



October 2017 News

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Look for us:



The Ripening

“ ... But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.” John 4:35 b NLT

Sometimes I feel as if we are in a race against time. Or perhaps, a race towards time? This has been a season for us of unprecedented opportunities to pour into the lives of the next generation of harvest workers. Young people from many countries, hungry for God and pushing forward to be released into the fields of the world. Harvest fields so ripe for harvest, we must hurry, running forward with our baskets to take it in so that no stalk full of grain should fall to the ground unharvested. I have a vision of workers, running fast as they can to these fields, baskets in arms. Not perfect, not professional. But ready. Oh, so ready. We must not hold them back, either by our fear for them, nor by unbelief.

Go they must, the Master is calling. It is our job, to run as fast as we can beside them for as long as we can, speaking words of encouragement, comfort, and instruction. Holding doors open for them so that they do not have to drop those baskets. Those precious baskets which are their faith and their callings.

We teach them. Pour into them. Pray for them. Release them. And then, God help us. Go with them. Just as our elders went with us so many years ago, running beside us, encouraging us, and holding open as many doors as they could so that not one stalk of grain should fall to the ground.

I see these young people running, their paths crisscrossing all over the globe. Singaporeans to Indonesia. Chinese to Myanmar. Americans to

Israel, Thailand and the Middle East. Thai's to Laos. Filipinos to Thailand. Crisscrossing borders and barriers, just as the first disciples did. Often not adept at the language of the people they go to, but fully relying on the Holy Spirit Who breaks down every barrier.

This is a time we have longed for many years. Multiplying ourselves into another generation. Downloading all the love, wisdom, passion, and purpose that God has put into us. It is our hearts desire that these young ones will go further, reach more, be stronger, and do far more than we had ever dreamed to do. Spiritual parenting we call it. A parent is not in competition with his children, but does everything in his life's power to give to and pour into his children, so that they are better off, and more successful than that parent had ever dreamed for himself. This is love. A God kind of love which does not seek to benefit from those whom we raise.

Your prayers and gifts have upheld us through the years and into this season of multiplication. This harvest is YOUR harvest as well. You are being blessed with fruit that will remain. Your love, prayers and gifts are reaching the farthest corners and changing lives. Your blessing is real.



Written by,
Debbie Ecker

Kingdom First Partnerships



WRITTEN BY
CHUCK LENHART

Many years ago, while driving in China to a training venue, an old friend of mine said to me, *"If I had another life to live, I would give it all to China!"* It was the first-time brother Dale was in China, and the spiritual hunger of the people amazed him to the point of wanting to re-live his life for God again serving China.

You see, brother Dale had already pastored, and planted mega churches in the United States successfully, and after a long life of that, stepped out and served the mission field for the last 7 to 10 years of his life. He was well paid in his mega church; life was good, and comfortable. Because Dale was a true living example of a

man putting the kingdom of God first, his teaching ministry was a wonderful blessing to our work in China. He selflessly introduced many others to join our efforts, and help raise support for our ministry. He had a great perspective on the global church around the world, he had a kingdom first perspective, and saw the church as one.

Firstlight has been a wonderful kingdom first partnership with me *(and our Frontier Harvest Ministries, national team)* through the years. We have, and will continue to see souls saved together through the works God puts on our plate to do. I call these type of partnerships, "Kingdom First Partnerships"! Where all our endeavors for out-reach are all purposeful, aimed toward people, giving glory to God,

pointing nations, tribes, and peoples to the Son. These types of Kingdom First Partnerships get things done with little to no bureaucracy, and move human resources, spiritual resources, and monetary resources, where the harvest is most ripe and needed.

Just in my partnership with Firstlight alone in the last four years in Northern Myanmar we have been able together support, feed, clothe, and educate 40 children at risk. Raise up 60 native church planters, effecting a whole region of un-reached Bulang ethnic people.

Because the interests of the Kingdom are put first, people are being reached, set free, and discovering their true purpose on earth.

Global Training Platforms

Pursuing our next steps for the harvest!



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

Over the next six months **(from October 2017 through April 2018)** there are several global training platforms that are ready to be pursued. All of which are located in Southeast Asia, and or Asia - a region of the world that for two decades plus, we have been apart of the revival that is taking place there. It has been a wonderful season of Holy Spirit breakthrough.

2017 Training Platforms: This month it's Thailand. We will serve the training purposes of the Asia Fathering Center (AFC) in Chonburi later this month. A scheduled Fathering a Nation conference will have local and regional impact for a good number of churches that are registered. In November, just after Thanksgiving, we will hook again with Chuck Lenhart, and the national China Team of Frontier Harvest Ministries for at least three scheduled events.

2018 Opportunities: During the first part of 2018, we will back in Myanmar, in February (*training church planting in Lishio, leadership training in Kalaymo*) and a new door opening for training church planters in India, in March / April. Making the church "ready" and "steady" for the harvest is next!

