



On Point

January 2019 News

“Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days— You would not believe if you were told.” Habakkuk 1:5 NAS

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Look for us:



I love the new year, a sense of fresh beginnings, walking into a new season, filled with great unknowns. I have been told both by friends and family that I am ‘weird’ that way. But I can remember as a child a deep sense of excitement at trying out a new path in the woods, and later the thrill of driving somewhere I had never been before. I still get that thrill. I think it is because, at the center of my sense of discovery is an anchor that holds me fast and steady. The anchor of God’s tender heart toward me, as well as His guiding hand behind the doors that yet wait to be opened, leading to new experiences and challenges

In the new year, Dan and I like to look over the past year, and take inventory of what has happened in our lives and in the lives of those to whom we minister. We pause, and seek the Lord for the upcoming year, setting our compass anew, to make sure we are on track, on point, to His plans for our lives and not our own.

As people who fully believe in the Holy Spirit and God’s desire to speak to us and show us His plans, still we are always at the vulnerable place where we bring ourselves to Him and say, “Lord. What now? What is next?”

We are grateful and amazed, that at these fully weathered years of our lives, we find the Lord continuing to write His story for us. We look out upon the nations and are astonished. In India, anti-conversion laws have been passed in seven states; in those places it have become against the law to

change one’s religion, or to invite others to do so. One is expected to remain the religion of one’s parents until death. This becomes a real challenge to the churches who do His work in those regions. We are blessed to be invited into the heart of them, to come along side, bringing encouragement and ministry to them in their testing season.

China is another place where the church is under a new, and intense backlash. Large churches have been burned, and Christian leaders put in prison. Still, the church in China grows at such a rate, that now there are more Christians in China than the entire population of the United States!

There are more people alive today, who know a Christian personally than in any other time in history. The battle is intensifying because the light of Jesus is shining into the darkest places and shining brightly. The confrontation of light and darkness often produces heat. But one thing we know for sure. That when light confronts darkness, Light wins. Always.

India, Laos, Thailand, China, Myanmar, and the US. These are just some of the countries where the Lord is beckoning us to continue in 2019. Will you pray for us as we follow the Compass of His Will?



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

Pressing On in Him!



WRITTEN BY
CHUCK
LENHART

Ephesians
3:12-14
says:
12 Not that
I have

already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul, in the midst of pressure from all corners of life, encourages us to press forward! At times it seems as if we have to struggle through things. When Paul uses the word, “press”, it literally means to toil forward. At times ministry, and life seems to be a toil! I’m sure you know where I am coming from. I have discovered in these toiling seasons to rest in the Lord, do what you can with what you have. Don’t live in condemnation in these seasons but rather forgetting those things which are behind. In the toiling season, I arm myself with belief! Belief that God will do

everything he said he would do. Belief, that God is going to come through; getting us to the next chapter in ministry, and life.

Pressing forward in grace, and faith upward towards greater resources to affect more people for the gospel. Leaving things behind, so He can release new vision, new works, new people, new support, new breakthrough in saving souls for the kingdom! In the short toiling times I want to encourage you that God is retooling us and enlarging our hearts and resources to make a greater impact on this earth!

Ministry News
TOP STORY

Gearing Up for a Brand New Year! .. It all begins with a time of seeking the Lord afresh!



The first month of the New Year, on an annual basis has always been an encouraging month for us. It has been our custom over the past nine years to begin each year with a season of twenty one days prayer and fasting to seek the Lord afresh as we start a brand new year!

It is during these times that we pay close attention to our daily bible readings, and prophetic words while asking the Lord to show us the great and mighty things that we do not know (see Jeremiah 33:3) as we pray over our calendars, where we are supposed to be - *where, when, and with whom* - the people and places that we are being led to serve. It is during this time that we make a good number of prophetic declarations, and decrees over areas of lives and ministry regarding things that we feel are about to unfold.

In moments like these we ask the Lord to set the tone for the year and that we would be fully committed to his agenda for our lives!

We Won't Stop Until We See it Come to Pass!



