



May 2018 News

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Look for us:



His Love Never Fails!

“The Lord appeared to him from afar, saying, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; ..” Jeremiah 31:3 NAS

Years ago I had the privilege as a young missionary, to serve in gospel ministry in South India with the great Pastor Philip Papabhatani, and his lovely wife and my dear friend, Lily-ama. They took me in to an already overcrowded household of their own 10 children, 15 orphans and the various groups of pastors and church workers who would show up daily. They opened their arms and hearts and embraced me so warmly and with such love that I instantly became the eldest daughter of the family. I was still in a cast from my time in Nepal and could not yet so much as get up and down stairs without help. Without a bat of an eye, I was embraced, loved, laughed with, and given opportunities to serve, plaster cast and crutches and all. They made me feel as if I were the most beloved person who had ever come to stay with them.

I was bowled over by their unselfish generosity, and I allowed it to knit into my soul. This loving expression of the heart of Jesus to me, a stranger, injured, virtually penniless who seemingly had nothing to offer them except more work to do. “For I was a stranger, and you took me in...” Matt. 25:35.

India was a dark and challenging place for Christian ministry, filled with governments and other faiths who opposed them, sometimes violently. But despite that, I saw in this family a kindness and love that shone through the bright smiles of each and every child in that house. There was joy there, joy released by living God’s life in a poor, dark and often dangerous

place to be a Christian, but not allowing the darkness into their hearts. For OUR hearts, in Christ, have an unfathomable light that cannot be blotted out, if we do not permit it. That is the greatest lesson I learned from them. That joy, love, peace, these things are the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and that fruit can abound in the most trying of circumstances.

The first time Pastor Phillip invited me to give the message at a public crusade, before thousands of people of many faiths, he quietly instructed me, ‘Sister, you do not need to preach against Hinduism and the worship of idols. You do not need to preach against Islam. You do not need to preach against anyone. You only need to lift up Jesus. You lift up Jesus and tell the people how much God loves them, and believe me, they will come. Because sister, Jesus is for the Hindu and He is for the Muslim. He is not against them. He loves them. He came to die for them and offer them all that heaven has for them. So, we must not be against them, sister. Because Jesus loves them.’

These were powerful words that the Holy Spirit inscribed upon the tablets of my heart at the tender age of 26. God’s love is FOR the peoples of the earth no matter their background or where they were born. His heart beats for them. How great is this love, that is the love of God. That



love
never
fails.
WRITTEN BY
DEBBIE ECKER

Presence Driven

New Testament Arks of the Covenant, that's Who We are



WRITTEN BY
ELLIE GEPPERT

We are
Attack
Lambs.
New

Testament, Temples of the Holy Spirit - Arks of the Covenant of God if you will. Ready at any moment to defend and expose and activate the Word of God to neutralize the devil and his hoard of vipers set against God's plans, purposes and people. Roarrrrrrrr and roarrrrrr as the gentle lambs of God become strong and mighty in the face of danger. Roooaarrrrrr as we defeat the lies of the devil.

As missionary leaders of Firstlight, Dan and Debbie Ecker stand in the gap for the Lord as they

travel from country to country. They have to serve the Lord together with many, many other servants if we are going to win the war and see the return of the Lord with as many souls saved as possible. They serve with humility and grace in order to win this race with the Lord. They are team players in the Kingdom.

Varrrrruummmmm... here they go. The race is on and only the humble servants will run in the lead.

We are happy to report that Dan just returned from India where he worked while we slept to teach and serve a people group with little prestige but with lots of strength and a new understanding of who they are in Jesus Christ.

The two Dan's (Dan Ecker & Dan Taylor) spent time teaching the Word of God and praying for Orissa's Odeshu people group with Pastor Joshua Kalimel in India the Lord has saved and delivered many. God is so good.

Like you, I am blessed to be a part of this amazing work. The ministry of Firstlight is touching the lives of many, many people for eternity in places on the global that have very little gospel witness. The part that we have is so important.

Please continue to do all that you can to pray, support, and to instruct others in this hemisphere to do as much we can and help push the peanut forward - closer to the goal each day and see His Kingdom come. (See Matt.6:10, Luke 11:2)

Ministry News TOP STORY

Kingdom Advance Partnerships

Connecting with amazing people in incredible places



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

Through Kingdom Advance Partnerships with people like these the work of Firstlight is prospering in places like northern Myanmar and in many other places in Asia.

This is Luke, Jennive and their two daughters Janice and Hannah. They are leading the church planting efforts of the Pulang project, in over 48 plus villages in remote places. Together with a team of 10 national church planters, regular trainings and sendings are taking place in multiple areas. As leaders of the Harvest Children's Home they are providing care for 40 children at risk.

Firstlight Intl. board member, Chuck Lenhart and his family were just with Luke and Jennive and the reports are encouraging. Together we will be opening up a Center to plant Harvest City Church, in the city of Lishio. The building can hold 200 people! Preparations are under way to launch soon!

Praying and Prophesying in Myanmar



“For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established” ...

Romans 1:11 NAS

> Global Training Platforms: Updates on Myanmar!

One of the many things that I (Dan) get to do is to pray over people like these and as the Lord gives the Word, to prophesy that Word over their lives!

