



September 2017 News

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War On Words!

“For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matt 12:37 NAS

Words are powerful. By them, worlds were created: the stars in the heavens, the fish in the sea, the beasts in the fields, and, of course, man. Created by the word God spoke in the beginning; man was NOT the same as the other created beings. He was made in the image of the Creator and he carried His creative spark, as well as the Father's authority. Our words then, can also create worlds.

I have spoken on this subject before, and indeed, it is never far from my mind. As a young woman, I was quickly aware of how powerful my words and the words of others around me were. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and there were times when I beheld people speaking 'death' to others. Not literally, but besmirching their character, their faith, their person. There are many ways to die.

I also observed those who purposefully spoke life over those around them. They carried a presence that I have now come to know as the Father's heart. Their words imparted hope to the hearer, calling us to our destiny. Words of love, affection and comfort.

Jesus said, 'Out of the abundance of his heart, man speaks.' We must take great care of what we permit ourselves to meditate upon. What we give our heart and mind to inevitably will find its way out of our mouths and into our conversations, to either uplift and edify, or infect and poison. Our words are under our control, of this I am certain. The more we do not give ourselves

permission to release negative, condemning and unkind words into the atmosphere or into our circle of relationships, the more we become those who build worlds. And the Kingdom.

Slander and gossip are likened in the scripture to wood that is thrown upon an already hotly burning fire. 'Adding fuel to the fire,' as the adage goes. This world is already burning in hot anger and resentment. Races and religions, genders and political ideologies are the hot coals the enemy is throwing on the fire that at times feels as if it will burn out of control and take us all with it.

How then, shall we live? The words of the church need to be the anti-venom to the poison that the enemy is injecting into this lost and troubled world. Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall see God.' Eph. 4:29 says, 'Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to the hearer.'

Beloved. It is time for us to get a hold of our hearts, and let our passions burn with only One Love: Jesus, the Prince of Peace. It is His peace we carry. It is His peace this world needs.



WRITTEN BY
DEBBIE ECKER

God's Call to All



WRITTEN BY
YC CHEN

As a young Christian many moons

ago, the question “what is God calling you to do?” always made me nervous. Honestly, I rather answer the question “what do you want to do after college?” Somehow, when words like GOD, CALL, and CALLING are used together, I wanted to run away screaming!

Fortunately, I did not run for long before stopping to investigate. Biblically, the word “call” is used most often to refer to God's initiative to bring people to Christ and to join in his redeeming work in the world. This sense of calling is

especially prominent in the letters of Paul, even if the word “call” is actually used, especially in 2 Corinthians 5:17-20.

As sons and daughter of God, our calling to a particular kind of work is secondary to the call to belong to Christ and to participate in his redemptive work. And it goes way beyond church attendances. The great commission's call really encompasses everything necessary to make the world what God always intended it to be.

Each of us are called upon by God, to do our part and obeying the call: praying, studying, following, giving, going in sending! His work of redemption can occur in every

workplace through justice, healing, reconciliation, compassion, kindness, humility and patience (Colossians 3:12).

Therefore, God's call to all is finding and living life in Him and to be so “infectious” that others will run towards Jesus. And a partnership with Firstlight is providing an avenue for people in places like Thailand, to ‘answer the call’. It's simple. Whether it be to salvation for the very first time, to taking steps of discipleship, in becoming a true follower of Jesus or planting new churches in remote places. God's call goes out to all and your part in prayer, and in finances are making it happen!

Ministry News TOP STORY

A Partnership with Purpose Eye Care Screenings for Evangelism are working!



WRITTEN BY
DAN ECKER

Starting this month and into October, we will be working with His Servants Ministries (HSM) once again, in Thailand and in Laos with eye care screenings for

evangelism. Dr. Fred Martin and Dr. George Rooney are no strangers to this part of the world. They carry with them a hunger for God and a deep desire to serve His purposes in bringing Christ into some of the least evangelized places in Southeast Asia. Firstlight is blessed to be partnered with them in the kingdom. Every year hundreds are being reached.

For the very first time we will be serving the eye care needs in the city of Pattaya, just south of Bangkok. We will be working with Joanna Perkins Samuels, the Hiding Place Ministries, and the Dayspring Church - Thailand for a mighty harvest to be reached! Join us in prayer now, and during September 28 - October 13th. Pray!



Standing with those who care!

Partners Relief & Development (PRD) is a Christian organization based in Chiang Mai, Thailand. We stopped by the PRD office to introduce Jenna Biernesser (*a U.S. missionary from Pittsburgh, being sent out through Firstlight this year*) to PRD and the work that they do. PRD is the organization that Josiah served with during his gap year, between high school and collage. Through the years, we have gotten to know PRD rather well. Debbie stands with one of PDR's office staff who knew Josiah when he worked there during his gap year seven years ago!

