



## December 2018 News

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Look for us:



# The One

**“For among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like You.”**

**Jeremiah 10:7 NKJ**

I am a person who loves history. The good and the bad, the short and the long. The ugly and the beautiful. Because behind the finger of written history is the hidden trace of God. What was happening in the kingdom at that time? Where was the Spirit being poured out? Who was being obedient, and what were the outcomes of that obedience?

These are the thoughts that I bring to this Advent season. A season of beginnings and hopes. A new birth and a new life promised. God became man and dwelt among us.

Jesus is the One. There is no other central figure in history who came and destroyed dark powers simply by laying His life down and NOT seeking to destroy anyone. For the Gift of God through Jesus, was a Savior High Priest who knew us, and understood our weakness, yet did not cast us aside. He was the one who took water from a fallen woman at a well. The One who wrote in the sand when an adulteress was being accused and who could say, with no judgement, only love, ‘Go, and sin no more.’

This Christmas I would like to share with you this beautiful poem, which sums up the impact of this One, most Amazing Life. Jesus. Our King, our Savior and our Lord. And our Best Friend.

One Solitary Life. By Dr James Allen Francis

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still

another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty.

Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn’t go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away.

He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on Earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race, and the leader of mankind’s progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned put together have not affected the life of man on Earth as much as that One Solitary Life.

God bless you all, beloved, in the close of this 2018. And Merry Christmas



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

# Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord! *He is worthy of it all at Christmas time and always!*



WRITTEN BY  
ELLIE GEPPERT

Lord you  
are more  
precious  
Than  
silver...  
Lord you

are more costly Than  
gold.... Lord you are more beautiful  
Than diamonds And nothing I desire  
compares to You. By Lynn Deshazo  
Psalm 19:10

So many many times my husband and I  
sang this song of devotion together with  
Dan and Debbie in bible studies and  
prayer times over the past years.

When we focus on the Lord together we  
become molded and purposed for good.  
2 Chronicles 1:10-12 — Partial devotion  
to God yields lukewarmness, spiritual

mediocrity, and sporadic communion  
with God. More times than I care to  
admit I have experienced this lull in my  
heart, a numbness, when I have let  
myself get preoccupied with my life's  
activities and fleshly desires and felt the  
life of excitement and open doors to  
others dwindle. It is always renewed in  
daily time with the Lord. He will meet  
you where you are!

I have always known Dan and Debbie  
to be yielded vessels ready to tackle the  
next challenge whatever that may be.  
Their commitment and love for the  
Lord speaks volumes of who they are as  
servants of Christ. Whether it's teaching  
in Firstlight Global Training Platforms  
around the world, provided Care For  
Kingdom Families, or providing eye care  
for evangelism, or helping to prepare

new young workers find a place to serve  
and grow serving the Lord, or caring  
for elderly parents .... He is their First  
Love. They are worshipers and this  
keeps their focus on the Lord Jesus. He  
is worthy of all of our worship!

In the story of the birth of Christ the  
wise men knew that it had to be done  
and they followed a star by faith to find  
Him and honor Him. This Christmas,  
let each of us celebrate the One  
knowing this Lord and this kind of  
relationship is what Christmas is all  
about. You see, Salvation is the reason  
He came and Salvation is our only way  
to live with Him forever.

We pray you will make it a goal to seek  
the Lord more than ever before to see  
others hear the Good News of Jesus.

## Giving God Praise for a Remarkable Year!

*We could not have done it without your partnership! Thank you!*



Your prayers and financial giving each month in 2018 is  
bringing forth a bountiful harvest of righteousness in  
places like: Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, China, and Egypt,  
Israel and India this year.

**With your help the work of Firstlight International  
has prospered and God's kingdom is advancing  
through each of our projects and ministry platforms.**

On behalf of our family, the Board of Directors of  
Firstlight International, our Firstlight Area Teams,  
Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand, and on  
behalf of the many people in the place where we serve,  
**thank you for helping to make 2018 a remarkable year.**

We know that God's plans for us in 2019 are going to be  
great! Prepare to join us each month as we to step into a  
brand New Year!

