



April 2017 News

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Let's Get Growing!

“Soon—and it will not be very long — the forests of Lebanon will become a fertile field, and the fertile field will yield bountiful crops.” Isaiah 29:17 NLT

I have always been taught and have come to believe that the Bible is God speaking to us and that if I were to make Bible reading a discipline in my life, that I could expect to hear God on a regular basis. A belief and discipline that I still hold to after thirty years of following Jesus.

Even as the years go by it never gets old. Disciplined bible reading? Yes! Boring? No! No matter how many times you read the Bible, there is always something new, always something fresh that God wants to tell us. Things about Himself, His character - (*Who He is, and what He is like*) His ways, His thoughts, what sort of things please Him, and about some of His dislikes. Or what type of things that He doesn't like. And there are a lot of them.

The truth is we all go through different seasons of the soul and the key is to stay at it and to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you as you read God's Word. Be sure to get a notebook, or a daily Bible reading journal and talk good notes.

The things that we are hearing from God, become the “sign posts” or the “mile markers” in our my walk with the Lord. Prophetic promises “rhema words” if you will, that proceed from God - fresh manna that holds a future fulfillment in the next season that the

Lord is bringing us into. Prayer promises we can pray into being as God's plan becomes manifested in our current realities.

More recently, I have been challenged once again by several verses from Isaiah 29 about “forests becoming fertile fields” and that soon - and it won't be very long that “the fertile fields will yield bountiful crops.”

As I read from these verses, it's if the Lord is saying what He is about to do; giving us insight into what is about to unfold in this next season. The “forests of Lebanon” - referring to the dry places in our lives - *lets say a wilderness experience*, or “seeds” that we've sown in the past (*in a former season*) regarding our children, seeds sown in our businesses, in our work places, and in our current and future ministries are about to grow! He is turning our “dry seasons”, our “past seasons of sowing” into seasons of “Suddenly.”

Breakthrough moments in God are coming our way! The Lord is tipping the scales in our direction and it's time to get growing again!



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

Being about Our Father's Business



WRITTEN BY,
MAC MCCABE

Ten years ago I became a volunteer in a

mentoring program called LAMP. It didn't make a lot of sense, a 61-year-old retired Caucasian living in the affluent suburbs of Pittsburgh meeting weekly with a delinquent 11-year-old African-American youth from a blighted urban neighborhood. But I felt compelled by the King to do kingdom work – advance his Kingdom. It was costly and time consuming to drive 75 miles each week to take my mentee out for a bite to eat, and some form of entertainment, like bowling, movies, basketball games, and the like. It was

scary. His family was involved in a gang in a neighborhood that averaged 15 homicides a year. Most of the time I felt like I was failing to make a difference in his life. This went on for seven years, until at age 18 he outgrew the program. But today I tasted some fruit from my investment; I helped my former mentee, now a 21-year-old adult, start his first "real" job; what a reward!

Firstlight Int'l is in partnership with the Lord to do incredible kingdom work in Thailand, 24/7. Over the years, Dan & Debbie, and their team, have faithfully listened to the Holy Spirit as He led them to plant a variety of ministry trees. Many of these ministries have been growing for years; now some are yielding 100-

fold fruit, and others 50-fold, and 10-fold, but they are all producing tasty fruit of transformed lives and neighborhoods.

Nothing of lasting value happens quickly; everything requires a measure of patience. Spreading the gospel not only requires commitment and patience, but kingdom work is costly. It is you, the faithful givers, that help fuel this ministry. By doing so, you are not only blessing God, but in a way, you are going with the team into those "hard" places. "Taste and see that the Lord is good".

Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial giving that helps to support the work of Firstlight each month.

Ministry News TOP STORY

A Work of Faith - A Labor of Love

Another year of FWF begins this month in Thailand

A Support & Care Ministry Project of Firstlight International

FWF



Families Without Fathers



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

It has been said that children are the future of any nation. And ever more so for Thailand: for such a time as this.

Every month throughout the year over the past nine years, the Families Without Fathers (FWF) project has been effective in touching the lives of children and families from fatherless homes in seven locations across Thailand. Presently there are close to 70 children being reached: 80% are coming to Christ, have received water baptism, and they are attending church on a regular basis. What a mighty God we serve!

This month we will launch another year of FWF in selected areas where the Lord is opening up to us. Right now our Firstlight Area Teams are in the process of conducting personal interviews to update family records to confirm the numbers for 2017. **Our goal over the next 1-3 years is to have 100 children being reached through FWF.** Budget goal for 2017 is \$25,000. That provides 1st and 2nd school term fees and related supplies for each child involved in the program, plus 52 weekly visits to the homes and area schools and 1 annual FWF Family Church Camp. Your prayers and financial giving is helping to reach them. Thank you!



