



## November 2017 News

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Look for us:



# Connecting the Dots

**“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure.’**

**Isaiah 46:10 NAS**

It will be said of our time in history, that in these years the peoples of the earth became connected for the first time. Through the wonders of the internet and the nearly universal use of cell phone technology, we are able to see into each other's worlds. We see families, songs, dances, food preparation. We see struggles, anger and protest. We laugh at each other's pets, even when the owners speak a language we cannot understand. We find ourselves giggling along to the universal love language of babies laughing. Connectedness will be most important gift from our generation.

This intercultural, interracial, intergenerational interaction can be unsettling. Reading the comment sections of an article can make one lose all hope for humanity. The freedom to ‘say’ things to each other without the tempering presence of that other person being face to face can, at times, unleash the very worst in the human heart. Anger without immediate consequences is never a good idea.

Still. There are other things that occur between us, in this great big, hyper-connected, uber-communicating world. When a city is hunkering down waiting for category 5 storm to crush it beneath wind and rain, the world looks on, worrying right along. We send prayers and thoughts and, once the storm has passed, begin to look for ways to help. Links are shared and posted; friends can send aid to good organizations with boots on the ground getting help to the people in distress. We tear up to see loved ones reconnected after disasters with their families, and even with their pets. It is if we are intimately acquainted with the suffering ones and in a way, have come through the storm with them.

This immediacy and intimacy can be overwhelming. When wars and natural disasters fall and erupt on the earth relentlessly like a dark scourge; in those moments, we are tempted to look away. It is too much, and our hearts struggle to process it all. We are still learning how to bring our strength, our ‘okay-ness’ to those who are suffering and afraid, and to be a strength and blessing to them.

Some say the internet is an evil thing, its dark corners lurking with lustful temptations and places where terrorists can plot destruction. But, I have always felt, that the Lord has opened a floodgate of ability for us to finally reach the unreachable. To bring the love of God, through our songs, our prayers, our testimonies and our giving, to places that only a few decades ago we would have never thought about, except for a few minutes on an hour long nightly news program.

So much change. Are we up for it? Can we allow the Lord to open our eyes and see the connecting of the dots of history? That these are the times Daniel spoke of: ‘And in the last days, men shall travel back and forth in the earth, and knowledge shall greatly increase.’ I get excited when I see the hand of God behind it all. I pray that we always step up, find our place among the dots...and let the Lord connect us to whomever... and wherever...He will.



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

# Hands & Hearts in the Harvest!

## *Renewing our passion, purpose, prayers & provision.*



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

Every month throughout the year this newsletter is filled with amazing stories of what is being accomplished through a great team of dedicated people. Top Stories, Ministry News, Featured Articles, Guest Writers, Family News and Prayer Points - our Firstlight projects and ministry platforms are bringing forth incredible fruit in the places where we serve. The Lord is using each one to bring others to Himself by driving out the darkness to advance the Kingdom every where we go!

And you my dear friends have a major part in everything we do! Your prayers and financial giving each month is so needed and very much appreciated.

As a New Year is quickly approaching, I am excited and ready to step into something brand new in the things of God. (See Isaiah 43:18, 42:9, 46:10, Jeremiah 29:11-13) God's plans and purposes are so much greater than nothing we could ever imagine!

Together as a team, we are going to pursue Global Training Platforms, Care for Kingdom Families, we will engage in Kingdom Advance Church Planting initiatives (*and more*) to see God's intended purpose of Firstlight fulfilled in places like the U.S., Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, China, and India. We won't stop until we see it!

**\* If you are already praying for, and financially giving to Firstlight, please continue to do so in the New Year.** Because of your faithfulness we are able to pursue

these ministry platforms with confidence in the Lord's provision. A major **"THANK YOU"** from the bottom of our hearts for your part each month.

**\* If you have given to Firstlight in times past, and would like to renew your commitment, why not believe God (*by faith*) and decide to send a regular, financial gift in 2018. Begin January 1st with a renewed commitment to sow a financial seed and watch it grow!**

The following are our 2018 Support Team Prayer Goals. We are asking the Lord to add to our Team:

50 new individuals \$40.00 per month  
10 new churches \$250.00 per month  
5 new businesses \$1000 per month

**Why not become one of them?**

## *The Father's Heart Camp: Z-Gen Church, Thailand*



On the path of pursuing Global Training Platforms that I (Dan) shared with you last month, led us to participate in the Father's Heart Camp hosted by the Five Fold Ministry Church (Z-Gen Church) in Chonburi, Thailand. This was in conjunction with the Asia Father Centre (AFC) being pioneered by John Paul and Paula Sprecher Forerunning Flame International (FRFL) based in Pittsburgh. Debbie and I are being called upon to serve this initiative as the AFC takes root in Thailand.

There were nine sessions total. John Paul and Paula Sprecher beamed in for session two, and three via Skype. It was AMAZING! The whole weekend was Holy Spirit led as the Father shared His heart with us! We learned more deeply about our Heavenly Identities of who we are in Christ as Sons Daughters of God. Thank you Pastor Sap, Khun Ooy, Pastor Sawang, Pastor Leanne, Pastor Joanna Perkins Samuels and so many more from Z-Gen. We love you guys so MUCH!



