



# Falling Forward

October 2018 News

**“For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps.” Job 34:21 NAS**

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Look for us:



When I was a child one of my favorite times of the religious calendar was the Lenten season. As a Catholic, ‘doing’ the stations of the cross was part of that seasonal ritual. Every Catholic school child is very familiar with the Passion of the Christ, (which is why I suspect the film so named years ago swept the world like a raging fire.) and is especially acquainted with the intimate aspects of His sufferings on our behalf. One part of Jesus’s journey while carrying the cross which caught my childlike attention, was His falling under the burden of that heavy cross. According to those stations, not once, not twice, but three times. And, each, and every time, He got up.

Seared into my child’s mind was the message: No matter how hard it gets, no matter how many times you stumble, no matter how many times you fail. Get. Back. Up.

In the midst of Christ’s suffering He was able to communicate a message of hope. Hope that no matter how great the burden of our lives, He would always, ALWAYS, get up, and keep carrying us. Always. And in that understanding, in Him, we find the grace and the hope to get up once again and keep on walking in the direction we believe He has guided us.

Years ago, I heard Arthur Blessitt, who had carried a cross literally the world over on foot say God told me to go. His command had nothing to do with my ability to get there, but in my willingness to obey. If I would simply obey, turn and fall in the direction I believed He had pointed me to, He would find me there, bless me. And stand me up again.

Over the years, Dan and I have had many opportunities to put this hopeful scripture from Job, and many others into practice. Every season, every new door of opportunity, every change and transition, always brings with it the chance that things might not go as to plan. That we might have the rug pulled from under us. That we might fall on our faces under the burden of the cross we are carrying.

But, this we know: That our lives are hidden with Christ, in God. And each and every time we fall...we *fall forward*. Toward the direction of the high calling that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. We fall forward. And the Christ of Calvary meets us there, and helps us to get up, to keep walking our road...with Him.



Written by,  
Debbie Ecker

## Created Unto Good Works!



WRITTEN BY,  
BILL  
THEMELARAS

We have often times heard it said that there are basically three types of people in the world:

Those who want things to happen, those who make things happen, and those who after something happens look around and say “What happen”? I want to be someone who makes things happen and I believe one of the mandates upon the children of God is to extend His Kingdom throughout the earth.

That just doesn't happen by sitting back and watching others and it surely doesn't take place by being the oblivious “what happened” type of person. Making things happen takes a deliberate step and most importantly,

making the conscience effort to follow through with ones actions.

The Apostle Paul words in Ephesians 2:8-10 (NASB) Explains how some of this works!

We are saved not of our own works so that not one of us can be boastful; however, at the same time we are a result of the workmanship of the God. Having recognized that truth, we can step into the next part of verse that states that we are created unto good works planned beforehand, that impact the lives of others. In other words, preordained to labor and work with the Lord to produce a harvest. Maybe part of your good works is moving beyond your normal ‘comfort zones’ and being a part of short-term or long-term missions. Maybe perhaps, part

of your good works is volunteering your skill set to help the Firstlight International team accomplish their goals. Or even yet, maybe part of your good works is financially supporting what Firstlight is accomplishing.

Whatever the commitment, you and I were created for good works. Prayer is always a great place to start!

I want to encourage all of us to make something happen through your support of Firstlight International.

It's easy at this time of the year with summer being over and school back in session to simply forget the agreement we made at the beginning of the year. Let's help Firstlight to finish strong in 2018! Let's do it! For we created unto good works!

## Bringing Christ to fatherless homes!

### *Families Without Fathers (FWF) in Thailand*



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

Since April 2007 Firstlight International has been bringing the light of Jesus Christ into fatherless homes in at least seven locations across Thailand.

Project Families Without Fathers (FWF) started with a mission to provide aid, encouragement, and connection to families that have lost the head of their household either by death, divorce, or abandonment. Although these numbers may have changed through the years, we have seen the Lord touch the lives of hundreds of people. Every month throughout the year children and families like these have received weekly visits to the home and area schools. School fees and related supplies are being provided for every child involved in the program. Many of them have come to Christ, and are attending church regularly in several locations. Praise God!

This month starts a second Thai school term in 2018. These numbers will take us through the first part of 2019. FWF project workers are bringing the numbers and projects plans up to date in preparation for this second term!



## Leadership Training Highlights in India



What an amazing time we had training house church leaders in India, last month. 400 plus leaders gathered for a series of 'next level leadership training' among this healthy, growing network of house churches representing 250,000 believers! Power packed Holy Spirit moments of teaching, training and impartation!