With your help, we can do more to reach them in 2017.

[Send your financial gift today!](#)

Eye Glass Distribution in Thailand

During the first two months of this year our Firstlight Area Team distributed 100 plus prescription eye glasses in the province of Khon Kaen, Thailand. This was part of the follow up to the eye care screenings for evangelism with Dr. George Rooney, and Dr. Fredrick Martin and our friends from His Servants Ministries (HSM) in September of 2016.

Through this strategic partnership with HSM, on an annual basis, we are helping to meet the eye care needs in rural villages where there is very little or no gospel witness, where Firstlight is working. Each year hundreds are presented with the gospel and many have come to Christ!

The girl on the left is a Thai student who had come to one of these eye care screenings last year. She now has a new pair of glasses and a NEW OUTLOOK on life as she is learning about who Jesus is, and what He has done for her. Ask the Lord to open her eyes to see Him as Savior and Lord!



Worship, Prayer, Training & Sending!

Last month, the leadership training to reach the Pulang in northern Myanmar went well. For three days we gathered under the covering of Harvest Children's Home (HCH) Ministries - a partner ministry of Firstlight Intl, and Frontier Harvest Ministries in the region. Thirty plus leaders were trained. As you can see from the picture even the children from the HCH joined us as well for some of the worship.

This project supports Luke & Jennivie (*our host couple*), 25 children at risk, and 10 national church planters who are working in these Pulang villages.

Eighteen months ago we started this work with a 55 man sending. They went out to preach the gospel in over 48 villages. To date there are 100 converts among the Pulang. Constant new believer and leadership trainings are taking place as we work towards establishing a cluster of house churches in each of these villages.



ThaiLights: Caring for Children & Families



WRITTEN BY,
NATTHIKA
TANTAVEEWONG

One of the things that I like most is that I get to see firsthand

the difference that the Families Without Fathers (FWF) project is making in the lives of over 45 families in the areas of Seka district, Bueng Kan and Nong Khai provinces located in the northeast region of Thailand.

Recently, together with our Firstlight Area Team, we took part in a monthly food distribution program consisting of: fresh eggs, cooking oil, breakfast drink, canned fish, dried noodles and a few other items. This is in addition to helping

each of these children with educational scholarships (*school fees etc.*) and related supplies each month. The results of a broken home have forced these families into a standard of living which affects every area of their lives. Therefore, with the help of FWF the Lord is giving us an opportunity to reach them with His amazing love!

As I come in contact with families like these, I am often asked the question: When can the FWF project be opened in my area? Or when will their children can be added the project?

This question has really challenged me recently as I reflect upon what

Jesus would have us to do. When He met with people who needed His help, He never turned anyone away. So my heart and my prayers are for those children and families who seeking help from FWF this year. We know that with man it is impossible. But with God, all things are possible. Amen!

Thank you for helping to support FWF in 2017. Your prayers and financial giving is helping us to reach them. I am blessed to be serving with you here in Thailand. Together the Lord is using us as His laborers to reap a harvest prepared for us!

It's our time now! *On a personal note ...*



Written by,
Debbie Ecker

During this past month, I had many chances to reflect on the wonderful life God has given us. Blessed with precious earthly families who love us, He has also woven us into the fabric of many people's lives over the decades. When we get the chance to meet us, love on each other, pray for each other, minister side by side again, there is a sweet familiarity which floods our hearts with joy! Jeff and Tammy and Josiah Yuen in Singapore, Bill and Joanna Samuels, as well as Mercy and Posie. These are names we have cherished for decades and now, in the plan of God and in this season, we find ourselves side by side once again. For His plans, and for His purposes. And because we have known, loved and respected each other for decades, the unity is so thick in the room you can almost put your hands on it. Wow. This unity, born from love is what Jesus asked the Father for in John 17 when He prayed: "That they may be one, even as You and I are one..." When this kind of unity manifests, there is such a joyful anointing that is released. Many run to join it as well, and the Kingdom grows. In this Easter season, let us look around and give thanks and draw near in love, respect and unity with those the Lord has put in our lives. Let our love for one another tell the world of His great love for them. And may the prayer of Jesus be fully answered in these times we live in. LOVE you all and pray God's sweetest blessings on you and yours.

Prayer Points

"And the seed that fell on good soil produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"
Mark 4:20 NLT

Please pray for:

- 1. Pulang people Myanmar: scheduled trainings 2017: April / May / Sept. / Nov. Make disciples!**
- 2. For the FWF project 2017. 1st term budget: \$7,500 *weekly visits homes & Schools. * Firstlight Team**
- 3. For God's abundant provision during the second quarter of 2017.**