



It's Thanksgiving!

November 2018 News

“O give thanks to the Lord, for *He is good*; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.” I Chronicles 16:34 NAS

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Look for us:



Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. Not because of food or football, or even family gathering; rather for a larger idea. An idea of an entire nation setting aside a day to celebrate being thankful. There is power, true power in that.

One of my life-time mottos has been, 'Guard your heart with gratefulness.' I have preached sermons on it, shared it with others and instilled it into the heart of my son from when he was a baby in my arms and I would rock him to sleep and pray into the night air, 'Lord, thank You so much! Thank you for this house we are in, thank you for the warm clothes on our backs, thank you for this chair where I can rock my son, thank You for the food we ate today, and the food in the house for the morning. Lord, thank you for the beds to sleep in, and the warm blankets to cover us. Thank you, Lord...' Even as he grew into a boy, this was the theme of many evenings of bedtime prayers. Looking around and being aware of how very blessed we were to be warm, safe, dry, clothed and fed.

These things may sound simple, but if you have ever had a chance to meet people who have had to flee their country due to violence and protecting their families, you will know that these are BIG things. If you have ever walked in the slums in poor countries, and seen big hungry eyes you will know that to have a full belly every day and to be able to give your children food so that their bellies are full is not a light thing. It is everything. If you have ever

had to leave your home not knowing where you and your child are going to live, you will know this is not little.

In those times of thanking Jesus for literally every-single-thing, I felt a warmth and a safety, that held my mother's heart together whenever we DID make those transitions. When our future was unclear, when our address was unsure. When what country we lived in could change in the blink of an eye. In those times, I looked around me and drew strength in being aware of every little detail of our lives...and giving thanks, heartfelt and genuine thanks, to God.

During our years in Chiang Mai, we hosted Thanksgiving in our home 11 years in a row. Our smallest gathering was 35, our largest nearly 60. I love Thanksgiving. To me, it is about sharing. Sharing love, sharing joy, sharing hospitality. It is the table of the Lord. Together we join with many others at a table, a table that represents His care and provision and our hearts brim with the wonder...of being thankful.

In this Thankful Season, our hearts are also thankful for all of you. May your table be full, your hearts be joyful and your sorrow be few. Much love sent from our table to yours.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

Partners In The Great Commission!



WRITTEN BY
TONY FOSTER

Jesus said;
“All authority
in heaven and
on earth has
been given to
me. Go

therefore and make
disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe
all that I have commanded you. And
behold, I am with you always, to the
end of the age.” (See Matthew 28:18)

This is what is known in Scripture as
the Great Commission. Other
references to the Great Commission in
the New Testament can also be found
in Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47-49, John
20:21, Acts 1:8. It was and is certainly
a call-to-all!

The coming reign of the Kingdom of
God on earth was the central message

of Jesus. This message was born
through His relationship with His
Father in Heaven. Jesus demonstrated
his authority when he healed the
paralytic in Matthew 9:6, “But that you
may know that the Son of Man has
authority on earth to forgive sins...
rise, pick up your bed and go home.”
Jesus’ authority came from the Father
who sent Him. Peter declared, “God
anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the
Holy Spirit and with power. He went
about doing good and healing all who
were oppressed by the devil, for God
was with him.” (See Acts 10:38)

Jesus’ authority was given to
accomplish the mission of God. He
shared that authority with His disciples
when He commissioned them to
preach the Gospel, and to make
disciples. When they obeyed and
operated in that authority they were
like the One who sent them, bringing

the Kingdom of God on earth as it is
in Heaven. (See Matt.6:10)

The Great Commission operates by
heaven’s authority. When we
participate in the Great Commission
we extend the Kingdom in the earth.
People come into contact with
Heaven’s authority: lives are
transformed, sins are forgiven, bodies
healed, demons cast out, and disciples
empowered to continue the expansion
of the Kingdom of God.

The Great Commission is not a
missionary command, rather it is the
command for the *Church*, that us folks!
Jesus’ last command must be our first
priority.

Your partnership with Firstlight each
month *is* advancing the Kingdom
through each of our projects, and
ministry platforms. Jesus said GO!

Providing Eye Care to Rural Areas of Thailand

“Not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit, says the Lord.” Zach 4:6



WRITTEN BY
DAN ECKER

We are being commissioned by
the Master to bring the good
news of the Gospel into all the
world! Our part for close to
three decades happens to be

Thailand, and the nations surrounding it: A
region of the world that is home to 648.78 million people.
The three main religions in this part of the world are
predominately Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. Many of
whom are still waiting to be reach! A ripened field ready to
be reached!

Therefore, this month Firstlight and His Servants
Ministries (HSM) will partner together once again to bring
the light and love of Jesus to rural areas of Northeast
Thailand, during November 10-17th.

In this area, the potential is great for the Gospel! Multiple
village with very little or no Gospel witness. Hundreds will
receive free eye care screenings, medicines, reader glasses
and more! Most importantly each one will have the
opportunity to hear about Jesus! Many for the very first
time. Join us in prayer this month as we believe God for
breakthroughs of souls saved!