Many were said to have traveled by train, buses, taxi, motor bikes, etc; for two full days from very remote places, just to get there! What an amazing group of leaders!

By God's grace, Firstlight has had a part in bringing training to them - two times this year. We have now put into their hands four bible modules in their own language (s) designed for ongoing evangelism, discipleship, leadership training, and church planting across India. Plans are being formed for more trainings likes these in 2019!

## Kingdom Builders Conference Thailand

What a privilege to stand beside John Paul and Paula Sprecher, Missionary Leaders and Co-Founders of Forerunner Flame International (FFI). They are pioneering a message of the Father's heart to eradicate fatherlessness across the globe. Firstlight's partnership with FFI began in the Spirit with countless numbers of God filled moments of confirmation out of the mouths two or three witnesses.

Together, we are working towards the establishment of the Asian Fathering Centre (AFC). Starting in Thailand in July 2015 the AFC is off and running bringing healing and wholeness to a good number of Thai believers, Pastors, and churches. More is being planned for 2019!

Last month the Kingdom Builders Conference hosted by the Z-Gen Church in Chonburi, was phenomenal!



# Extracting Honey from our Hardships!



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

I have always been amazed by what one can glean from when

reading some of these Old Testament stories in the bible. In fact, that is what they have been designed to do!

The bible teaches us that they are an example to us, and have been written for our instruction upon whom the end of the age has come! (See I Cor. 10:6, 11) From each of these stories, we can learn from what these Old Testament saints did and/or did not do and how God dealt them. The fact is we need the examples of both the Old and New Testament Scriptures in our walk with the Lord to teach us the lessons of faith, obedience, courage, grace, and more.

The whole idea here is to learn from the example they set and to follow the instruction that they provide so that through the encouragement of the Scriptures, we may have hope! (See Rom.15:4) The bible is a book of *life!*

One portion of Scripture that comes to mind recently is from the story of Samson when he had killed a full grown lion that he met on the way; and it says that he killed it as easy as if it were a young goat. (See Judges 14:6) I suppose that as the Holy Spirit rushed upon him mightily, that he had supernatural strength to kill the lion who had tried to kill him!

Several days later, as he was on his way back home, the Scripture says that he turned aside [for some unknown reason] to look again at the lion that he had kill earlier. And what did he find

inside the dead lion's corpse? .. He found HONEY! (See Judges 14:8,9)

Later on in the story, when the men of the city discovered the interpretation of the riddle [from Samson's wife] goes something like this: "Out of the eater, came something to eat, and out of the bitter came something sweat." ch.14:18

Often times in life we are met with the trails, circumstances [lions that we meet on the way in life] that we killed [and have overcome if you will] those things that may caused us harm, and we forget to extract out the HONEY of those hard times; the victories that are meant to encourage, and to strengthen us.

Beloved, maybe it's time for some of us to go back [or to rethink] some of the hardships that we have gone through, and extract the HONEY from our hardships and eat! God uses all of it!

## Following His Lead

*On a personal note ...*



Written by,  
Debbie Ecker

I witnessed a miracle in my mother's life directly attributed to prayer. For 35 years, my mother has not gone to see a doctor. She refused, no matter how sick with flu or other ailments. However, in late August, she became quite sick needed to go to an emergency room. It took a LOT of prayer and convincing, but, when I promised her that I would go with her and never leave her side, she agreed. I put out a prayer request on Facebook and within hours, we had literally hundreds of people from all over the world praying for her. When she entered the hospital, her blood pressure was 22/120!! Her pulse was 210! She was in full heart failure. I watched my 88 year old mother, who ordinarily would have been filled with fear of all the doctors, needles, IV's, monitors, rise up bravely, even with a smile and a thank you to each one who came to treat her. She quickly became everyone's beloved favorite. And within 4 days, her BP and pulse were normal, she had lost over 25 pounds of water weight and was released to come home with us. She said, all the way through, "I can FEEL their prayers. I can actually feel the prayers of all of those people!" Thank you, beloved friends. You have blessed this dear woman...and her family.

## Prayer Points

**"So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me." John 11:41 NAS**

**Please pray for:**

- 1. Global Training Platform opportunities in India: (see pg.2)**
- 2. Firstlight partnership with FFI, in Thailand. More being planned for 2019 (see pg.2)**
- 3. Wisdom & Direction for 2019 and beyond!**
- 4. For God's abundant provision during the last quarter of 2018 & into 2019!**