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of teaching a group of student of the Emmanuel Theological Seminary, (ETS) in Kalaymyo. During one of our sessions, I was asked by the President of the School to pray over several students to receive spiritual gift impartation and anointing. It was certainly a powerful moment of Holy Spirit prayer!

Everywhere we go the next generation are looking for spiritual mothers and fathers ... Help us to parent them into their future!

A New Light Shines on India!

“And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout the whole region.”

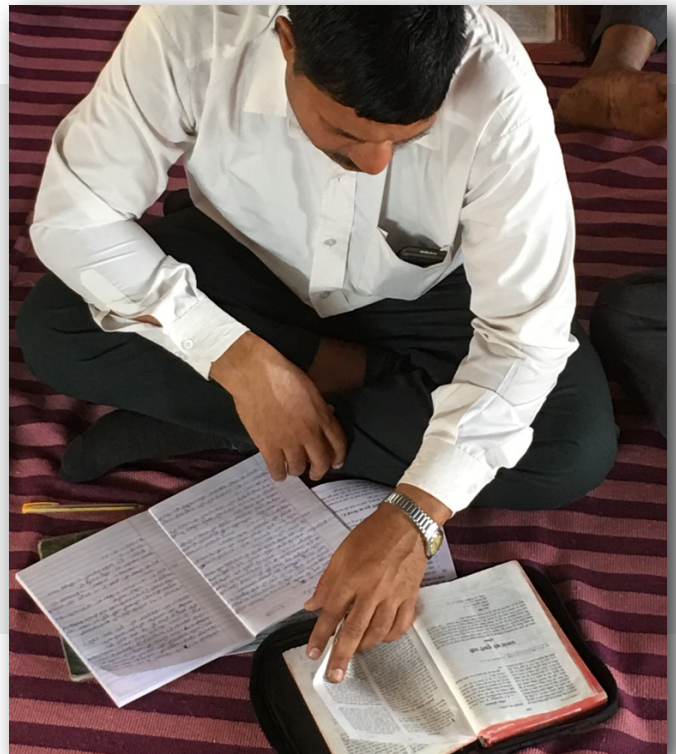
Acts 13:49 NAS

> Global Training Platforms: Updates on India!

Last month 400 pastors and leaders representing thousands of house churches scattered across several states of India, gathered for five days of advance leadership and bible training. This network’s church membership is 250,000 plus!

In order to keep up with the growing training demands, the host organization conducts 8-10 larger trainings like these for all of their top tier, and second tier Apostolic Leaders. Our next training dates are being scheduled for sometime in September. The costs are \$10,000 per training. Please pray!

Pastors like these are being trained in the word of God. For many, this is their bible school! Thank you for helping to train them!



More are waiting to be reached!



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

Every year about this time we are given the opportunity to conduct

personal family interviews, update records and review the applications forms of children and families from fatherless homes in several places across Thailand. It seems that everywhere we go, there are families who are waiting to be reached.

Our Families Without Fathers (FWF) project continues to be a source of blessing and the avenue that the Lord is using to bring Christ into homes and area schools. Through FWF school fees and related supplies are being provided for every child involved in the program. Weekly visits are taking place to homes and area

schools by trained staff and project workers. Families who need it most also receive a small package of food stuffs: eggs, milk, breakfast drink, canned fish, and dried noodles.

With the help of FWF the potential for these children and families to learn about Christ is great! Regular FWF kids programs are taking places where each child learns about the Lord. This year's numbers will be close to fifty children being reached!

Thank you for making FWF a part of your prayers and financial giving to Firstlight in 2018! A financial gift of any size can help!



Featured Article
FAMILY NEWS

He will not let you fall

On a personal note!



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

It is my honor to write the personal note this month!

The month of May has always been a very special month for me, and of course for Debbie also. Maybe many of you may already know why that is. On May 29, 1987 Debbie and I were married! This month we celebrate 31 years! It's hard to image what life was like without each other's love. Looking back we celebrate from day one that miraculous moment where 'the two shall become one flesh'. I love you Deborah Graham Ecker and I honor you today, as my wife! Thank you the 'divine yes' that you gave me that day. With Jesus at the center of it all, the future looks bright. Happy Anniversary baby!

Starting last month, due to a few most recent health issues, with Debbie's father, who turns 89 this year, we have decided to have Mr. and Mrs. Graham, (Deb's Mom & Dad) come to live with us, here in Pittsburgh. Mr. Graham has already arrived and Mrs. Graham (who turns 88 this year) will arrive later this month once all of the house renovations are complete. In spite of all of the challenges this may bring, we have a sense that this is the 'right thing' to do!

The past five months have been an incredible journey! It's been Singapore, Myanmar, Thailand twice and India! Everywhere we go there is a great door for teaching and training church leaders and church planters in our efforts to advance the kingdom in the places where serve. The next half of the year, the Lord willing we'll be in multiple times to Thailand, and China, back to India, first time to Egypt and possibly Israel.

We are crossing a threshold into a new season of life and ministry. No Turning Back!

Featured Item

Prayer Points

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"
Romans 5:1 NAS

Please pray for:

1. Next steps Global Training Platforms: (see pg.3)
2. For our Firstlight FWF project. (see pg.4)
3. On the U.S. side: Ministry opportunities & Resource development.
4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 2nd quarter of 2018.