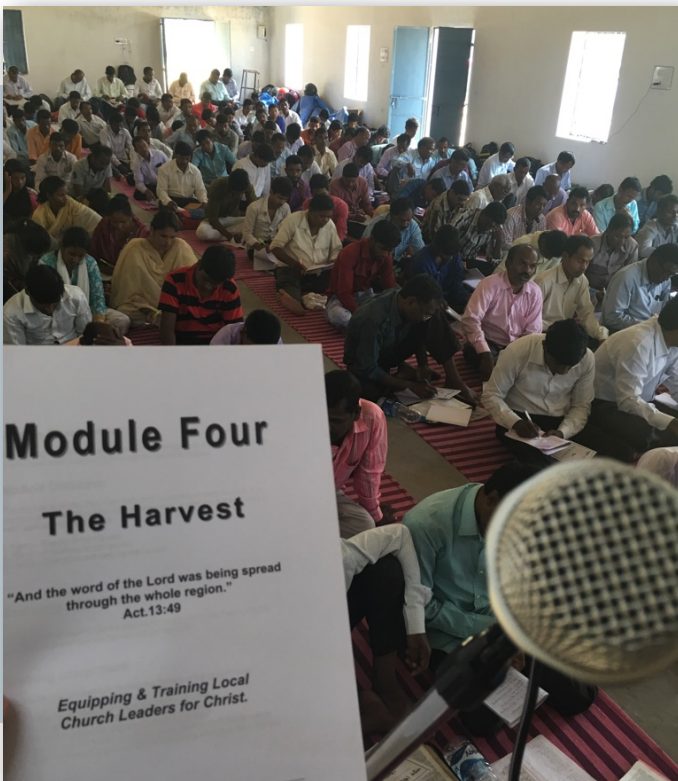
Declaring God's Glory over Egypt in the Suez Canal Area



This was one of the “highlights” from our time in one of the Houses of Prayer, located in the Suez Canal area of Egypt a few weeks back. Our days there were filled with prayer walking strategic sites in various locations around the of Cairo, Egypt’s capital city before traveling further north to this strategic area of the world!

Build upon Egypt’s a remarkable past filled with historical significance it still containing present, and future promises of the nation’s eternal destiny. Egyptian believers, and prayer leaders are finding their purpose as many of the prayer movements are taking shape throughout the nation over the past twenty years or so. Our team of seven from the U.S. joined with several hundred for thirty hours of non stop prayer!

Next Level Leadership Training KAT: India ... More in 2019



We have been asked by the leader of one of the national church planting movements in India to help them to train Next Level Leaders over the next 1-3 years! KAT: India; (*Kingdom Advance Training in India*) is a Global Training Platform of Firstlight International.

This particular group has been tearing it up for the Gospel for the past twenty years plus in some remote places across several States of India.

Their network is made up of over 250,000 believers with thousands of house churches! Their felt need right now is leadership training. Their senior leadership team have set a goal in 2018 to plant 10,000 new house churches! WOW!

I (Dan): My faith and commitment to Christ is greatly challenged just being in the presence of such a powerful move of the Holy Spirit. A harvest is being reached!

Please help us to train more in 2019. \$25,000 needed!

Featured Article
MISSIONS

Middle East Mission Updates from Jenna Biernesser



WRITTEN BY,
JENNA
BIERNESSE

Spending two weeks in Iraq in September with Partners

Relief and Development was full of God moments each day. We spent time in refugee camps listening to stories of women and families that have suffered trauma being held captive by ISIS. Girls who had to disguise as boys, to escape being sold.

their own pain, but that we pray for the other women still held captive and in need of freedom.

The Yezidi people of Iraq have endured 75 genocides in their history. They reside in 4 nations of the Middle East because they do not have a nation to call their own. Thousands of women were held captive by ISIS and many men have been killed when their mountain was taken.

What I learned was that everyone had a story to tell; from the hotel man to our driver, so many have been traumatized. Partners Relief and Development is investing in these people through relationship building and bringing in sustainable development to those living in refugee camps. We also spent time at Haven Center, who offer hope to these children through art therapy, play therapy, and giving the children in the camps an education. We attended a training how to work with children who have suffered much trauma. Through the Haven Center we were able to go to one of the poorer areas to help with a pop-up school. They set up schools on Saturday mornings for children who cannot afford school. It was a blessing seeing these children ready to learn.

Hearing family members share that their families are still held captive. We sat and listened, giving the Yezidi people the gift of presence. Ears willing to hear their pain and arms ready to hug their wounds. When offering prayer, the women answered out of pure selfless love, not for I have been offered the opportunity to go back to Iraq with Partners Relief and Development in February to invest further in these women and children's lives who have been traumatized by ISIS.

Featured Article
FAMILY NEWS

It's that time of year! *On a personal note ...*



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

The leaves are still green and on the trees. Unheard of! By now we should have all the colors and even a pre-winter storm to blow most of them off the trees. It is as if Someone has pushed the 'pause' button on the seasons. But, as sure as the sun rises in the east, change they will, and then winter with its cold, snow and ice will be upon us. With that cheery thought in mind, I try and get my parents out of the house every time I see sunshine and a blue sky. I throw dad's walker in the back of the car and his O2 in the front with him. I help mom into the back seat with her purse that weighs as much as a human being. And out we go, often driving around the wooded areas in Pittsburgh, sometimes driving through their old neighborhoods where they can laugh and remember different things from their childhoods. Then we stop some place and have a bite to eat. It has been wonderful and I am praying how we can come up with activities to keep them happy and lifted during the upcoming winter. I am so very blessed to have them here with us during this season in their lives. Thank you for your prayers for all of us.

Featured Item

Prayer Points

"I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies."
Psalm 18:3 NAS

Please pray for:

1. This month's eye care screenings for evangelism in Thailand. (See pg. 2)
2. Wisdom and direction as we plan for 2019: * projects and ministry platforms * Annual Ministry Plans * Budgets & Costs
3. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 4th quarter of 2018.