



## February 2018 News

### In This Issue:

#### \* Ministry News:

Running the Race set before us pg. 2  
Pulang Church Planting .....pg.3  
Reaching Families For Christ ....pg.3

#### \* Features:

Article - Walk With Me .....pg.1  
Article - Board Member ..... pg.2  
Article - On A Personal Note .. pg.4  
Article - Fathering Lives .....pg.4  
Item - Prayer Points ..... pg.4

### Donations:

Online via PayPal  
[www.firstlightinternational.net](http://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](http://www.firstlightinternational.net)

Tel: 724.254.6145

E-mail: [helloeckers@gmail.com](mailto:helloeckers@gmail.com)

Look for us:



# Walk With Me

**“When He puts forth all His own, He goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow Him because they know His voice.” John 10:4 NAS**

Each year, at year's end, Dan and I seek the Lord for a special word, or guidance for the upcoming year. In 2017 I felt the Lord speak two things: first, 'Just show up.' It was a word I heard a friend say in a meeting, and it struck my heart in such a way, I knew it was the Lord speaking to me and I wrote it down in my prayer journal. And show up I did, spending more than 5 of the past 12 months overseas, running beside Dan and ministering in Asia. Boarding planes and climbing into vans and taxis, trucks and shuttles; I felt the Lord strengthen me with this word, releasing a very real blessing into my obedience. Every trip was special, every moment important. I also carried that word into our time in the US, attending nearly every meeting I could, worshipping long hours with our Son Burn peeps, as well as our Covenant family. It was a powerful, life giving year. I also felt Him say, for 2017: Timing is everything. And, indeed I could see His hand moving me in timing. In the purchase of air tickets, booking of guest houses, reaching out to people to house sit for us, every day falling into place. His guidance was sure, His timing, perfect.

As 2018 dawned, we again reached out and pressed into that Loving Wisdom and Grace. I have once again heard... and seen...guidance. First, I heard Him speak to my heart, "This is the year of the Fatted Calf." My heart leapt because I know in God that is a GOOD thing. It is a year of homecomings, celebrations and family. It is a year when God will put things right. We will rejoice in what He does.

Second, I heard Him say, 'I'm going to OUT DO Myself this year!' Again, my heart leapt to think of what that could mean. God had moved so fully and powerfully already. When I sought Him for clarity on this, I saw a big hand writing the number 2018. When the 8 was drawn it slowly fell to its side. I saw this, the 8 falling three times. 'Lord, what am I seeing?' I asked. Then I heard Him say to my heart, you are seeing the numerical symbol for infinity. And in that moment, I realized, that those things that God was going to set in place in 2018 would have unmovable, unchangeable value. Eternal consequence.

Finally, during worship I had a vision of Jesus standing before me, His hand stretched out to me, inviting me to place my hand in His. Before us was a snowy vista, unbroken snow as far as the eye could see. Snow was coming down so fast I could not see the path where the Lord was placing his feet. The only way I could go forward was to place my hand in His...and walk with Him. WITH Him. Not one step on my own, but as I walked into that unknown future, I felt peace and safety and love surround me. The Lord was my Good Shepherd. And He is calling me to walk with Him.

He is calling to you, too. "Come," He says. "Walk with Me."



Written by,  
Debbie Ecker

## In Pursuit of God's Purpose!



WRITTEN BY,  
YC CHEN

I don't know how many of you might be feeling the same as

me. At first, my start to 2018 didn't appear to be as exciting as I thought it would. I almost get the impression as if something is missing. But what could it be?

Discussing this with a trusted friend recently, we discovered that one of the keys during a times of transition is to stay connected to my identity, *(who I am as a person)* vision, calling and purpose in life. This includes my professional life, as well as in my different church life roles and even throughout the larger circles of my influence.

In the pursue of that purpose, *(God's purpose)* what do we do when we feel "stuck"? Or one could ask what are

the keys to getting "unstuck"? Here is what I've discovered so far.

One of the keys for me is to begin to obey again what I already know God's Will to be. In a desperate attempt to "jump into action again", we can very easily overlook the fact that much of God's will is already revealed in the Logos (the written Word) and what He has spoken to us in the Rhema (the spoken Word) and miss a part of His plan for our lives. That being said, I took some time and went over some 2017 sermons that stood out in my memory. I even flipped through old notebooks and re-read the notes I made on scripture from awhile back. Seeing and remembering what God has said in the past brought clarity to the current and future outlooks.

An other key I am learning in the discovery of God's will is to seek the input of godly advisors. Think of it

this way: If you are to be a composite of 5 people you know and spend time with, which 5 people will you choose? That is a pretty good clue to who could be godly advisors in your live. If you choose to surround yourself with godly advisors, they will be instrumental in helping you discern God's plan. Proverbs 11:14 says, "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." The more you involve yourself with a community of believers, the greater your chances will be of finding godly men and women who can help you discern God's will.

Sometimes, going through a rut is part of the plan, even if it does not feel good. Handing correctly by relying on God, It brings us closer to the His goal: intimacy with us and empowering us to closer to fulfilling the great commission.

