



## April 2019 News

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Look for us:



# Resurrection!

**“And as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the Living One among the dead?” Luke 24:5 NAS**

My earliest memories of Easter services are of jubilant worship. Triumphant celebration reflected not only in the atmosphere of beautifully dressed children, resplendent with Easter bonnets and lacy socks, but also in the exultant hymns that were reserved especially for that Sunday morning. Their words and melodies still resonate in my heart: ‘Jesus Christ is Risen today! Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!’

After weeks of mournful hymns sung throughout lent telling of the suffering of Jesus for our sins, “Oh Sacred Head surrounded by crown of piercing thorns. Oh, bleeding head so wounded reviled and put to scorn...’, songs that really brought home the personal suffering that Jesus endured for our sakes. No wonder, Easter Sunday, with its victorious Resurrection of a living Savior, seemed so alive and joy-filled with Kingdom purpose.

For as Jesus hung on that cross, He was very mindful of those who would be saved and redeemed by His sacrifice. “For the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame.’ Heb. 12:2. We were His joy, the joy awaiting Him on the other side of death. The joyful sound thundering through the ages, of lives saved, hearts healed, sin

defeated, life restored. Alleluia’s ringing.

Dan and I have had the unique blessing and experience of walking through some of the most remote, most unreached places on the earth. Cities of hundreds of thousands whose streets have never known a church, at least not in the last 1000 years or so. In these places, I am always struck by the heartbeat of the Father for these people. His heart yearns for them, as a Father would for any lost children. He sends us out, His sons and daughters, to find our lost siblings, and to love them to Jesus.

He did not guarantee this task would be easy. In fact, He promised us trouble and persecution when we would do the right thing. With the message of hope...the GOOD NEWS. There is a God. He has a Son. His name is Jesus. He died for you. He rose again. He is alive forever more.

This Easter season, as we celebrate this joyful resurrection, let us take on with all seriousness the mind of Christ toward the lost. In the victory of the risen Christ. Let us not hold back.



Written by,  
 Debbie Ecker

Alleluia!

## The Mission [is] Possible!



WRITTEN BY,  
BOB ROTH

Back in the late 1970s I had the joy of

listening to a returning missionary who had just spent some time in the Middle East. His travel and mission trip was to Israel and I clearly remember parts of the story that just planted a seed in my heart for mission work.

His story or explanation was not complicated but genuine and from his heart . He described the gathering of people around a corral of lambs who were being sacrificed for Passover. He told us his thoughts as he retold the scene and explained he just wanted to yell out "There was

no need to continue this practice because the Lamb of God has already been, slain once and for all !"

To be honest up until that point I never thought it would be possible for me to ever travel to teach or preach the good news in the way the Lord had equipped me. But Mark 9:23 clearly states: "all things are possible for one who believes". It took a while but the Lord finally opened the doors for me and was able to be a witness for the gospel around the world.

Firstlight International made it possible for me to do this, and there are many times throughout this coming year for you to join with your giftings.

I pray 2019 will be the year you step out in faith and join a journey the Lord has prepared you in advance to do to Laos, Thailand or Myanmar. Some may think that it's not possible to travel for the cause of the Gospel . Especially when it comes to time from work or life situations and finances.

I am blessed to be a small part of a big thing and we need you to join with Firstlight. Prayers, finances and your participation will move the kingdom forward.

Let us fully embrace the belief Jesus spoke of in Luke 1:37 " For nothing will be impossible with God".

The impossible *is* possible!

## A Partnership With Firstlight Can Help!

**One plants ... another waters, but it is God who brings the increase!**



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

As you follow us along in the newsletters each month you will notice that a lot is being accomplished through a great team of dedicated people.

Your prayers and financial giving supports the projects and ministry platforms that the Lord is using to advance the kingdom in the places we serve. I am grateful for the part that each of you have that makes all of this possible. Thank you!

Right now we are in the process of strengthening our prayer and financial support base. **We are asking the Lord to add an additional \$7000 a month to our annual budgets in to order maintain and expand our ministry commitments this year.**

If you are already supporting Firstlight, thank you for your faithfulness in your financial giving each month.

