



May 2019 News

In This Issue:

*** Ministry News:**

- Top Story Project REAP.....: pg. 2
- Top Story Preaching in Thailand pg.3
- Top Story FWF 2019.....! pg.3
- Top Story Bringing Hope In Iraq pg.4

*** Features:**

- Article - Thin k Again! pg.1
- Article - Board Member pg.2
- Article - On A Personal Note pg.4
- Item - Prayer Points pg.4

Donations:

Online via PayPal
www.firstlightinternational.net

By Mail, payable to:
Firstlight International
P.O. Box 252
Springdale, PA 15144-0252

As a registered public charity 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation, all financial contributions are U.S. tax deductible by making checks payable to Firstlight International.

Contact:

www.firstlightinternational.net
Tel: 724.254.6145
E-mail: helloeckers@gmail.com

Look for us:



Think Again!

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” ... Philippines 2:5 NKJ

Years ago, I found myself feeling adrift in my relationship with God. I was sad. I was depressed. I was somewhat angry. I longed for the Lord to put my heart back right again.

The Lord in His abundant faithfulness understood every bit of this, and drew near to me. I could not get out of my mind a desire to meditate on Jesus, on His words and how He thought about things and processed loss and suffering. I remembered hearing of friends, who, every New Year’s Eve would read aloud the ‘Red Letters’ of Christ from the gospels. I had always wondered how the gospels would read without the surrounding narratives, getting right to the heart of what was actually on the mind of Jesus?

I began thinking I would get through in just a few days. Little did I realize, that even from the first those red letters would hit like a sledge hammer, stripping away SO much of what I had allowed to seep into my soul, my world view, my attitudes. My opinions and my rights to them.

Jesus, who is the Word of God, bringing correction to the mindsets of His generation, was also correcting me. Love your enemy. Do not speak contemptuously of others. Do not quarrel with those who oppose you. Pray for those who hurt you.

I was reminded that Jesus’s way to victory is different to the world. In the Kingdom, the way to up...is down. To greatness? Humble service. The first are last and the last are first. Forgive, and forgive and forgive again. Do not worry about tomorrow. Live in the present and trust God.

His way of thinking was pure, cleansing and terrifying. Cleansing in that I felt my bad attitudes, once revealed, washed away in the tears of repentance. Terrifying in that I had allowed my heart to gather so much wrong thinking.

I was reminded that the Lord views all things so differently than we do. In Isaiah 55:9, the Lord says, “For even as the heavens are higher than the earth so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

Jesus! Help me, again, Lord to see things from Your perspective. To live in obedience to Your commands. It’s time to think again.



WRITTEN BY
DEBBIE ECKER

The Gratefulness of Financial Giving!

Sowing financial seeds grow into a mighty harvests



WRITTEN BY
ELLIE GEPPERT

I have
had the
blessing

of helping Campus

Crusade year's ago when I was first married. I was watching a TV commercial about them and my heart was touched to give regularly. At that time my husband and I agreed that getting the Word of God into the hands of people who have not heard was a worthwhile ministry for us. We were grateful for our salvation and for the blessings we had in our lives. I was a teacher

and Mark was working at a paper plant at the time we made our decision. For us it was a turning point. We didn't know that the seeds we were sowing would travel so far and that God would actually use us to take the Word of God into Asia. We have served him for 40 years now. It was like the 70 others who prayed for workers and then became the workers.

It has been our joy to walk with Dan and Debbie and the work of Firstlight for at least 25 years. They have set their lives apart to take the

Word of God to the nations and people have helped them with their prayers and financial giving! And because of that, many souls come to Jesus, trained, disciplined and sent! Together as a Team, we continue to watch, pray and support them as they serve in the nations God is sending them. What a blessings to support, and to serve together with them!

Check your heart to see if giving might be your path to the future as well. Firstlight International just could be the place to sow some seed. Give from a grateful heart.

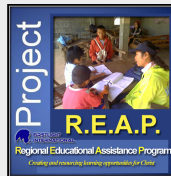
Helping Others Pursue Education ...

Project REAP: Regional Education Assistance Program



WRITTEN BY
DAN ECKER

Hassanman [on the right] started with Sonny and Jing [two full time servants of God from the Philippines who have become a part of the larger Firstlight Family in Thailand] have



become like Mom and Dad to her, and through the years, close to another 20 plus children like her. As collage years were soon approaching, she transitioned into Project REAP and completed her collage education.