As an evangelistic, training and church planting ministry, Firstlight International is dedicated to bring fulfillment to the great commission in the places where we serve.

This is being done through a good number of projects and ministry platforms geared towards *Kingdom Advance Partnerships*, with nationals and overseas ministries, raising up next level leaders through *Global Training Platforms*, in Thailand, Laos, India, Myanmar and China and *Care For Kingdom Families* through projects like Families Without Fathers (FWF) and project REAP: Regional Education Assistance Program. There is much to be done and we need God's grace, power and provision to see it come to pass!

Thank you in advance for your continued partnership each month. Your prayers and financial giving throughout 2019 helps to make all of this possible!

The Next Generation ... Ready, Set, Go!



There is something to be said about many who are coming up behind us often well known to be the next generation. Shama to the left is from New Delhi, India and Jenna on the right is from Pittsburgh. Although worlds a part uniquely so, both were raised in Christian families taught as believers at a very young age. Their parents have done well to bring them up in the discipline and in the admonition of the Lord and as fully grown young adults they have pursued their education and have come to find their true calling and destiny in Jesus. With bold faith living and total abandonment to Christ they are bringing the power and Presence of God to their generation in authentic ways in everyday life. They are not afraid to look foolish as long as it is real. Our role as the generation in front of them is not to hold them back but to find ways to help them succeed. They are ready to reach the world! Ready, Set, Go!

Partnering With Partners in Iraq, in 2019!



WRITTEN BY,
JENNA
BIERNESSE

Partners
Relief and
Development
(PRD) has

invited me to return to Iraq for six months in 2019 to work with the Yazidi women and children who are living in refugee tents. Many of these women have been captured by ISIS, now escaped and in need of love, friendship and the good news of Jesus Christ.

These women and children have been suffering these past years when their mountain was overtaken by ISIS. PRD is seeking to start up

creative businesses for these women to do while they wait to move on from the camps.

Before I could go, I had to find a person to go with me. So one of my tasks while being home in the States, was to find and train another woman who will join me. Her name is Elisa Wolcatt from Omaha, Nebraska. Elisa is a professional artist with ample ministry experience of working with such ministries as Iris Global School of Arts, and Village of Hope Ministries. Together we make a great team. It is a blessing to be able to share the ministry and work

of helping to reach these women with God's great love. Presently our target date is early March.

Please join me on this adventure of bringing Christ to the lost and hurting people in Iraq. We will need prayers for wisdom, protection, and financial provision for everything that is needed to help these people who have suffered so much hardship in this life.

God is doing amazing things in the Middle East and I am thankful that you get to be a part in loving and helping women and children of the Middle East!

His Will ... My All!

On a personal note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

A new year gives us a chance to pause and reflect on all that we are thankful for from the year that has passed. This year saw us break down walls in our home to make room for my parents to come and

stay with us. We were not sure they even wanted to come other than to visit, but we felt led and compelled to follow this plan of action. Both were approaching 90, and both were growing increasingly frail. It was Dan who said to me while driving home from our 2017 Christmas visit with them, 'Deb, it's time. We need to bring your mom and dad to live with us.' I wept. Never in a million years would I have asked this of him. For I knew it was not only taking on the added responsibility of caring for these two precious and beloved parents. He was also giving up having me travel by his side, something he and I both love. I had been by his side, overseas, fully 6 months of the previous 12. This was no small sacrifice on his part, and his kindness and generosity of spirit made me weep. Now, as the new year dawns and both parents are safe within our home, I can truly say, we are thankful that we made this decision. We will never regret making this choice. From our home to yours, we wish you all a very Blessed 2019.

Prayer Points

“You have crowned the year with Your bounty, And Your paths drip with fatness.” Psalm 65:11

- 1. Ask the Lord to release: Divine Favor, Abundant Finance & Lasting Fruit for Firstlight International in 2019.**
- 2. Increase & breakthroughs in every project, & for each ministry platform.**
- 3. For a fulfillment of God's Word coming to pass and harvest in each location in 2019.**