His timing, the word given to us begins to work its way out to the surface of our life, and it works! It's like bread dough, you must work it before it can go to the next level of waiting for it to rise, and take it's form. Once the dough has come into its full risen state, then it's put into the final process of being baked and

served. His plans begin to unfold right before your very eyes, the very thing we envisioned begins to take shape and a great harvest is realized in what you have set out to do.

When Firstlight International, and Frontier Harvest Ministries set out to reach Northern Myanmar this is exactly what we did. We began to speak the Word of God over the work and the people involved. As we did this His leading, resources, and strategies began to surface and be implemented into the work, and lives of the wonderful ministers we work with in Myanmar. 2016 was a real harvest year among the targeted group of the Pulang people. We have now broken through 48 villages with the gospel, and have nearly one hundred new convert! Praise the Lord! God's Plan is Working! You know why? I'll tell you why, because

the Word work's when you put it into action. When you follow through, and not give up no matter what, His Word ties itself to the work, and the work gains great momentum and accomplishes what it has been sent out to accomplish.

In 2017 we are looking forward with great hope of a multiplying movement of Pulang churches popping up everywhere like tender shoots coming up through the ground in springtime. Now that we have the raw matter in new converts, the real work begins in discipleship 101. During the months of March, May, September, October and November, we will continue to train, and send our church planters into new villages, and circuit the net-work of new convert villages for visitation and oversight of the work at grass roots level. A great work has begun.

Ministry News TOP STORY

In The Glory, is Your Story!



Written by,
Debbie Ecker "To them God would make known

what is the glorious riches of this mystery among the nations. It is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col.1:27 MEV

Over three decades ago, when my husband first gave his heart to Christ, one of his best friends asked him, 'How did you go from one extreme to the other...in one day?' He was not so much challenging Dan, but instead was mystified by this new person standing before him who was happy, free and obviously touched by God. It was clear to see that Christ was within: where there had been sadness, now there was hope; where there had been a life lived aimlessly, now there was

purpose and vision. And, above all, there was the glory.

This glorious habitation of the Holy Spirit in our hearts is the mystery that is the most powerful evidence we have of a Living God. Just as in the days of Moses, where God sent a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to lead and guide His people; so now, that glory cloud has entered into the new temple; that is the temple of our hearts. He makes His home there. We are nevermore alone, led and guided from within; the still, small, Voice saying to us, "This is the way. Walk ye in it." Is. 30:21

This inward dwelling of the Most High God gives us access to all that Jesus has to give. LOVE. JOY. PEACE. PATIENCE, KINDNESS, COURAGE, HOPE, HEALING,

RESTORATION. For Jesus said, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. All of heaven at our disposal, residing within. This is the glory that can change the world. When Jesus promised His disciples that He would send them the Holy Spirit to abide with them for ever, He said, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18

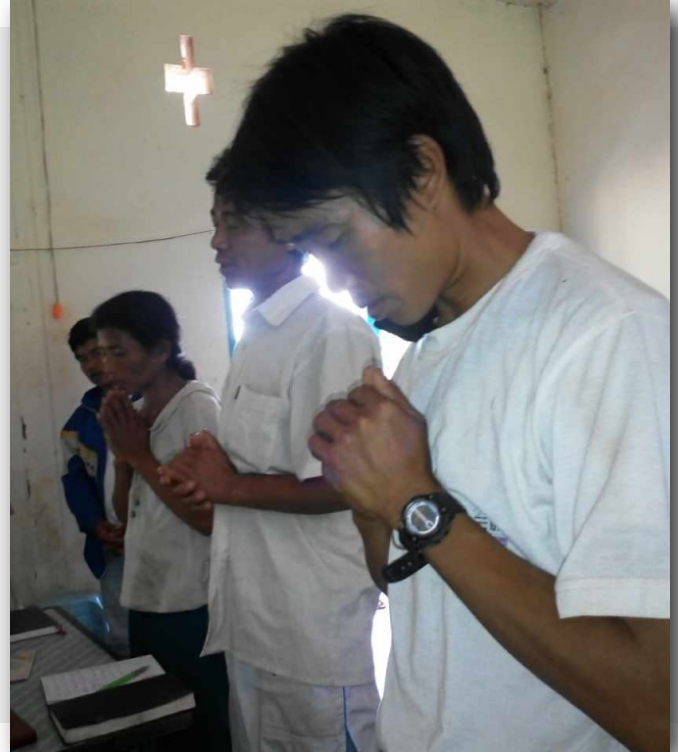
Christ, in us the hope of glory. And that hope is the Hope of All Nations. In Him the fulness of the Godhead does bodily dwell, and we are complete...in Him. What an honor to carry His presence within us. What a responsibility to live our lives in the most yielded way, so that truly we can say: "It is no longer I who live, BUT CHRIST who lives in me." Gal. 2:20

Trainings & Sendings in Myanmar

Over the past 18 months we have been involved in church planting among an unreached people group known as the Pulang. There are millions of them living in parts of southwest China and northern Myanmar. Our focus is primarily on those who are living in Myanmar.