Because of her excellence in learning, Hassanman was eligible for a full scholarship to a university in southern Thailand. At that time she wasn't yet fully ready for university and upon hearing of someone who she felt needed it more than she did, she gave up the scholarship to help that other person not fully knowing that when the time came if she would be able to complete her education. Through grants, other types of helps, and with the support of Firstlight Intl. through REAP, she completed four years of university and received her degree!

Thank you for helping to make that possible!

Preaching: Dayspring Church, Thailand

Samson kills the lion and goes back to find honey inside!

After killing the lion in Judges chapter 14, Samson returning from city, [for some strange reason] he turns off the path to revisit the lion that he had just killed days before. What he found inside was honey! Shortly after [in this story] he uses this experience to share a riddle as an attempt to deliver Israel from the Philistines. Samson's riddle goes something like this: "Out of the eater came something to eat and out of something bitter came something sweet." (Paraphrase see Judges 14: 14) The take away here is that in life, stuff happens! And often times some really hard stuff! And there are times when we've got to go back and get the honey! The hardships, disappointments, even things that have come into our lives that were meant to harm us [like the lion in Samson's case which he killed] and get the honey! The Lord uses everything! Taste and see that the Lord is good! .. A feast is waiting for you!



Project: FWF - Families Without Fathers

Thank you for helping to reach families like these in 2019



Every year around this time our Firstlight Area Teams put together all of the details for our Families Without Fathers (FWF) project and Project REAP as a new Thai school term brings in May. These two projects are proving to be successful in bringing Christ into fatherless homes in selected areas around the country and we are blessed! Over the past twelve years hundreds of children and families have been touched by it.

As we have mentioned in previous newsletters, this year we have plans to expand these two projects (FWF and Project REAP) into several other locations in selected areas around the country. At least two new locations in 2019! A financial gift each month can help us to reach more kids this year!

Bringing Hope To The Hopeless!



WRITTEN BY,
JENNA
BIERNESSE

Over three years ago, Partners Relief and Devel -

opment (PRD) started their journey of bringing hope to many refugees and those affected by war in the Middle East! The focused efforts of PRD have included food and water distribution, rebuilding schools and clinics in Syria and financially supporting a local trauma center for the refugee children in Iraq.

Last summer, the PRD team reached out and asked me to come on board with serving in the Middle East. We planned a two-week trip to

scope out the possibilities of what could be done in Northern Iraq to empower the women who have been traumatized by ISIS. We agreed that I would need to bring another woman with me to help pioneer this work.

Heading back to the states, I asked a friend named Elisa, who I had met earlier that year to join and she agreed to come! So far, Elisa and I have spent the past two and a half weeks in Thailand training with PRD in preparations to go!

Once we arrive in Iraq, we will focus on building relationships with these women and by doing so, we will find out what they are most in

need of. We desire to bring hope through providing a sustainable project with the women if this is a need within the camps. We will also be partnering with the trauma center, teaching classes to the children while we are there.

Most importantly, we are there to be a light in the darkness. To give the love of Jesus Christ and to allow God to work to heal their broken hearts and to rebuild and to restore all that was stolen.

I am excited to be given the opportunity to love these women and children with Christ's agape love.

Thank you Firstlight Team for standing with me in this great work!

Featured Article
FAMILY NEWS

He knows my name!

On a personal note!



WRITTEN BY
DEBBIE ECKER

The month of May brings so many celebrations. Mother's Day, will be the first in many years that my mother and I will be able to celebrate together! We are hoping to plant some flowers and set up a bird feeder or two so that we can enjoy our outside this spring and summer.

Mother's Day, this year, is on May 12th, and will also mark 34 years since Dan walked the aisle in Dayspring Christian Center in response to a message by Pastor Ray Patterson on missing God's blessing through disobedience. His mother and her home group had prayed faithfully for him for 2 years. I was on the worship team that morning, and had a front row seat to the moment he prayed to receive Christ into his heart, and, moments later, became baptized in the Holy Spirit! What a great day!

May also marks our 32nd wedding anniversary. Not a landmark year in the way people mark landmarks, but significant to us none the less. I could not be more grateful to the Lord for joining our two lives into one 32 years ago. God knew our inner most being and knew it was a good match. He was SO RIGHT!!!

Featured Item

Prayer Points

"For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace." Romans 8:6 NAS

Please pray for:

1. For our Firstlight FWF project, Project REAP: 2019. (see pg.2&3)
2. Jenna with PRD, in Iraq. (see pg.4)
3. On the U.S. side: Ministry opportunities & Resource development.
4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 2nd quarter of 2019.