



## March 2018 News

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# Wisdom From Above

**“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.” James 3:17 NAS**

Two of my favorite books in the Bible are the book of Proverbs and the book of James. When I was in my early 20's and trying to make out what God's plan might be for my life, I poured over the Bible in search of answers. My heart delighted when I read the words, 'If anyone lack wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all freely and without rebuke.' (James 1 ) Here it was, the answer to my longing! For I longed for my feet to gain some sort of traction in this life, that I no longer felt as if I were simply treading water from one day to the next. I longed for meaning. Purpose. Direction. Wisdom.

The book of Proverbs also spoke such practical wisdom and guidance, in those early years I am sure I read it every day. (There are 31 chapters in Proverbs so it is easily possible to read a chapter a day.) Recently, in this season where I am no longer young, I find myself in 2018 being drawn, once again to these two books. I have been delighted once again at what I am finding there.

First. God has all the wisdom. And it is GOOD wisdom. Wisdom that will build me and not tear me down. It is wisdom for all of life: our relationships, life decisions, our finances, or families. Our dreams. It is never too late to seek the Lord for His wonderful wisdom. He is looking for those who cry out for it passionately.

It says in Proverbs 2: 2 : Tune your ears to Wisdom, and incline your

heart to understanding. This word, 'to tune' in the Hebrew is used when an animal in the forest hears the slightest sound, and he pricks up his ears and is at complete attention. What a wonderful picture. That the ears of our heart would be ever toward the Lord, so that in any circumstance, when He begins to 'speak' from that inner place, our hearts would prick up at attention, and listen. This is how we receive guidance that becomes a part of our life story, our testimony.

I am not surprised that John said that if all the deeds that Jesus did were written down, all the libraries in the world would not be sufficient to contain all the books. Likewise, if I were to chronicle from day one the times that inner Voice began to speak and I listened, and real wisdom was imparted for my benefit, all the libraries on earth could not contain my testimony.

Let us draw near to God, then, in full assurance of faith. Knowing, that in all things, He is for us. And in all things He is not without a plan. He always know that way. We simply need to ask.

Ask Him, now, won't you? He is waiting to pour in His wisdom.



Written by,  
Debbie Ecker

## I Am All In ... How About You?



WRITTEN BY,  
BILL  
THEMELARAS

Have you really considered your commitment to God's Kingdom

and how it relates to how you serve Firstlight International?

In Ezekiel 47 we learn about a river that flows from the temple of God. This river that Ezekiel saw is what is referred to as the River of God. And if you were to read this story even further, you would find that this river actually gets deeper and wider the further it goes away from the Temple.

What that means is that the river of God is not just flowing in the church, it is meant to flow out from the church, and touch the lives of others outside the walls; the marketplace, the mission field and the far ends of the earth. You

see, where ever *this* river goes there is LIFE! And in this story it tell us that Ezekiel gets to a point where this river could not be crossed! That's how big the river of God is! It's 'deep' and 'wide' enough to reach the world!

In addition, Ezekiel saw that there is a place along this river where fishermen will take their stand on each sides of the river and he was shown that there would be a place for the casting of nets! That speaks of HAREST! The river of God is full of Holy Spirit water, that flows to where the fish are: To lost souls that need to be saved, discipled, trained, and sent further into the harvest to reach even more souls!

This is where you, and Firstlight come in. Both of which are in the river (the Holy Spirit's flow) being carried by the flow of the river to where the harvest is! And the good

news is that each of us have a place in the river bringing the light and love of Jesus to the places where Firstlight is working. Kingdom fruit is growing through each of the projects and ministry platforms this year.

As Pastor of Oasis City Church in Columbus, Ohio we support Dan and Debbie and the work of Firstlight each month. We love what God is doing through Firstlight. Our folks keep this ministry in prayer, I enjoying being a part of the Board and we always look forward to having Dan and Debbie come a share with us.

In order to flow with His heart we must be ALL in, because no amount of human effort can go where He is taking you. The current of God's river makes you much faster than our moving against it. So ... step in the flow each month holding nothing back!

### Ministry News TOP STORY

## Releasing More Hands in the Harvest ...

*A Delightful Journey of the Discovery of Purpose*



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

We are blessed to be walking in the plans and purpose of God in 2018. The Lord is putting us in those places that He has intended us to be in each month. The schedule is full and there is much to do for the Kingdom, through Firstlight this year.