Helping the fatherless find hope!



Every month throughout the year, we are helping the fatherless to find hope through the Families Without Fathers (FWF) project in Thailand, and through the care that is being provided by our partnership with Harvest Children's Home in Myanmar: A financial funded project of Firstlight International. As you can imagine, the needs are great but God is greater!

One of the highlights with projects like these is to see the change that is taking place in the lives of these kids. By coming along side them *(and their families in some cases)* a connection is made for the gospel. Jesus is always present during every interaction with each child. They learn to pray, talk to God and learn who Jesus is, and what has done for them. The educational needs are met by the support of the project which enables them to remain in school and continue their education in preparation for a brighter future. Your prayers and financial giving helps to make this possible! Thank you!

House church gathering in Thailand!



This is what it looks like for many of the house church gatherings in Thailand, and in many part of Asia where we serve. In several rural settings across Thailand, gatherings like these are taking place in the homes of the believers that come together for prayer, worship, fellowship, training and more. Often times several times a week meetings like these are taking place.

This particular church is one of our Firstlight Fellowship Church, Network churches in Seka, in northeast Thailand. Planted close to eight years ago as a result of eye care project with His Servants Ministries (HSM) in 2008. A remarkable story of God's incredible faithfulness.

In northern Thailand, Pastor Nott is planting churches among the Luwa with close to 11 main house churches over the past four years. The harvest is ripe and being reached in Thailand!

A Second Decree? What would you say?



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

A few weeks ago, I came across an amazing portion of

scripture in the book of Esther chapter 8. The story of Esther is one of great significance and one that I believe will change your life if not begin to alter or change the course of your destiny in the days to come.

In this one, and the next month's newsletter we will learn that Esther appealed to the King to make a second decree that would reverse a previous decree (*the one that was inspired by a man named Hema, the enemy of the Jews who appealed to the King to make a law*) that was made to exterminate the Jewish people in her day. Mordecai a Jewish man himself, who had raised Esther as his daughter and now is

serving as a gatekeeper in the King's palace, had discovered this plot to kill the Jewish people. Mordecai knew that something had to be done to stop it.

This previous decree, once sealed by the King's signet ring, would become law to be enforced as such and could never be changed! This decree was then translated into all of the languages of the people and sent out into the 127 provinces that went from Ethiopia, to India: the Persian empire at that time. However, when Mordecai discovered that this decree had been made, he mourned for days and laid in the street. He took no food, and refused to comforted. Several days later he was discovered by Queen Esther who asked to find out why he was so distraught. Queen Esther soon learned of the decree to kill the Jews, that Mordecai warned Esther that if she didn't do something at this time

she and her people who die! This is where we find the Scripture "*for who knows that you have been brought into the kingdom for such a time as this.*" (Esther. 4:14c) Esther now knows that this was her time to act. Her appointed time had come! She changed history!

After a three day fast of no food or water (*what we call an Ester fast*) she goes before the King with her request. She was told the decree that was previous made could never be changed. However, she was told by the King to say whatever she wanted and he would seal it with his ring. And it, too, would become law.

This second decree enabled the Jewish people to protect themselves for what was about to take place. Next month we will learn how this story ends. A second decree made the difference! Stay tuned next month for more!

It is your time now! *On a personal note ...*



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

I am blessed this to write the Personal Note section for this month. Well, here we are in the last quarter of 2017, can you believe it?. 90 days (or so) to go and a New Year beings! Like many of us, the Fall can be a wonderful time of year to behold and most importantly to experience. The leaves change, the temperatures start to drop, the days get shorter, and everything prepares for the next season - the Winter season. However, my Fall "To Do List" is growing - put away the lawn chairs, cover up the grill, trim back all the plants, make one final cut on the grass and RAKE LEAVES! Between that and the bow hunting season, there is plenty on my mind! In between international travel and ministry opportunities stateside, I am going to enjoy a few days of sitting in my tree looking for deer later this month. Debbie is always so happy to see that freezer fill with venison. The great weather has also enabled us to get out to visit with Deb's family in the mid-west a few times. Deb's dad James P. Graham turned 88 this year, and my mom Betty Jane Vedro turned 84. We are so grateful to be able to participate in these celebrations with all of our families gathered around. I know our parents are so blessed to see us among the rest on those special days. Much love and blessing to each and everyone! Your part helps to make all of this possible! *Thank you!*

Prayer Points

"It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear."
Isaiah 65:24 NAS

Please pray for:

1. Global Training Platform opportunities: (see pg.2)
2. For Firstlight
International: All Projects. People. Churches. Leaders. All members. Growth!
3. Eye Care follow ups in Laos, and Thailand.
4. For God's abundant provision during the last quarter of 2017.