



July 2019 News

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Look for us:



Awakened For More!

“For this reason it says, “Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Eph. 5:14 NAS

Years ago we met a couple, in their late 60’s at the time. Alan recently retired from the oil industry; thus, he and Winifred finally had time to enjoy life, their lovely country home, and an ever growing brood of grandchildren. They were delightfully in love, so much that couples much younger looked on in envy.

In the midst of this reverie, they decided to open up their over sized home, first to their two elderly sisters, so that those two ladies would be part of a family unit. Then, to troubled young men who were one step short of falling afoul of the law and had no where to live and no one to believe in them. Alan and Winifred, with all the extravagant love that flowed in their own lives, had overflow enough for many a lonely and troubled soul. The years passed, and when they could no longer keep that house, they embarked on new kingdom adventures, leading teams of aide workers to Croatia in the middle of the Balkan conflict. If you saw photos from that trip, you would swear they were a young couple deeply in love.

They were a couple who were not driving quietly off into the twilight

of their lives. They were awake. Fully awake for more.

The wiles of the devil would have us be so hyper-focused on our fears for today and concerns for tomorrow that we are lulled into sleepy lethargy; not enjoying our present and shrinking back from our future. This over attention to our own needs, if unchecked, can become idolatry.

Jesus called us to seek the kingdom of God FIRST and all other things would be added to us. When we are actively seeking the kingdom, we die to our right to fear and worry. We die to the right to be angry and embittered about an outcome in our lives that did not come out just right. We die to self centeredness, and live to love and serve a Great King, and to find our joy in doing so.

God is never without a plan for us. His thoughts about us are countless! Alan and Winifred learned that secret, and each new chapter of their life was filled with joy and love, and Christ shined more and more. I want to be them when we grow up.



DEBBIE ECKER
 Vice President
 Firstlight International

Strategic Leaders are Purpose Driven!



WRITTEN BY
TONY FOSTER

What makes strategic leadership powerful in the Kingdom of God is when a leader functions under the heavenly mandate. That leader sees what God sees. Then that leader clearly communicates God's vision for others. This causes gifts and callings to come together and form an unstoppable team. Jesus produced an unstoppable team. He connected them to God's vision for the kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. He taught them to work under the power of the kingdom, pray kingdom prayers, preach kingdom messages, and do

kingdom work. He taught them kingdom warfare and sent them into all the world to build kingdom communities who in turn would continue the heavenly vision that Jesus gave to those first disciples. Jesus was strategic in every sense of the definition of the word.

You see strategic leaders who know how to develop strategic teams. They can see gifts and callings in others even before they see it in themselves. Jesus could see what God had created Peter to be. He knew that he was to be a fisher of men. Jesus knew that Peter would have to take giant risks for the Kingdom of God and even suffer. Jesus prepared Peter to be the best so he could endure the worst.

Strategic leaders know how to draw men and women into a level of commitment that can only be lived out in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus commanded them to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations but not without first requiring them to be endowed with power from heaven. Jesus lead people to an upper room and tell them to wait there. When they have accomplished surrender He filled them.

My friends, a heavenly vision needs a heavenly team! On behalf of the board of Firstlight thank you for your strategic partnering to advance the kingdom.

Ministry News
TOP STORY

Towards a Brighter Future! Taking a closer look at God's word at work in their lives



WRITTEN BY
DAN ECKER

The Emmanuel Theological Seminary (ETS) is located in Kalaymyo, Myanmar. Originally founded fifteen plus years ago as a missions training school providing both theological perspectives and ministry equipping skills. The School has graduated over 150 students, 75% are said to be serving in some level of ministry in local churches throughout the country. Praise God!

For many Christians training Schools like these have become a vital source of the education programs that are preparing students for the challenges they face. Myanmar in particular is in the midst of rapid change and development: Politically, educationally, socially, culturally, spiritually, and economically. Much of this will be tested as the next generation becomes the continuation of history. Jesus is their only source of refuge and strength!