Presently, I am in the midst of several training opportunities with some amazing people we are connected with in Thailand, and in Myanmar. Kingdom Advance Trainings are taking place in three local churches, and one Theological Seminary. We will issue Masters Degrees to nine graduating students next week! More news and pictures to follow soon. Next up on the schedule is India next month. More hands in the HARVEST!



## *Following Jesus Looks Like Something!*

**Debbie brings forth a great word in Ohio**



Debbie brought forth an amazing word during a mid week prayer night, as part of their Times of Refreshing meetings of the Oasis City Church in Columbus, Ohio in January. This is one of our supporting churches and our second time of annual ministry among them. (See Board Member Featured Article, Bill Themelaras) Bill is the Lead Pastor of Oasis City Church.

That night, Debbie shared that our walk with the Lord is connected to our ability to hear His voice and to follow the instructions that He gives. And that Jesus as the Good Shepherd, He promises to go before us and to lead us in that direction. It is both refreshing and freeing to know God in this way. It is a life of faith, obedience and full of adventure even though we might always have all the facts of what the journey looks like. God gives more light to our path as we follow HIM!

## *Meeting Together for Worship & Prayer!*

**An Everyday church life experience in Seka, Thailand ...**



Our network of Firstlight Fellowship churches in Thailand, are doing well. Believers like these are meeting in cell group type house church meetings throughout the week in various locations and during celebration services on Sundays.

This particular church is located in Seka, in northeast Thailand. The church has gone through a leadership and church location change and it is doing well.

House church meetings like these are bringing the light of Jesus in some pretty dark places where there is very little gospel witness. We are thankful for those who are standing strong for His glory! More light is coming!

## Serving In Thailand: Many Lessons Learned ...



WITTEN BY,  
JENNA  
BIERNESSE

The longer I walk by faith, the more I realize

that following Jesus is more about the simplicity of the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and less about us. Walking with Jesus is about dying to ourselves, picking up the cross and following Him.

When I came to Thailand, I had no idea what to expect, the past year I had been preparing to be sent to the Middle East. When the position opened up to serve on Middle East team that was based in Thailand

(Partners Relief and Development), I felt the confirmation in my spirit that I was to say yes. In not being where I thought I would be, I have learned a deeper trust in God and a greater dying to myself to serve God.

The first month in Chiang Mai was a battle physically, as I was constantly sick and feeling the opposition from the enemy, but I knew I was to still remain no matter the resistance. Praying in the spirit and praying for Thailand after the first three months, I felt a shift in the spirit, the spiritual resistance in Chiang Mai broke, growing in a greater understanding of authority

we have as believers. Opportunities to share the gospel, healings, signs and wonders started occurring.

In Thailand, I am an English teacher to migrants from Myanmar and I serve on a team that brings relief in the areas of Myanmar, Bangladesh, Iraq and Syria. So far, I have taken two trips into Bangladesh helping with the recent genocide. It is an honor to help those in need and to be the hands and the feet of Jesus in a weary land. For the rest of my life I want to continue walking with Jesus, no matter where it is that he asks of me to go.

## His Promise Now!

*On a personal note ...*



Written by,  
Debbie Ecker

Last year, 2017, was a season, for me, of go-go-go. It was wonderful, and although I thought this year would be the same, as my ears tuned into that inner Voice, I heard the Lord saying that this year would be different. For me, it will be a year of stay-stay-stay. Even as our ministry continues to grow both home and overseas, God has not forgotten the important things in our lives, as well. For example, we were able to see Josiah 5 times last year! A record, I think, and God knew we all needed it. Also, time spent with our parents. Dan gets time with his mom at least once a week, and I have been trying to get out to the Midwest to see my parents every 6 weeks when the weather is good. NOW, under the guidance and direction of the Lord, we are fixing up our home to be more 'user friendly' to my elderly parents (turning 88 and 89 this year!), so that we can actually bring them here, to Pittsburgh and have them stay as long as they like. They are so excited, and I know they are longing to see some of you, too, who know them. How blessed we are to be able to have such a time in our lives. Please pray for us as we work on getting the house ready. We can't wait!

## Prayer Points

**“Behold, the former things have come to pass, Now I declare new things; Before they spring forth I proclaim them to you.” Isaiah 42:9 NAS**

### Please pray for:

1. For our Global Training Platforms in: Thailand, Myanmar, India, & China this year.
2. Kingdom Advance Partnerships in Myanmar - Pulang Church Planting & Trainings.
3. For God's abundant provision during the first quarter of 2018.