



December 2019 News

Peace On Earth

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Luke 2:14 NKJ

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One of the most celebrated greetings passed between people during the holidays is the phrase: “And on earth, peace, goodwill toward men...” Even if one is not of any religious affiliation, there is something so touching, so hopeful in these words.

peace.’ No amount of self-help books can give this peace, it is not of this world. It is from within by the Holy Spirit. One cannot work toward gaining this peace. One must simply receive it.

If one is a student of history through the ages, or even of current events with the innumerable wars and conflicts, genocides and massacres, these words might seem like dreams that cannot come true. But these words spell out the very substance, the very dream that CAN come true.

And so. The gospel. The good news., that unto us, a Child is born. Unto us a Son is given. And all of us who would receive Him would be called the children of God. Adopted into His family. Sins forgiven. Hearts healed. Love restored. And this gift of peace, when we have received it, will bring about goodwill towards men. For a heart at peace with God and himself is not likely to hate his neighbor.

For on that deep, dark night over two thousand years ago, these were the words that choirs of angels filled the skies with singing. The original Christmas Carol. The first Christmas greeting:

This kind of peace inspires us to do good works to show the good will of the Father towards all men, and to bring glory to our His name. Christian witness and mission throughout the ages testify to the truth of this. Endless stories still being written, of we, the bearers of His peace, going into the world so that they might know and receive Him, and His great gift of peace.

Peace on earth...goodwill towards men.

Peace is exactly the gift that Jesus brought to the world. Peace, first with God, then, with each other. Peace so great, it passes all understanding. Peace so real, because it comes from the only One who can give true peace: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Prince of Peace.

Jesus promised his disciples, ‘I leave you peace, My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives. I give you MY



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

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Tel: 724.254.6145
E-mail: helloeckers@gmail.com

Look for us:



Jesus Is The Reason For The Season!

Oh Come let us adore Him, Christ The Lord ...



WRITTEN BY
CHUCK
LENHART

The gift He gave was the greatest gift anyone could ever give! He gave a family member to be served up as a sacrifice for all.

It would be like if your Dad, or Mom needed a liver transplant and you willing gave yours up. That would mean you would have to die to save their lives. What a gift God gave, His only son Jesus Christ! The one and only of his kind! God's greatest Christmas gift from heaven to earth. Signed sealed and delivered in a manger by the creator God of heaven. A son is born to take on the scorn of

sin and sickness, the scorn of loneliness, and poverty, and face a rugged cross that would send him to the grave for three days, but death would not hold its grip on him.

Jesus gloriously rose and has all authority in heaven, and on the earth, and below the earth. Yes, He is the reason for the season, the gift of God to you and to me. Jesus is the gift that keeps giving to everyone who calls on his name.

To this end Firstlight fights the good fight of faith for the souls of men, shining His Light to all those dwelling in darkness.

Thank you for standing with us in this great work. We are ever so mindful of the part that you have in everything that is being accomplished this year.

As you celebrate the Holiday season this year may you look to heaven and say a prayer for the less fortunate of the world, and ask God to bless them and give them an opportunity to hear the name and message of Christ.

Jesus is the reason for the season in every part of the world, he is worthy to be praised.

Please do take a moment to adore him who is Christ the Lord!

Help Firstlight Finish Strong in 2019 ...

A Special Year-End Financial Gift Can Help Make A Difference!



Dan & Debbie Ecker

Thank you for helping to make 2019 a remarkable year!

Your regular prayers and financial giving each month has been a great blessing to all that the Lord has accomplished this year.

A major **“THANK YOU”** from the bottom of our hearts for your part each month.

Your partnership 2020 will enable us to to pursue the projects and ministry platforms with confidence in the Lord's provision.

HELP US TO FINISH STRONG IN 2019!

To help us to finish strong in 2019, why not send a **“special year-end” financial gift?** Contributions like these will enable us to honor all of our financial commitment this year as we prepare for 2020.

A Year-End Financial gift can help!

Bringing Christ Into Fatherless Homes in 2019!