Jenna is being called to the work with Syrian and Iraqi refugees in the Middle East. And it just so happens that PRD is putting together their Middle East team. After a Skype interview, a good number of e-mail exchanges, and a visit with Brad and Joyce Hazelett, leaders of PRD's operations in Chiang Mai, Jenna has been asked to join the PRD Middle East team! She will relocate to Chiang Mai, to work with PRD on September 25th. Her new role starting this month!



And He gave some to be Apostles!



Earlier in July, we stood on a piece of ground in Pattaya, being purchased by Dayspring Church - Thailand, to prayer over it and to release a vision to have a strong, vibrant New Testament church on this property and for a community outreach center to come forth where children, young people, and adults from all walks of life to be brought into the kingdom of God. And for a great revival of souls to be saved!

Joanna Perkins Samuels is now the Pastor of the Dayspring Church - Thailand. She was recently ordained into this position, and she is starting to implement a vision for power evangelism, and radical discipleship to match the vision that she sees in your spirit. A mode church for such a time as this!

As our prayer team laid hands on her that day, we set apart as an Apostle of this work - to build and to plant! The Lord gave us strong prophetic utterances and several 'real time' prophetic illustrations - images that made that which the Lord has spoken come alive! It was crazy good!

Radical Destiny! Fathering a Nation!



WRITTEN BY
DAN ECKER

Over this past year, we are being called upon to serve the purposes, and to help give birth to the Asia Fathering Center, (AFC) in Bangkok.

John Paul Sprecher, Missionary and Senior Leader of Forerunner Flame International (FRFI) based in Pittsburgh, together with his wife Paula are the ones who are pioneering the AFC.

Currently a mobile ministry platform consisting of seminars, mentoring opportunities and

spiritual parenting among Thai Pastors, churches and Thai based ministries, the AFC is providing healing and direction to all those who have ears to hear. So far the response has been wonderful! John Paul and Paula are growing the AFC ministry team and Debbie and I both are deeply honored to be apart of it.

Coming up next month, the AFC will be holding two major conferences in Thailand. The first one called Radical Destiny on October 7th in Bangkok. The primary focus will be to call out Thailand's youth to make a radical shift in how they see themselves, and to change their perspective towards their God given destiny!

What the Father has in mind is so much greater then anything they could every dream possible.

The second conference will be October 13-15, in Chonburi, Thailand called Fathering a Nation. This will be a ground breaking power packed Holy Spirit led weekend conference totaling nine training sessions. Designed to equip the church on how to father the lost to Christ, and how to best be fathered by God. A strategic training opportunity in the life of the church in Thailand, for such a time as this.

Please join us in heart felt - faith filled prayers during these events.

To be more like Jesus!

On a personal note!



WRITTEN BY
DEBBIE ECKER

We are coming into my favorite time of year. End of summer when the evenings grow cooler and you can almost feel the beginnings of fall in the air. We will not get to enjoy much of the fall

foliage, as we are scheduled to return to Thailand from September 25-October 21st. Dan with doctor teams for Thailand and Laos. Myself helping with Jenna get settled in to her new life in Chiang Mai. For now, I'm loving how fresh and green everything is here in Pittsburgh, due to the abundance of rain our region has experienced. Almost like we have had an extra-long spring. Part of me feels this is prophetic in a way, that just as the Lord promised that His Spirit would spring up eternally in our souls like a well, that there has been a steady watering over this area, and the lush vegetation gives everything a feeling of blessing. Dan is still hoping to get in some late summer trout fishing in before too long. This is something that he enjoys doing. Once he gets back from Thailand later this fall, he'll be in the woods with his bow looking for deer. He is such a guy! End of summer is also a time of my family celebrating birthdays. I am reaching a milestone this year: 60 on August 23rd, and a few days later my dear father will turn 88. How blessed we are to have each other. I am mindful of the shadow that was cast over my life in 2015-2016, and I am abundantly grateful to the Lord for not only healing me, but strengthening me and giving me the will to run again to do this things He has called me to do. So blessed to have all of you in my life during this momentous year. More of you Lord in my life!

Prayer Points

"You have armed me with strength for the battle; you have subdued my enemies under my feet." II Sam 22:40

Please pray for:

1. For the upcoming eye care clinics, Thailand & Laos. (see pg.2)
2. For all of our Firstlight projects that are reaching souls for Christ.
3. The two AFC upcoming conferences next month in Thailand. (see pg.4)
4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 3rd quarter of 2017.