



## November 2019 News

# Focal Points

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Look for us:



**“I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? My help *comes* from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.” Psalm 121:1-2 N**

Focus is one of the most talked about issues of our times. It has been said in studies that hours spent on social media has drastically shortened a generation’s attention span. In recognition of this fact, television commercials, once 30 seconds to a minute long have now dropped to 15 seconds, 10 seconds and even 5 seconds in the hopes of not boring consumers.

Adults are not escaping this problem, either. We are deluged each day with headlines, texts, messages, Insta/Facebook posts, on top of the normal sharing of information in our families and our workplaces. Our brains are on overload to the extreme and are exhausted.

One of the most important lessons I learned during my years in Bible school, came from a simple diagram. Mark Geppert, the director of the school and our Mission’s Pastor, was teaching us as future pastors and missionaries the importance of keeping our priorities in clear focus and our eyes on the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. The diagram he used was a simple horizontal line of circles. One the top side of the line was the Lord. Under the line was us. All along that horizontal line were attention grabbing issues and

situations: career, money, debt, children, health, family, relationships, housing, cars, expectations of others.

The verse he used to teach us was, from Hebrews 12. I love how the Passion translation puts it: “We look away from the natural realm and we fasten our gaze onto Jesus who birthed faith within us and who leads us forward into faith’s perfection.” The old version says: keeping our eyes **FIXED** on Jesus.

Beloved, that is the only answer to all the craziness, all the angst, all the anger and anguish and sorrow that these times are hurling at us daily.

If we want to be able to walk freely, living in the fulness of God’s love and purpose, we must keep our eyes on Him. All the other issues on the horizontal line will take care of themselves if we can just make sure that the one, vertical relationship is front and center for every day, every step, every decision. He is able to make our paths straight and heal our focus problem, when He becomes our **Focal Point.**



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## Our Allegiance to the One Who says Go!



WRITTEN BY  
TONY FOSTER

The late Keith Green released a song that launched a mission movement: *'Jesus Commands*

*Us To Go.'* One verse declares; Jesus commands us to go It should be the exception if we stay It's no wonder we're moving so slow When His church refuse to obey Feeling so called to stay

The 'go' command comes from the Great Commission verse Matthew 28:18-20: "Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the

name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." The point of this verse is to embrace that we need to go.

The church needs to be in motion. Not mindless motion, but heavenly directed motion. All authority in *heaven* has been given to Christ. Christ wields this authority for one purpose, to mobilize those who call themselves His disciples to go and make disciples of all people groups.

We must realize that the goal of going is making disciples and the target is all nations. The meaning of 'nations' is ethnic or people groups. The task is

not simply to plant a gathering of people but rather a gathering of reproducing disciples empowered with the same heavenly edict to make disciples in their cultural context and beyond.

When we work with the local churches of those communities it is to ultimately help them to reach their community, empowering them to fulfill the go command where they live.

Your partnership in the mission of Firstlight is not necessarily an "outreach", [per-se] as much as it is an "in-reach," going into that community as servants to the disciples who are there to further advance the kingdom across the globe!

## Healing Father Wounds ... The Time is Now!

"The Lord said to me, 'You are my son. Today I have become your Father.'" Ps.2:7 NLT



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

One of the highlights from the Father Heart Church Camp - Kingdom Builders Conference last month with the network of Z-Gen churches in Chon Buri, Thailand was to witness firsthand the hearts of those who were gathered being turned towards the Father in a fresh new way!

During each session we were reminded once again of our great need to be cherished by the One who gave us his all! As a son and daughter of God we now live from a place in "the bosom of the Father" just as Jesus did. (See John 1:18) The essence of that "place" is the heart of the Father an eternal place where we have been known by him before the foundation of the world. (See Eph.1:4, Jer.1:5, Ps. 139) A significant moment in the history of the church in Thailand is emerging and we are so blessed to be a part of it! Turning hearts to him!



