



June 2019 News

In This Issue:

*** Ministry News:**

- Kingdom Advance Partnerships pg. 2
- Helping Hands In The Harvest pg.2
- MEDIT: Thailand pg.3

*** Features:**

- Article - Change Now! pg.1
- Teaching - The Rock Of Escape pg.4
- 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:

Change Now!

**“Change your life, not just your clothes.
Come back to God, your God.” Joel 2:13 (MSG)**

As I have continued in my study of the ‘Red Letters’ of Christ, those portions of scripture where Jesus is speaking, and are highlighted in red, I am again reminded of how very simple, direct and clear the Lord was in His communication. After He was baptized by John, and tempted by Satan in the wilderness for 40 days, His very first message to proclaim was this:

‘You must change your hearts—for the kingdom of Heaven has arrived.’
Matt. 4:17

Our entire journey of faith leading to a walk/relationship with God begins here. It begins with our willingness to change our hearts. To change our thinking. To change the way we make decisions. To change what we love and HOW we love. To change what and who comes first in our hearts. Our priorities upended so that new priorities rise to the top.

Jesus did not say you SHOULD change your hearts; He said you MUST change your hearts. Nothing else on earth will matter if we miss this first step.

From that first, unequivocal command came the next: “Follow Me, and I will teach you how to catch men.”

Clear, direct, unblinking. Follow Me. If at any time in my life I feel I have lost my way. If my thinking is unclear, my heart is troubled by conflict and controversy, I come straight back to this place. Follow Me.

And His promise with that command is that He will make us into what He

needs us to be. He will make us into what the world needs us to be. Those who can catch men. Those who can carry the message and the love and the power of the good news of a great kingdom that has already arrived.

The declaration that this kingdom has already arrived always jars my heart. So many times I see myself as trying to ‘bring’ the kingdom of God to earth. To declare it, as for the first time. But Jesus said, two thousand years ago, that it had arrived. The kingdom of Heaven had arrived because Jesus was standing there, in the flesh, declaring it. No more waiting was necessary. These thoughts both stir and empower me.

And again, the “Follow Me.” Without following Jesus, we will never be able to accomplish His kingdom plan. He wants to teach us the way. By the Holy Spirit He wishes to guide us into all truth, and empower us with wisdom and discernment, so that when we put out our nets, they will indeed catch fish. For it is not His will for any to perish. He wants those nets to be full. He is fully committed to our success. He shed His own blood to seal the deal.

The kingdom of God has arrived. It is already here. Jesus said so.

We must change our hearts.



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Helping Hands in The Harvest!



WRITTEN BY
DAN ECKER

As we step into the sixth month of this year, I thought it best to write

in this section of he newsletter a word of encouragement and thanks to each of our support team partners. The part that you have is important and we are grateful for it.

Every prayer prayed and financial gift given to Firstlight is equivalent to *Hands Helping in the Harvest!* To be more specific, YOUR hands helping in the harvest.

In exchange for that commitment, the Lord makes use of it to further accomplish Firstlight's mission, and kingdom purposes in the places

where we serve. Working together as a team this year is proving to be successful as we pursue Global Training Platforms, provide Care For Kingdom Families and to engage in Kingdom Advance Partnerships in selected areas of Southeast Asia and beyond. In each of these locations, we continue to pray, give, go, and send!

As you are reading the newsletters this year, you may have discovered that in the first part of the year we are serving in Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, the Netherlands, and also here in the U.S. teaching, training, and equipping others for releasing more hands in the harvest.

One of the challenges we face is staying connected and knowing how

to prayer for you! In the newsletters each month a return envelope is provided to send in a *financial gift of partnership* as you are lead to support the ministry. We so much appreciate your faithfulness in prayer, and in financial giving. *Thank you!*

One of the ways that we can best serve you in this season is join with you in prayer, as together we go before the throne of grace with boldness and to make our petitions be known to God. (See Heb.4:16, Phil 4:5-7)

As a reminder, beginning this month, why not include [and/or send along] a personal note, or prayer request?

Debbie and I would enjoying hearing from you and to know how we can prayer for your specific needs! Please let us know how we can best pray for

Kingdom Advance Partnerships!

Z-Gen Church Leaders Thailand, & in the Netherlands

Pastor Daniel and his wife Ooy are the apostolic leaders of a growing network of churches in Thailand. They have embraced the heart of the Father for a generation of emerging Thai people coming to Christ, being set free from their past - to serve, know, and to follow God. Starting in Thailand, their vision is to see the kingdom of God advancing across the globe by planting churches among Thai communities on the seven continents of the world! We are blessed to be partnered with them in so many ways!

This past month, I (Dan) along with John Paul Sprecher were in the Netherlands for four days to meet up with Daniel and Ooy, and the Z-Gen Church that is being established there. We took part in a Father's Heart Camp: A Training and Equipping Church Camp near Rotterdam. Later this year we will be back in Thailand for another Kingdom Builders Conference

with Daniel and Ooy, and the Z-Gen Church Family, network and more! Ask the Lord to use Daniel and Ooy in a mighty way!



