



## September 2018 News

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# A Prosperous Faith

**“Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.” III John 2 NAS**

This blessing was written by the Apostle John to a household of people whom he loved tenderly. It carries such a feeling of affection and blessing. There are those who would say, this was one greeting, sent to an individual or a group of individuals, known to the author, and that it was never intended to become doctrine. However, I would say, that embedded into the heart of this scripture is a simple summation of God’s own heart. It reminds me of when Jesus summed up the totality of scripture in 2 commandments: To love God with everything in us, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This blessing reveals God’s wishes toward His children, that we ALL would prosper, not only in our lives, but in our physical bodies.

The proof is in the testimony of Christ, and in the action of a loving God who, without hesitation sent His one and only Son, a part of Himself in every way, to die a shameful and brutal death on behalf of sinful man, in order that we, His children, might receive ALL the inheritance that is ours in Christ. Without the payment of that horrendous price, we would continue to be left to our own, walking blindly and unprotected into a harsh and uncaring world.

However, it is BECAUSE of Calvary, BECAUSE of the cross, that we can say, confidently, without hesitation, ‘I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me.’ Phil. 4:13, and ‘My God shall supply ALL your (and my) needs, according to HIS riches in Christ.’ Phil. 4:19.

I can remember a few years back when I was a Cross-fit athlete. I was, without a doubt, the heaviest woman in the club and, also one of the oldest. I was training along side of slim, strong, mostly young men and

women, trying my best to do the same workout that they were. Each time I walked up to the bar to do a power lift or took the bar onto my shoulders to squat at a greater weight than the day before, I breathed these words: ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’ Each time, I kid you not.

And do you know? That within 3 months of training in that place, I became the 3<sup>rd</sup> strongest woman there? At my strongest I was able to dead lift 235 lbs! Nothing short of miraculous, but it was in the doing that my faith in Him was rewarded.

In all promises from the scriptures, it is in the doing, in obedience, that we see the promises come to life. Are we floundering in our finances? Perhaps it is time to make an extraordinary faith gift. Our beloved Bishop Joseph Garlington once said, ‘If what you are holding in your hand is not enough to be your harvest, then make it your seed.’

There is no doubt that when our soul is prospering, that it will cause faith to flow into the other areas of our lives. I learned years ago, that our victories over fiery trials begin on the inside, in our hearts. When we can praise God when our hearts are breaking. When we can lift our hands in worship in the moment of great loss. When we can give out of our need, to help others. THIS is the victory, even our faith.

And God ... is and always has been, a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him by faith.



WRITTEN BY  
 DEBBIE ECKER

## Is Anyone Thirsty?



WRITTEN BY  
YC CHEN

If there is one thing that I have found to be true in

life is this: Everyone is yearning for something; whether it be love, acceptance, money, business success, fame - or to find a greater meaning and purpose in life.

At Jesus' invitation on the last and greatest day of the Feast as recorded in John 7:37-39, speaks right into where we are living in the world today.

After seven days of celebration of honoring such a spectacular moment, his words were more than just a normal appeal to at a religious gathering of Jewish people.

This was more than that. It was a

shout out to enter into an encounter with the Triune God through the Divine Person of the Holy Spirit that quenches all of life's thirstings by connecting you to your divine destiny throughout all eternity.

Thirst, as Jesus used the term, is a strong word. Jesus was seeking out to see if there were any in the crowd who, after a week of religious indulgence, were still unsatisfied. Think about it.

It was seven days of feasting, celebrating, - in their terms worshipping the Lord according to the prescribed customs of their day and yet, on the Great Day - The Last Day of the feast, Jesus implied that their real thirst can only be met and obtained in Him and not in any other type of religious order or activity in our society as we know it to be. Such

a thirst runs deep, no matter who you are or where you live, or from what religious background one might find themselves. Jesus is the only One who can quench it.

This implies to all that Firstlight is doing in the nations where the Lord is sending us. Many of which are sitting in darkness without hope of ever being truly free apart from Christ and his great love.

Together with Dan and Debbie, we are the Firstlight family of ministers the very ones who are carrying Living Water (Jesus) to weary nations who are thirsty, dry, and waiting to be reached!

Our cry to them is the same as Jesus: "Is anyone thirsty? let him thirst no more." Here lays the answer to the thirsty masses of humanity!

### Ministry News TOP STORY

## Counting The Cost!

### A special "one time financial gift" this month can help!



WRITTEN BY  
DAN ECKER

Every month throughout the year we are serving the needs of

the Kingdom in the places where we serve namely in Thailand, and in Southeast Asia. In each location the Lord is bringing about a bountiful harvest of righteousness of souls being reached.