The first send-out was over 50 gospel preachers mostly from a Lisu Bible school that we are affiliated with and several full time national church planters from mainland China had come to help us in this great work. The results were encouraging: 32 new converts in close to 48 villages had come to Christ! The numbers are growing as additional trainings and sendings are underway.

On a monthly basis there are 10 full time national church planters who are traveling into these villages following up new converts, making disciples and training leaders. Each month, Firstlight has an active role in this partnership.



English Learning Groups - FWF Thailand



One of the ways that the Families Without Fathers (FWF) project working in Thailand, is to help children like these improve in their English skills. Although they are taught English in school, opportunities like these are proving to be an effective way of sharing Christ in the process of learning.

Each week our Firstlight Area Team in Seka, are reaching into this community through English Learning Groups like these. The program normally starts with a few action songs in a larger group setting before move into smaller learning groups. What we are finding is there are a growing number of children who are not a part of FWF are joining in as well.

What a way to bring the Gospel into the lives of children through learning groups like these!

ThaiLight: If so, why not now?



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

We are
blessed to
be working
in a nation
where less

than 1% of the population
profess faith in Christ. Just in case
you've missed it, that nation happens
to be the country of Thailand.

For the past two decades we have
been doing our part to bring Christ
into rural communities mainly in the
northeast region where there is very
little or no gospel witness. Through
our efforts, hundreds have to Christ in
many areas and new churches have
been planted. However, in spite of
our efforts, *(and many others like us)* the
research still shows that there are
entire districts where there are no

churches or believers to be found.
The question is easy. Why not?
However, the answer not is so easy.

The potential of Thailand coming to
Christ this year is massive. All of the
elements are coming together for a
perfect storm - a spiritual *tsunami* if
you will for many if not all to be
swept into the Kingdom of God. I
am reminded of the scripture that
says can a nation be born in one day?
(Isa. 66:8) And I believe it can!

What is lacking or what I feel wants to
emerge is for a fresh prophetic &
apostolic movement to occur where
we move from the traditional style of
church to apostleships *(Rom 1:5)*
where environments are created for
the Holy Spirit can do His work *(John*

16:8) resulting in Eph. 4 Giftings to
emerge *(Rom 1:11, Eph. 4:11-16)*
where atmospheres are shifted or
changed, when the Kingdom comes
(Matt 6:8) in response to our prayers:
Heaven invades earth, and God
shows up! Where we move from
performance driven 'church life' to a
'sonship' position of 'being' instead of
'doing' knowing that our Heavenly
Father is at work in us *(Phil 1:6, 2:13)*
and that we are His workmanship
(Eph 2:10) walking in what has been
preordained long before the world
began. And if so, why not now?

Join me each month on this journey
of faith as we believe God for a
nation coming to Christ!

Following God's Plan

On a personal note ...



Written by,
Debbie Ecker

We are by now well on our way to an extended time in Asia. So blessed to be
strong and healthy enough, one year out from my surgery, to go back to work.
Particularly looking forward to our first port of call: Singapore. Have not
been there in 15 years! Looking forward to family time with dear friends, Jeff
and Tammy Yeun and their son, Josiah. Yes! Ha, another Josiah! Looking
forward to times in His glory with their church, Soakability. They meet on
Saturday evenings; on Sundays, they go into the streets with the love of Jesus.
We will be staying at our dear friend YC Chen's apartment, our first time to
stay at her home! This dear girl is so vital to so much ministry that is
happening in Asia, she has schools in China and other places and continues to
bring the power and presence of the Lord via education and outreach. So
pleased and honored that she is on our board; we get the benefit of all of that
love and wisdom. Finally, we are delighted to be taking with us a dear young
man, David Paquette of Son-Burn Encounters who will travel with us
everywhere we go: Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar.... for where He leads, we
do follow.

Thank you all for your love, prayers and financial giving which helps to make
all of this possible. XXXXO ...

Prayer Points

**"In that day the deaf will
hear words read from a
book, and the blind will see
through the gloom and
darkness." Isaiah 29:18 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.**