## *Prayer & Prophetic Moments: Father's Heart Camp!*

Throughout the conference weekend, there were several significant moments where it was as if the Lord “crashed” in on us in a powerful way by the Holy Spirit! As we talk about Jesus and lift him up in heart-felt worship and in praise, as he has promised he does show up and make his Presence known.

One of those moments happened to be during our last session as we took some time to pray over the gathering of churches that were present and to pray over the nation of Thailand. The Lord seemed to want to say something special to each of the churches and to tell us of his heart for Thailand by declaring what he intends to do in the days to come. His intention is to move across the nation as a Father to the fatherless ... a Healer to the brokenhearted .... and as a Savior to the lost and to the hurting! ... The “Church” in Thailand is rising up!



## *Dayspring Church Thailand, Their Annual Family Camp!*

It was such an honor for me (Dan) to be have been invited to speak at this year's annual Family Church Camp of the Dayspring Church in Patthiya, Thailand. This year's theme was “Be Salt and Light” and together as a church - they are doing just that!

Their membership is growing by taking on the challenge of winning souls to Christ everywhere they go. Their belief is that everywhere they go, God goes! And as Salt & Light (See Matt.5:13-15) they are making a difference in the world.

We had great moments of prayer, worship, time in the word, equipping and training, fellowship, games, skits and more! They are a lively bunch of God lovers to say the least! The Lord's intention is to use them as a church to reach their communities for Christ in a powerful way.



Featured Article  
MISSIONS

# Middle East Mission Updates ... Let's pray!



WRITTEN BY,  
JENNA  
BIERNESSER

Maybe some of you might be asking

issue. What is the moral response for our allies who are still in need of US assistance when we are fully capable of helping?

2. The Kurdish people will meet Jesus as their Savior and their comforter as they are in need of being saved and comforted.

yourselves: What is happening in the Middle East, and how can I pray for what is happening there?

This recent issue with the Kurds is just one of the many other issues that needs to be addressed in the Middle East today. It is vital that we go to God in intercession for the Kurds and for the Middle East.

3. For the Kurds to have a nation of their own where they can have human rights and live in peace.

To see the Kurds face yet again betrayal and ethnic cleansing is heartbreaking to say the least. We must take this heartbreak and not allow bitterness to be our response but intercession.

### How can we pray?

4. For all the nations of the Middle East to encounter the Giver of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Dalton Thomas of Frontier Alliance International states that this is not a political but a moral

1. Wisdom for our President that he will do the moral response instead of the political.

Thank you our beloved Firstlight Friends. What an opportunity we have for God to answer our prayers! Let us pray!

Featured Article  
FAMILY NEWS

## Giving Thanks! *On a personal note ...*



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

We have had only one frost in the entire month of October, hence the leaves have changed colors slowly and gently, and mercifully have remained on the trees for us to enjoy. It has been a sweet time for family, my sister managing to come in two times for visits and my brother once. No easy feat for either of them, but my father is so overjoyed to see them, I am so grateful they push through and get here. Mom has settled into life out in South Bend with family out there looking after her needs. She recently had to go to the ER with terrible leg pain, but fortunately it was arthritis and not blood clots. She now has a walker and pain meds...and is happy once again. She assures me over and over that she is SO happy and relieved to be at home again. Our family do covet your prayers for both of my parents in their frail state. And for their caregivers. On a bright note, Josiah and his girlfriend will be visiting us over Thanksgiving. It has been over a year since we have seen him and we are so very excited. A happy and blessed Thanksgiving to you all from our house to yours.

Featured Item

## Prayer Points

**“It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.” Isa.65:24**

### Please pray for:

1. For the eye care Screenings for evangelism this month in Thailand. \* Nov. 21-27
2. Wisdom and direction as we plan for 2020 and beyond: \* projects and ministry platforms \* Annual Ministry Plans \* Budgets, Costs and more!
3. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 4th quarter of 2019. \* Pray! \*Give! \*Go!