### Ministry News TOP STORY

## Running the Race Set Before Us!

*A new generation is rising up in Thailand.*



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

As I stood before this congregation of a growing church in Thailand, I was amazed by the hunger for God that I felt in the room coming from this younger crowd of Christ

followers. They were passionate, prayerful, alert, and spiritually engaged not only in worship and in song, but also in harkening unto

the Word of God as it was being boldly proclaimed from the platform. Notebooks out (handphones, or iPad bible apps opened) it was as if they didn't want to miss a thing of what the Holy Spirit was teaching them. At one point during the worship, I thought to myself: "This is unstoppable." A movement had began in the Spirit and what I was looking at was the formation of the 'new wineskin' of the Church that is emerging across Thailand. Here. They. Come!

This particular group call themselves The Five Fold Ministry Church: (Eph.4:11-12) A network of Z-Gen churches that are planting congregations on several college campuses and in select cities around the country. Their goal is to plant 1 church in each of the 77 provinces of Thailand, and 1 Thai church on six of the other continents of the world. They have planted two Thai churches in Europe so far.

We have been serving this group of churches for the past two years. Training and equipping opportunities are taking place on a regular basis in several of their congregations. Their core of apostolic leaders are dedicated to see a move of God across the global! We are blessed to be a part of it.



**The Z- Gen Church Chonburi, Thailand**



## *Baptisms in Burma (Myanmar) ...*



The reports on our church planting efforts among the Pulang, in northern Myanmar are very encouraging. In fact they are quite remarkable.

Over the past four years, in partnership with Frontier Harvest Ministries, (FHM) a good number are being reached in over 48 villages. Our host couple Luke and Jenniveve and a team of 10 national full time co-workers are leading this amazing work in remote areas of the Pulang. Teams of 'jungle preachers' are being equipped and sent through multiple trainings throughout the year. Regular water baptisms are taking place as more are coming to Christ.

As a base of operations, the Harvest Children's Home is providing safe shelter, food and Christian discipleship to 40 plus children at risk in the area. Our goal is to establish a strong beachhead through church planting and to push further into this mountainous region with the Gospel. More are waiting to be reached!

## *Jesus is making a difference in their lives!*

Families like these from fatherless homes are being reached in four locations across Thailand. Many of them are living in rural Thai villages where there is very little or no Gospel witness in their communities.

Through our Families Without Fathers (FWF) project, our Firstlight Area Teams are bringing hope to families like these through weekly visits to the homes and area schools. School fees and related supplies are being provided for every child involved in the program.

In some cases like these, this family has just received a monthly care package of fresh eggs, dried noodles, canned fish, salt, soy milk, and cooking oil. A huge help to those in need!

Please keep the FWF project in your prayers in 2018 and in your financial commitments to Firstlight. Our goal is to open up this project in two new locations this year and reach more kids! The Father's love for them is great!



## Fathering Lives!



WRITTEN BY,  
JOHN PAUL  
SPRECHER

A fresh  
and  
Blessed  
New Year  
2018  
Firstlight  
Family!

It is a joy to write to you this month and share more of the goodness found in our Father's Heart. How powerful it is when you know who your Father is! How confident you become when you know that your Father loves you, and has given you EVERY good thing in Christ Jesus! This power and confidence, which is only found IN HIM, is what causes our lives to break FREE from the ordinary and common

level of life experience. It's not that we, His sons & daughters, don't live in this world...but we don't live FROM this world. *This world is not our source.* It is not the place where we draw our power, hope and confidence. It is not the place we try to get perfect love from either. All of this - for us - comes from Father. He...yes, HE is Fathering our lives! He is loving, protecting and providing for us. Our part is to love Him, listen, and obey His most sure and trusted voice.

This shift in our source effects the entire quality of our lives! We are at our *best* in this place, and we can give others our *best* when we are in this place as well.

We are so excited to partner our ministry with Firstlight in 2018 to carry this message in Thailand and East Asia and we are so blessed that you, too, can be a part of it each month.

Already we are planning with Dan and Debbie some powerful gatherings with Thai leaders and churches in 2018. These gatherings are meant to mentor, train, disciple and to equip nationals to bring healing, fire and vision to take their nation HOME to Father through Christ! Please be praying for this planning with us, and watching for news on this as it comes. How great...really great is our GOD!

Blessings IN HIM,

## Abundantly Blessed!

*On a personal note ...*



Written by,  
Debbie Ecker

Winter in Pennsylvania is one of our favorite times. That may sound crazy, and sometimes I think we are crazy for loving it, but between the clean, white snow everywhere, bundling up in sweaters and coats and cuddling near toasty fires, we find it a place of quiet and renewal. Like caterpillars that spin dark cocoons and inside transform to butterflies. In winter darkness we draw near to God and reflect. Since 2011 it has been a special time set apart to consciously go after God for the coming year. It is a time of vision and dream casting and setting into place the meetings, trips and times for the year ahead. It is also the time of our annual board meeting for Firstlight International, and we were truly blessed this year as our board gathered in our home to rejoice in all the Lord had done in 2017, and to vision cast together for 2018. We were extremely blessed, as well, to be able to be a part of Times of Refreshing, both in Covenant Church of Pittsburgh, as well as Oasis City Church in Columbus, Oh. Oh! And our wonderful Son-Burn Encounters School of Passion began its third year this January. So many hungry hearts in so many places. It is not simply revival. It is a move of God. We are beyond blessed to live in these times!

## Prayer Points

**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you."**  
Psalms 32:8 NAS

### Please pray for:

1. Church Planting among the Pulang people Myanmar.
2. Firstlight Global Training Platforms in 2018: Thailand, Myanmar, China, Singapore, India, U.S.A.
3. For God's abundant provision during the first quarter of 2018.