*Dan, Debbie & Josiah Ecker*

## *Eye Care Screenings for Evangelism in Thailand ...*

Eye care screening for evangelism take place every year in Thailand. Through an incredible partnership with His Servants Ministries (HSM) Firstlight has been giving a tremendous opportunity for reaching into hundreds of rural Thai villages for the past 10 years with the gospel! Every year hundreds if not thousands have been helped and many are coming to Christ each year!

This past month was no exception. In four days of outreach clinics in the province of Kalasin, in northeast Thailand, a total of 1,200 plus people were screened, hundreds of free reader glasses were distributed, along with a good number of medicines to those who needed it most and close to 200 will receive prescription glasses in about three months . 60 plus people came to Christ!

Follow ups are now underway to confirm decisions and to start the process of helping each one to become a true, follower of Christ!



## *Care For Kingdom Families - FWF in Thailand ...*



A second Thai school term is very much underway in Thailand. In 2018 children and families like these are being reached in four locations of Thailand, through Families Without Fathers (FWF).

Each new term school fees and related supplies are being provided for every child involved in the program. Weekly visits like these are taking place on a regular basis to bring Christ into every interaction possible! Once a month families like these receive a small food & care package that helps to insure proper nutrition and hygiene for selected families. Thank you for helping to reach them!

## It's a New Day for Thailand and the Nations!



WRITTEN BY,  
JOHN PAUL  
SPRECHER

Hello  
Firstlight  
Family!

What an  
incredible  
year 2018  
has been

in the nation of Thailand. We are so grateful to partner with you in a nation that is experiencing a *new season of its history*.

You may recall earlier this year, Dan and I joined our hearts for a very special conference (The Kingdom Builders Conference) this past August in the Bangkok region with the Z-Gen church in Chonburi. So many reports have been pouring in from

what the Lord is accomplishing there. Our Father is giving a fresh vision and pouring out His Spirit on Thai Pastor's and Leaders. I believe it is a *Spirit of Wisdom, Courage and Divine Authority*. Why? Because God wants to bring a movement to this nation that goes all the way into the roots. It's not another quick, slick, "take a photo" kind of outpouring! No, not at all.

It is a movement that deeply (and wonderfully) convicts, heals, and restores hearts back to their roots in God. God is wanting to raise up a Kingdom living, breathing, and loving people...to take an even greater

harvest of Thai people into the Kingdom of God.

This movement looks different than anything we have seen in Thailand before. It's as if the Lord has us in a refining process. But, it is bringing forth a fruit that is so beautiful. A people that shine - not tradition or religion - but the Glory of being face to face in relationship with Thailand's truest King.

Things are changing in Thailand! And your support of Firstlight Intl. each month is helping to bring long awaited breakthroughs in one of the last great harvest fields today! Thank you standing with us! For God's Kingdom Come in Thailand

## For such a time as this! On a personal note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

As I sit typing this, I can see on my desk a note that I wrote one year ago, December of 2017. I had been asking the Lord for a word for 2018, and immediately I heard in my heart, "This is the year of the Fatted Calf." I wrote this down in several places and put it where, when at times the year proved treacherous and the road rocky, I could see what God had promised. In this year, both of my parents nearly died. Both ended up in critical care units in hospitals. Both overcame, both rose up again, at age 88 and 89, to have a few more laps around this pool called life. And, even as I write this, both of them are living safe and warm inside our home with us. After living in the Midwest for 40 years, they have found their way back to the Burgh. We just celebrated Thanksgiving with 2 of their great grandchildren who drove 400 miles to be with them. And prayerfully we will be able to gather even more of the family during the Christmas holidays. The Lord is good, His mercies endure forever. His promise to a thousand generations. I pray that there is a fatted calf in all of your homes this year, that your homes will be filled with love and joy.

## Prayer Points

**"Yet He commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven; .."  
Psalm 78:23**

### Please pray for:

1. Good follow ups to the eye care screenings. (see pg.3)
2. Families Without Fathers (FWF) . (see pg.3)
3. Looking ahead to 2019. Confirmed projects, plans, budgets and cost.
4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 4th quarter of 2018.