Your prayers and financial giving each month helps to make all of this possible and for that, we are grateful. *Thank you!*

In addition to our core projects and ministry platforms (Families Without Fathers: FWF, Project REAP: Regional Education Assistance

Program, The Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand, Firstlight Foundation, the Pulang Church Planting Projects in northern Myanmar) there are other ministry commitments that are above our current cash flow this month. **The needs this month are great.**

**\$3,000 USD needed for Egypt & Israel this month!** On page three, you can learn more about our going there. We will be serving the prayer needs of prayer ministries that are operating in both locations. **Egypt is 99.9% Muslim. This will involve a three-city prayer journey, including a 30 hour prayer lock-in!** In each city, will join with the three to five known believers, in each place to pray and to intercede. **In Israel, we will serve the prayer needs of**

**several prayer houses in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.**

**\$6,000 USD still needed KAT India:** (*Kingdom Advance Training in India.*) On page three, you can read more about our going there this month. This will be our second time to India this year. Total costs are \$10,000 (\$8,000 for training + \$2,000 for travel = \$10,000) **We have \$4,000 towards the training but we still need another \$4,000 + \$2,000 for travel = \$6,000 needed to make the budget.**

**Please pray and ask the Lord how you can help!** If you are being led, a "Special One Time Gift" this month can help! **In the memo portion write: Egypt - Israel, or KAT India.**



## KAT India: Kingdom Advance Training in India - A Firstlight, Global Training Platform

**KAT India** (Kingdom Advance Training India) is a Global Training Platform of Firstlight International.

The project exists to provide advanced leadership and biblical training to national church planters in the nation of India.

**I (Dan) will be back in India this month September 7-14 to conduct a second training this year!**

The group that we are being connected with in India, is a indigenous church planting movement in the northern part of the country that has been tearing it up for the Gospel, for the past 20 years! Their network consists of 250,000 believers broken down into 29,000 house churches.

Each training costs \$8,000 to train 400 leaders. For September's training we still need \$4,000 training costs + \$2,000 for travel to make budget. A "Special One Time Gift" this month can help!

Please ask the Lord what you should do ...



## A Middle East Appeal for Prayer! Joining prayer teams in Egypt & Israel this month



Last year we had a great prayer team join us in Thailand. Led by Dan Taylor from Arizona, he brought with him an amazing group of prayer warriors from India, Egypt, and the US. The Lord brought tremendous breakthroughs as we prayed!

**This year, this same group is meeting up in Egypt and they have asked me (Dan) to join them September 17-22.**

From Firstlight we will have myself, Jenna Biernesser as she makes her way to serve with Partners Relief and Development in Iraq, and two others (*Sarah and Isaac*) will make the journey with us. **We will serve the prayer needs of several prayer houses in Tel Aviv September 25, Jerusalem September 26-29. Back home October 1st.**

**\$3,000 USD needed this month to help cover the costs! See page two for details: Counting The Cost section!**

# This Battle [is]the Lord's!



WRITTEN BY  
DAN ECKER

In second Chronicles chapter twenty, we find the remarkable story of how King

Jehoshaphat, when faced with an overwhelming attack from his enemies (*three of the neighboring armies had formed an alliance that outnumbered him, and his army*) that he turned his attention to seek the Lord. (v.3)

This attack (*as severe as it was*) caused him to turn from his fears. It says that "Jehoshaphat was afraid and he turned his attention to seek the Lord."(v.3). Although his first reaction was fear, he turned to personal prayer, and sought the Lord.

I suppose that it is possible that this attack may have caused him to seek

the Lord in way that he would not have, if there was no attack!

From a renewed position of personal prayer, (*he had to deal with his own fears first*) he then leads his people in heart-felt worship, corporate fasting, and corporate prayer (v.4-13). This was a 'rallying cry' for all the people to seek the Lord for his strategy, his guidance, and for his solution. They were not willing to allow themselves to surrender to their fears, nor to be defeated by their enemies.

In spite of their perplexities (*being outnumbered, and with their own confession of not knowing what to do*) Jehoshaphat declared: "But our eyes on on you." (v.12)

This then caused an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to come upon one of the worshipers, (v.14) and it released a prophetic word that

carried the instruction of the Lord as to how he wanted them to posture themselves before him and before their enemies. His intention was complete victory! You do not need to fight in this battle - for the battle is not yours, this battle is the Lord's. (v.15,17) The next three things are important: 1.)Position yourself, 2.) Stand still and 3.) See the salvation of the Lord. (v.17)

This was not a passive posture but an active position of trusting the Lord and putting their faith in what the prophets have said! (v.20)

The story concludes the Lord caused their enemies to turn on each other and Israel won a mighty victory that day! (v.22) So much was the victory that it took the next three days for Israel to gather up all of the spoil after the battle had been won. (v.25) Beloved, get ready to gather up your spoils!

# Asking God for more!

*On a personal note!*



WRITTEN BY  
DEBBIE ECKER

All my life I have thought of September as being the beginning of a year. It must have to do with the double effect of a late August birthday coupled with the beginning of a new school year, for I am old enough to remember when children did not return to school until after Labor Day. So, for me, autumn was always a time for renewal, excitement, beginning a fresh path, hope. September still holds the blush of the warmth of summer but carries in its evenings the crisp whispers of the fall to come. One of the best months of the year, September. I have been gearing up to do more writing and organizing old writings to share during these months when I am home. Please pray for open doors for my writing. On the home front, we are well, and grateful beyond measure for that. Dad seems to have settled in to his new normal living with us, and Mom will be coming to visit, sharing time between here and South Bend. It has been TOO long since we have seen Josiah due to a new job and no vacation time. I know it has been long, he is missing us like crazy, too! However, he will be coming in for a cuddle wedding in November. We can't wait!! Bless you all and thank you for your continued prayers for us.

## Prayer Points

**"My enemies retreated; they staggered and died when you appeared." Psalm 9:3 NLT**

**Please pray for:**

- 1. Finances needed this month: Counting The Cost (see pg.2)**
- 2. KAT India this month. (see pg.2&3)**
- 3. Egypt - Israel prayer journey this month. (see pg.3&4)**
- 4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 3rd quarter of 2018.**