Every time we go, we are blessed to be a part of what the Lord is doing through *Global Training Platforms* like these. You, too, are a part of their journey into the future!

Group Picture: Myanmar Training early this year! ..

One the “highlights” during the first part of this year was the leadership training that held just outside Kalaymyo, Myanmar. Scheduled equipping and training workshop sessions during the day and evangelistic revival type meetings in the evenings. Impactful moments indeed!

We had a great team of Frontier Harvest Ministries come (FHM) down from China. Each one brought great giftings and fresh Holy Spirit anointing to impart! Also, pastor’s Lang and Thang were great conference hosts.

More of these types of Kingdom Builders Conferences are being talked about, pray over and are being planned for the early part of 2020! Holy Spirit Come!



Serving With Partners Relief & Development in Northern Iraq!



These two lovely ladies are Elisa Wolcott to the left, and Jenna Biernesser on the right. Each of them individually are sanctioned outreach ministries (missionaries) of Firstlight, serving with Partners Relief and Development (PRD) in northern Iraq.

Their role with PRD is to work with Yazidi refugees, particularly women and children most affected by the aftermath of ISIS. PRD strategic initiatives is to set up educational platforms, small schools, learning centers and sustainable businesses.

Elisa and Jenna are pioneering much of PRD’s work in Iraq as part of PRD’s Middle Eastern Team. They are daily with hurting people showing them the light and love of Jesus in real, practical, and personal ways! Please pray for them!

Sons & Daughters of God!



WRITTEN BY, Romans
PAULA 8:14
SPRECHER “Those
that are

led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”

Becoming a son or daughter of God is something we could never do on our own. We need Him. We need Father's Son, Jesus and His Spirit! Jesus gives us the right to become children and the Father's Spirit gives us the ability to walk as one. We receive His best for us through His Spirit. We've heard of the Gifts of the Spirit and the Fruit of the Spirit. Children of

God flow in both the gifts and the fruit. This is how we live and have our being. Being led by Him. This is how we grow, mature from children to parents. A beautiful process that He made to bring life, growth, family, and unity in His Kingdom.

How are we led by Him? How can we bring this to the lives around us? How do we share His love as a son or daughter?

My husband and I have 5 kids. Each one is so different and is so uniquely made by Father. He created us all this way. There is no

one who knows you better than Him. He has called you, so let Him lead you in ALL things, your thoughts, choices, jobs, families. No one is greater or smaller in this life. We are all children of Father. There is NO higher call. He has a place in His heart for all His kids. Just as my husband and I for our kids.

Let not competition or jealousy mess up our hearts but let us encourage one other in His love! You being who He has called you to be as His child will change the world you live in!

In His loving arms! *On a personal note!*



WRITTEN BY
DEBBIE ECKER

Pennsylvania summer is fully here, we have all allowed my cousin, David to put his slow blower away until next winter. (a private joke that gives him no end of amusement). For the first time in years we are able to use our backyard, and mom and dad seem to love sitting outside beside the woods enjoying summer fare. They are doing well, although Dad has experienced a few setbacks that put him to the ER a few times in the spring. Still, we are blessed that in these golden years they are still able to laugh and joke, enjoy the fellowship of others and come up with good ideas. Mom is forever coming up with good ideas...she was always way more practical than I. We are currently going through the house looking for items to sell in our neighborhood yard sale this weekend. A lovely American past time that allows us to reacquaint ourselves with our neighbors. We are praying for a dry day and good conversations. Josiah is doing well, he just got back from a vacation to Thailand, his first time back in 6 years. He is still living and working in Seattle. Dan has been enjoying early summer fly fishing when he gets the time, in between his trips, his ministry opportunities here, and his studies. We are blessed and we wish you all a very happy and safe 4th of July!!

Prayer Points

“Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.” Proverbs 30:5 NAS

Please pray for:

- 1. For the FWF project 2019 each family and every child reached this year!**
- 2. For each of our Global Training Platforms in the second half of 2019.**
- 3. Next steps for the Pulang work in Myanmar.**
- 4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 3rd quarter of 2019.**