



June 2017 News

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

- Breakthrough Prayer Thailand pg. 2
- How can they hear? pg.3
- Not by might, not by powerpg.3
- Article - Towards a brighter future ...pg.4

* Features:

- Article - Kingdom Connections pg.1
- Article - Board Member pg.2
- Article - On A Personal Note pg.4
- Item - Prayer Points pg.4

Donations:

Online via PayPal
www.firstlightinternational.net

By Mail, payable to:

Firstlight International
 P.O. Box 252
 Springdale, PA 15144-0252

As a registered public charity 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation, all financial contributions are U.S. tax deductible by making checks payable to Firstlight International.

Contact:

www.firstlightinternational.net

Tel: 724.254.6145

E-mail: helloeckers@gmail.com

Look for us:



Kingdom Connections

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind,” Matthew 13:47 NAS

The language of Jesus is filled with pictures. As the Creator of all that is, He captured ideas like the Kingdom of heaven by painting word pictures to teach His followers. Pictures of sowers sowing and fishermen fishing. When He called fishermen to come follow Him, He promised to make them ‘Fishers of Men.’

In John 21 when the disciples had gone back ‘a fishing,’ Jesus encountered them and instructed Peter to cast the net in on the other side of boat. They had fished all night and caught nothing. They obeyed, and it says that the net became so full of fish they could not bring it to shore. They literally had to pull it alongside the boat, then drag it onto land. When they counted, there were 153 fish in that net.

I have read that Aristotle believed that there were 153 species of fish known in the world at the time. I don’t know. But we do know that when the church cast out their nets to catch men’s hearts for the kingdom that they will come from every people group on the earth. We know that when the Lord comes again, there will be people from every tribe, every tongue, and every people before His throne. We know that because HE has said so in His word. It is a done deal.

Still. It has always been His plan not to do these things on His own. When Jesus gave the ‘Great Commission’ telling us to go to every place, to every people to preach the good news, He promised we would not be alone. He promised He would be there, confirming their ministry through signs and wonders.

Wow. What a great promise! He does not sit and wait for His followers to go out and do the job. No, He goes out before us. By His Spirit, He is actively involved in EVERY part of the work of taking in the harvest: From the raising up and commissioning, to the outpouring of His Spirit on all flesh; on all men and women everywhere, regardless of background, creed or persuasion. He said His Spirit would pour out on ALL flesh.

All we have to do, is find our places at the net...and start pulling. Pulling TOGETHER, in the unity of the Spirit. Loving and serving one another as we pull that net in together. As One Bride, One Church, One People. His people.

‘These are unbelievable times. There are places the fish are literally jumping in the nets themselves, waiting for those who can bring them all the way into shore. It will not be done by one person, or even a few. It will not be accomplished by one organization, no matter how big or effective. This net, the huge global dragnet, will take each and every one who calls himself a follower of Jesus to come and stand at the Net. And pull. Together.

Come and find your place at the net. Jesus is waiting for you there.



DEBBIE ECKER
 Vice President
 Firstlight International

Pressing On towards the Goal



WRITTEN BY
BOB ROTH

The Lord has blessed me with many things in my life.

Among them my wife and children and grandchild, good health and the joy of being chosen a born again child of the living God.

Although I have known and revered the Lord my entire life, thank you mom, it was not until 1999 that I gave my entire life to the Lord's service.

My first mission trip was in July of 2000 and have been on more than 60 mission trips since then. With my 66th birthday rapidly approaching I will conclude 47 years of the blessing of full time employment. Some would decide its time to relax and enjoy the balance of life. I have reached a point that the balance of years that lie ahead are much fewer years than what is behind. The replacement of calling

the end of my working years retirement, is to call it retirement!

What lies ahead is nothing short of exciting! Some call it the second half, like a sporting event and time to rally from what ever the first half has provide and truly finish strong. Instead of being concerned about what I will do with all the freed up time, the challenge is what will I have to prioritize in order to be effective and move the Kingdom forward. Reading Philippians 3:13 Paul states "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead". No matter what point we are in life, we have arrived there in the Lord's perfect timing.

There have also been many significant events that we have been a part of that bring us joy in remembering and a smile to our Lord. But we cannot dwell on these past accomplishments or virtuous deeds or on sins or failures. None of us has got it right up to this point and never will but the Lord has plans for us, plans to prosper us

and not to harm us (Jeremiah 29:11) as long as He provides every breath. I have to be transparent here and say that I have been feeling physically and mentally past my prime lately and the Lord provided a daily reading from Joshua 14:10-11. Paraphrasing Caleb, he was 85 years old requesting his retirement of the hill country and he still felt as strong both mentally and physically and spiritually for battle as he did at 40 year old, wow! And it will be a battle, but one the Lord is leading and He promises victory as long as we set our hearts on following Him.

The first quarter of 2017 is now behind us and the next quarter approaches halftime this year, time to press on forward.

Firstlight has and will provide you with opportunities to serve and keep our eyes on the forward movement of the Kingdom. Please join us as we prepare together, working side by side in service to our Lord!

Ministry News TOP STORY

Breakthrough Prayer!

Join us on a 10 day prayer journey for Thailand

During July 3 - 14 we will have the opportunity to prayer walk several key sites, and key cities in the south, central, and northern parts of the country of Thailand.

Each of these cities have a past, present and future influence on the lives of millions of Thai people who are yet to be free from the spiritual forces of this dark age, (Eph. 6:12) that are keeping them resistant to the Gospel.