WRITTEN BY
DAN ECKER



MEDIT: Micro Economic Development In Thailand ... *New Business Launch!*



In the month of May, we made plans to launch a new micro restaurant business in the Seka district, in northeast Thailand. The business will be owned, and operated by Yo, and Da - *(a young Thai couple who are leading the Firstlight Fellowship Church)* they have done the research into this type of food franchise in the area to purchase the equipment and recipes. The start up capital from Firstlight Intl. is \$1,000 USD to be paid back [or paid forward to launch additional businesses] over the next twelve months! This now provides an opportunity for this Thai couple to provide for their family, pastor the church, and to advance the kingdom in the market place. June is the launch month for the equipment purchases, market placement, customer taste tests, and product sales. Join us as we pray for a successful start up, kingdom, and business growth!

Myanmar Ministry Updates!.. Harvest Children's Home & Pulang Church Planting



The Harvest Children's Home and Pulang church planting initiative in partnership with Frontier Harvest Ministries (FHM) - (Chuck & Wendy Lenhart) has just taken a huge step into the future! Since the beginning of this year, FHM have been planning bold steps of faith to care for orphans, and children at risk by building a new facility big enough to house the 67 children from very remote places in northern Myanmar who are being cared for and educated for Christ. In addition, a new team is being formed to further the church planting efforts among the Pulang. There are regular "trainings" and "sending" that are taking place with "fresh plans" for church planting! Please pray for Chuck and Wendy and the Myanmar Team that are working there!

The Rock Of Escape: Find Your Place Now!



WRITTEN BY
DAN ECKER

Just the other day in my daily bible reading, I

came across an amazing story in the life of David that can be found in I Sam. 23:28: The Rock Of Escape!

In the early years of his life, prior to his becoming the king of Israel, he was first chosen by the Lord, through Samuel the prophet at a time when he was a shepherd boy. (See I Sam. 16:1-13)

Amongst all of his brothers, David being the youngest in his family [who was not present when the prophet arrived at his house with a horn of oil to anoint the next king in Israel] becomes the very one God chooses to become Israel's next king! The Scriptures are quite clear in this story, that Saul was the peoples

choice [and not God's choice] that eventually, because of his disobedience, Saul gets rejected by God [as king] to be replaced by God's choice [David] to become king!

As you can imagine this did not go well for Saul. Once the removal process had begun, Saul [being tormented by an evil spirit sent by God] becomes a jealous rival of David. Because of his popularity and success as an armory barrier of the king, it had become obvious to Saul that the Lord was with David, granting him much favor and success in all that he did. (See I Sam.16:18) David now becomes an enemy of Saul who was leading Israel's troops to victory over the Philistines. (See I Sam.18:7) Time and time again, the Lord led David through some very trying times and troubling waters in his relationship with Saul. And

that time and time again David would not extend his hand against the Lord's anointed. (See I Sam. 26:11)

In one of these trying moments in his life, the Lord leads David to a place called the Rock Of Escape! (See I Sam. 23:28) From that day onward, this concept of "The Rock of Escape" - a safe place, a place of refuge, a place of projection, a place of victory - becomes one of the major themes throughout David's life as the Lord becomes his stronghold, ... a rock of habitation, a tower of strength; a place of refuge from his enemies and from the storms of life!

Beloved. Jesus is that place "The Rock Of Escape" in our lives and we *must* find our place "In Him". Jesus is the Rock of our salvation is not just from our sin but also in the circumstances of life!

Jesus, lead the way!

On a personal note!



WRITTEN BY
DEBBIE ECKER

With the end of May, Dan and I celebrated 32 years of marriage. We went to Ohio Pyle State Park, a very special place for us. This is the park we went to when I was first beginning to shake the effects of chemo and radiation. It was the park we went with Josiah both when he was a child and we were visiting the states, and as a young adult. This time, we set up two camp chairs under a tall, shady tree overlooking the river. We set up a small table between us and shared picnic food and read books to each other. And talked and talked and talked. It. Was. Perfect. It had been threatening dire weather all day, with alarms going off on our phones, tales of tornados and thunderstorms, floods, hail and rain. But for us, under that tree, there was a steady breeze and warm sunshine. After many hours, we felt it was time to pack up and when we were safely inside the car and began to drive, the first raindrops began to fall. Oh! How well the Lord takes care of us.

We have also begun the initiation of our backyard for barbeques, with my parents enjoying the outdoors and sitting by the woods, and fellowshiping with friends and family. We are truly blessed.

Prayer Points

"The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust in him."
Nahum. 1:7 NLT

Please pray for:

1. For all of our Projects & Ministry Platforms in 2019. (see pg.2&3)
2. Second half ministry opportunities: Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, in the U.S. (see pg.2&4)
3. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 2nd quarter of 2019.