## *The Ordination of Mali Douangdala ...*

One of the highlights from this last trip to Thailand and Laos, was the ordination of our spiritual daughter Mali Douangdala. As a member of the Blessing Of Thailand Church Association (BOTCA) she has been serving as a Pastor / Missionary in one of the Firstlight Fellowship Churches, in the Seka district in northeast Thailand. The ordination took place during the annual meeting of the BOTCA in Ayutthiya, last month. Debbie and I (Dan) could not be more proud of this amazing woman of God.

Shortly after her ordination, Rev. Mali will be returning back to her home country in Laos later next month. She will take some time for a much needed rest and to look after her mother who is dealing with some health issues. The Lord has already opened up a door of service for her to train existing pastors and future church planters in a Bible Training Center, in the southern part of the country. Debbie and I will join her there in the first part of 2018. Oh Happy Day!



## *Eye Care & More in Thailand & Laos ...*



A team of doctors from His Servants Ministries (HSM) have heard the voice of the Lord for this type of medical missions in many parts of the world - particularly in Thailand, and in Laos. HSM is a strategic partner of Firstlight in Thailand.

Last month in Laos, HSM put together an outstanding medical outreach in the southern part of the country in the first part of October. 60 plus people formed a multi national team. 100 plus cataract surgeries were performed, 2000 plus in rural villages received eye exams, and hundreds of teeth were pulled to relieve pain. We had unbelievable favor. Several from our Firstlight Thailand Team were invited to participate. Thank you Dr. Martin, Dr. Rooney & HSM.

Shortly after the Lao mission was completed three U.S. doctors and one doctor from Laos, and the rest of our Firstlight Thailand Team, moved on to Pattaya, just south of Bangkok, to work with Pastor / Missionary Joanna Perkins Samuels and the Dayspring Church Thailand, to conduct eye care screenings for evangelism in two major districts. There, too, hundreds received care and heard the gospel! Major doors have opened for future outreaches like these. Pray!

## Part II - A Second Decree: What would you say?



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

In this section last month I shared with you an amazing story from the life

of Esther, of how she was brought to a place of Royalty (*she had become Queen of the Persian empire Esther 4:13-14*) and discovered her destiny. She soon learned that her purpose and calling in life was to save the Jewish people of her day (*of which she, too, was one of them*) from being completely annihilated. Her discovery of her destiny (*to a place of Royalty*) came with an opportunity for her to act! (See Ester 4:13-14) The thought here is that if she did not act, it would mean that deliverance of the Jews might not have happened and the outcome of the story would be quite different. However, her appeal to the King to make a second

decree that would reverse the previous one made to kill the Jews (See Esther chapter 8) changed the course of history.

The following are a few things we can learn about making a decree or decrees that we can speak over our lives because our words have power. (See Proverbs 18:21, Matthew 12:37, Job 22:28)

By definition a decree is a word that carries with it the authority of law. Decrees are spoken and are back up with God's authority when used or issued rightly. Words that we speak that reflects God's will for our lives - we speak out God's intended purpose. (See Matthew 6:10) We speak out (*or over our lives*) the promises of God. His greatness, His ability, His provision, guidance, direction, forgiveness, victory, - His plans and purposes. The things that He has

laid on our hearts that we are asking Him to bring to pass! "Nothing happens in the kingdom unless it is first spoken." - Bishop Joseph Garlington Sr. PhD.

The decrees that we make are in accordance with our assignment (s) that God has given you. The things that we are responsible for: Our husbands, wives, children, our employment, income, - our present and future destiny depend on it.

Decrees can also be a decision you make, of cutting things off! You can decide (*decree*) off of you - the negative influences that the enemy (*satan*) tries to use to hold you back from following the Lord. (See John 10:10)

The question is: What decrees are you making? Or what sort of decrees should you be making? Decree it so TODAY!

## A God of Faithfulness

*On a personal note ...*



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

Octobers are always our busiest months. Doctor outreaches in Thailand and Laos. Church association board meetings in Thailand. Friends Around the Table, a gathering of SEAPC friends and ministry partners that it is our delight to attend when we get the chance. On the US side, Reconciliation Ministries, with whom we have our ordination, hold their annual meetings in October. We feel it very deeply when we must shut the door on any of them. This year was especially sweet and bittersweet, as we had two very precious young people who were receiving their ordination for ministry who consider us 'Mom and Dad'. Mali Douangdala, our daughter from Laos who has worked with us faithfully over the past 9 years planting churches and caring for children was receiving her ordination for ministry in Thailand. Almost the same night, in central Pa, Beau Key of Son-Burn Encounters was being ordained through Global Awakening. We are humbled to be a part of both their lives, these two most precious ones, sharpened arrows in the Lord's quiver who carry the love and faithfulness of Jesus with them wherever they go. We are blessed to be an intimate part of their lives and ministry, and our hearts continue to walk with them into the years ahead as they make headway for the Kingdom. We love you both so much!!!

## Prayer Points

**"Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God." Psalm 50:23 NKJ**

### Please pray for:

1. Dayspring Church, Thailand as they follow upon eye care screenings for evangelism last month. (see pg.3)
2. Hands & Hearts in the Harvest. (see pg.2)  
\*renewed passion, purpose
3. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 4th quarter of 2017.