Until these forces are put in their proper place (*under the victory of the finished work of Christ John 19:30, Colo. 2:15, Heb. 2:14, I John 3:8, etc.*) Thailand remains one of those 'harder to reach' countries until a true 'open heaven' breakthrough comes. This could be one of those moments when the Lord breaks through at a deeper level on a national scale.

This month, please start with Matthew 6:10. That His kingdom would come, and that His will would be done on earth (*in Thailand*), as it is in Heaven. Amen!



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International



And how shall they call upon Him in whom they have not heard?

In northern Myanmar, our church planting partnership ministry teams are going out on regularly to share Christ, and to reach the lost. The reports each month are encouraging as more are hearing the 'good news' of Jesus.

Right now, new believers are being trained. They are learning how to prayer, read, study and interpret the Bible. And in this context, they are beginning to share Christ among their family and with others in remote - multiple villages. The formation of several house churches are beginning to emerge among responsive people.

In partnership with Harvest Outreach Ministries Myanmar, 25 children at risk are being helped each month and 10 national church planters are in Pulang villages monthly, and multiple trainings and sendings are planned regularly in 2017. Your prayers and financial giving each month is helping to reach them. *Thank you!*



Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord!



Recently, we had the opportunity to preach, and to prophesy the word of the Lord over many in the Dayspring Church in Pattaya, Thailand.

Founded 20 plus years ago by Tony and Patty Rose Perkins, Dayspring Church continues to be a beacon of hope for hundreds if not thousands over the past two decades.

This was one of their Friday prayer services which ended with many if not all being prayed for. It seemed as if the Lord had a lot to say as the Spirit, and gift of personal prophecy was in full operation. What a joy to help those who are listening, and learning to hear His voice. In these moments, the Lord confirmed past events, reaffirmed their Christ like identities, unlocked their potential, shifted their focus towards a future promise, and released their destinies. There were several children, pregnant women and their husbands, and there were even a few new born babies prayed for as well. It was crazy good!

ThaiLights - Towards a Brighter Future



WRITTEN BY
DAN ECKER

As we continue to pray, and to serve the purposes of God in places

like Thailand, and the nations surrounding it, I cannot help but think that this is the time for us to press in even further, and believe the promise of a brighter future that is about to unfold. And that can recognize it when it comes.

Confirming with other like minded ministries who are working there - like us, we are all sensing that things are beginning to shift in our direction for a mighty out pouring of His Spirit for a greater harvest to be reached. The Lord is not slow concerning His promise *II Peter 3:9*, and that He is not willing that any would perish.

Standing before us is a new generation like none that we have ever seen! And it is happening everywhere we go. North to South, East to West - God is getting ready to do something 'BIG' and we all have a part in what is coming, and now is! Here's how:

In the narrative with the woman at the well in John chapter 4, Jesus talked about a time or a day that is was "coming" and "now is". He spoke of something that was "Future Present". It was "coming" - future promise and "now is" - present promise fulfilled. This was a 'location shift' - not in the mountain nor in Jerusalem, people shall worship the Father, but to 'a person shift' - a universal access to the Father, 'in spirit and in truth' - by relationship: the results of the new birth, (John 3:3) as it relates to God: for God is Spirit (John 4:23, 24) and a 'time shift'

from an hour that was 'coming' - Future, to 'now is' - Present.

As Jesus stood before her as the Messiah she knew was coming, He declared the fulfillment that what she was waiting for is now here. She knew that Messiah was coming and when He arrived, He would tell her everything about her life.

How many of us find ourselves in the midst of things that were prophesied beforehand, or things that we heard from the Lord that He was going to do, and when it comes, we fail to see it? However, when we do notice it when it is happening, let us go after it with all of our hearts and enter into the fulfillment that what was promised has finally come. The Lord is bringing His promise of a brighter future to pass!

I'm all in Lord

On a personal note!



WRITTEN BY
DEBBIE ECKER

This is such a favorite time of year for us. The coolness of spring giving way to the early days of summer. Picnics and weddings and family gatherings. We have been especially blessed to

have Josiah come and spend Memorial Day weekend with us, helping us to celebrate our 30th anniversary!! Complete with a good Hungarian bacon roast with the family, we were so thankful to the Lord for these 30 years of life, love and ministry. So thankful that after these 3 decades we can look each other in the eye, and say, truthfully, 'I love you more today than yesterday.' We have also been blessed to have more important times with our family, spiritual sons and daughters here in Pennsylvania, via the ministry of Son Burn and the School of Passion. God is pouring out His Spirit on all flesh and our sons and daughters are prophesying! As we gear up in preparations for another extended trip to Asia, we are blessed that in this season of our lives, we are able to be among earthly family as well. I know our elderly parents are happy for it, as well. Dan's mom is 84, and my dear mother turns 87 this month. She is amazing and can still run circles around the rest of us!! And she still tells some of the funniest stories of anyone I know! We are blessed to be in this season of our lives, surrounded by family and both earthly and spiritual. God is so good!

Prayer Points

"Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call; This I know, that God is for me." Psalm 56:9 NAS

Please pray for:

1. For our Firstlight projects: FWF, REAP, our Firstlight Fellowship churches.
2. U.S. Operations & ministry opportunities - resource development.
3. Matt 6:10 - July's 10 prayer journey (see pg.2)
4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 2nd quarter of 2017.