**If you are new to Firstlight, or you would like to 're-start' your financial giving, this month would be a great time to start. A financial gift of any size each month does helps make the difference!**



## *Imparting a spiritual gift... Rom.1:11*

### Myanmar Moments ...

This was a time for breakthrough and renewal for many of the church members and leaders who were present each day. Those who attended came hungry for God; expectantly longing to be filled by Him. Towards the end of every service or teaching time the alters were opened to all needing or asking for prayer. Our Frontier Harvest Ministry (FHM) team ministered to just about every person in the place! It did not seem to matter what their personal needs were as each one came ready to receive! Lots of tears flowed from the eyes of those who were being touched by God. Each night for three days many experienced great stirrings as the Holy Spirit moved in our midst. Some even testified of being physically healed after receiving prayer. Praise God! The voice of the Lord rang loud and clear through the power of the spoken word!



## *For Such a Time as This! ... Esther 4:14*

### Run in such a way that you might win ...

One of the highlights of our time in Myanmar was to address a group of students who are attending a private Christian school in Kalaymyo. The students were preparing for their annual exams and we were asked to stop by to encourage them. That night a few members of our team shared the Lord with them through songs, challenging testimonies and a bold exhortation from the Scriptures. Our charge was for each of them to keep running their race! (See I Cor. 9:24, Heb.12:1-2, Phil. 3:12-20) As I (Dan) looked into their eyes I began to call forth their divine destiny that laid dormant within them! I challenged them to 'step up' and 'step into' their place in history as the formation of their country is underway - a season of expansion and growth recognized by the world as their country moves further into the 21st century. They have been brought into "a place of royalty for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14) as a new narrative is being written of what is about to unfold and each one is part of the story! Their response was: "I surrender all".



# Care For Kingdom Families: THAILAND



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

One of our core objectives in 2019 is to provide Care

For Kingdom Families: A biblical response for reaching children and families from fatherless homes for Christ.

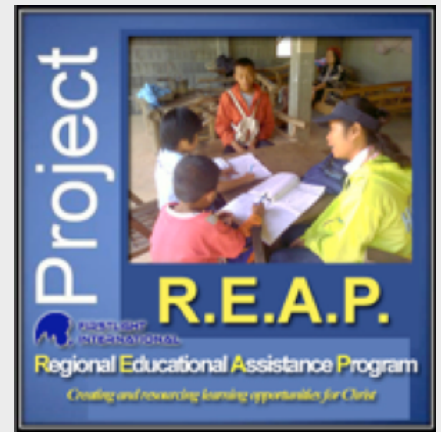
On an annual basis this is being done through Families Without Fathers FWF, project and Project REAP: Regional Education Assistance Program with 30 plus children and young adults being reached in four locations across Thailand.

Our plans are to expand the projects into new areas this year!

**Project Plans for 2019 and beyond!** Plans are being formed to place these these projects into several new Thai churches in at least two new locations in selected in areas. This will put the proper 'tools' and 'resources' into the hands of local Thai churches who are wanting to reach more kids!

Project REAP and FWF are proving to be effective for bringing Christ into fatherless homes, areas schools, and in some cases universities. School fees and related supplies are being provided for every child involved in these projects.

Your financial gifts helps make the difference each month! *Thank you!*



## In Him is LIFE!

*On a personal note ...*



Written by,  
Debbie Ecker

This month marks one year since my father came to live with us. I want to share some things that make my father remarkable, and things I still am learning from him. 1. His kindness. He is gracious to those who help him, never failing to say 'thank you.' and to remember special days. No one's birthday or anniversary goes by unnoticed. 2. His ability to adjust to change. They say that true survivors are the ones who can adjust the quickest to a new set of circumstances, or to life's major upheavals. I have watched my father re-invent himself, time after time: new jobs, no jobs, new homes and new states. Retiring at age 65, then starting his own business and working another 10 years. And during those years giving generously to his family, many ministries and charities. 3. His unselfishness. I have seldom in my lifetime seen a person who thinks so much about the needs of others and so little about himself. Even at nearly 90 he can be moved to tears at hearing of someone else's loss, illness or tragedy. 4. And finally, his hanging onto life with both hands and rising to the challenges that each new chapter presents. He came to our home, 130 pounds and in a wheelchair. One year later, he is around 150 pounds, and hasn't needed a wheelchair since July. Extraordinary. That's my Dad.

## Prayer Points

“Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.”

Psalm 2:8 NAS

**Please pray for:**

1. New Support Team Partners \* Prayer and Finance, \* Monthly giving (See Partnerships pg.2)
2. Care For Kingdom Families 2019: (see pg.4) \* FWF, \*REAP, THAILAND
3. For God's abundant provision for Firstlight Intl. during the second quarter of 2019. \*