A Support & Care Ministry Project of Firstlight International



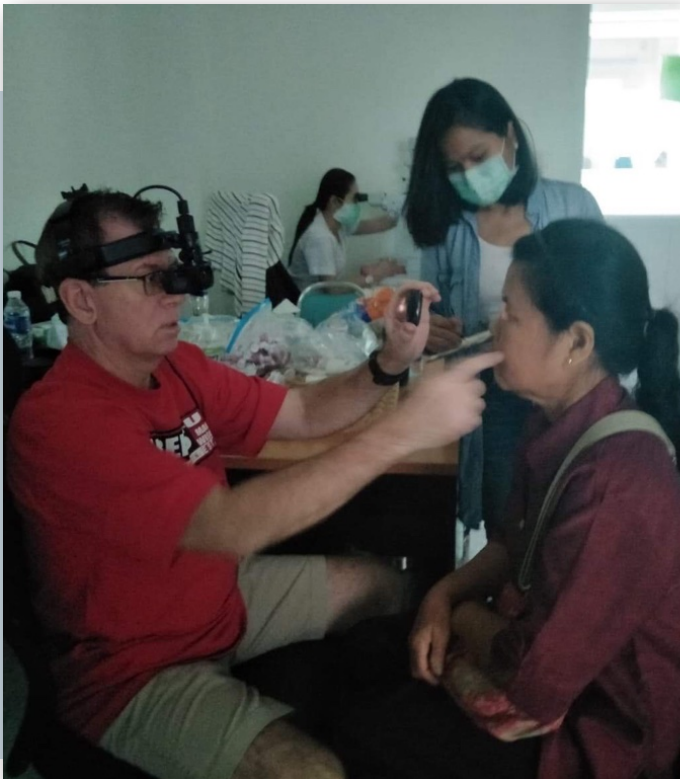
Thank you!

Here are some of the faces of our Families Without Fathers (FWF) families in Thailand. These ones just happen to be from the Seka district, in Northeast Thailand.

In 2019 through FWF, Firstlight is reaching into the homes of 50 plus children in four locations across Thailand. In each location school fees and related supplies are being provided for every child involved in the program. Regular home visits are taking place by local Thai churches who are bringing Christ into every interaction with each of these families. Local communities and area schools are opening up to other types of church related activities. Because of FWF many children from fatherless homes are learning about Jesus and God's great love for them.

In 2020 more are waiting to be reached!

Serving Eye Care Needs with HSM, in Thailand ...



This is the second time in two years that our eye care team, in partnership with His Servants Ministries (HSM), set up in Kalasin, province in Northeast Thailand. An area where there are a high percentage of people that are lacking proper eye care. The conditions are such that people do not have the available funds or that the hospitals and clinics are not always located in an area where people can easily get to them. So many just do not get the proper care that they need. This then provides an opportunity for groups like Firstlight and HSM to partner together to bring Christ into rural settings like these to demonstrate the love of God and to present the Gospel through platforms such as these. **Every year hundreds are being served!**

What Does 2020 Look Like to You?



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

It doesn't take much to figure out that we are soon approaching

greater purpose in God to unfold. It is good to have vision, goals and strategies for accomplishing those plans but what I have often found to be true is that the Lord's timing is way different than ours.

What may feel like is a delay is actually his purpose being worked out and we just haven't seen it yet. It's not that the goal or the strategy is wrong, it's a matter of timing! As frustrating as it may seem the key is not to give up on your dream.

There is a lot we can say about this number 2020 and there are many are predicting what is true in the natural can also be equally so in the spiritual dimension as well. We shouldn't be surprised when we hear someone

mention that the year 2020 is all about vision and one's ability to see and here is why.

We have heard it said that 20/20 vision is perfect eyesight. Under normal circumstances our eyes don't seem to change much until you reach your forties then assistance is required to maintain those numbers.

In order to regain 20/20 vision [perfect eyesight] going to the New Year, it is essential that we understand our Identity - who we are as a son or a daughter of God, - that we are clear about our Purpose, why we are here, and our Assignment - what problems are we going to solve in this life? All three are essential going into the New Year. Don't loose your 20/20 vision!

a brand New Year! By the time you are reading this newsletter we will be well on our way to enter 2020 with lots of hopes and dreams for the next twelve months and beyond. And if you are like me I am still waiting for things to come to pass that haven't happened yet. The key is to keep moving forward and not to get stuck in what didn't happen last year; it just may be a matter of timing. It is possible that we may need to readjust our expectations and timelines for a

His Gift is Peace!

On a personal note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

Thanksgiving is passed, along with the joy of reunion with our dear son, Josiah, who was able to visit us from Seattle for five entire days, with his girlfriend, Alyssa. I love having him home and making his favorite foods. Yes, of course, turkey and trimmings, but, then OUR leftovers most likely look very different than yours: Curries, spicy fried noodles and an Asian rice gruel made from the leftover carcass, ginger, and lots of goodies mixed in! JOK! Looking ahead to our Christmas, I do not know what to expect this year. I know I will have to guard my heart because my dear mother, who has gone back to South Bend will not be with us this year. And, also, my dear dad, who is hanging in there like the trooper he is, is having good days and bad days. We do appreciate your prayers for this time. Perhaps, this year, will not be focused so much on the outer trappings and activities of Christmas, but rather on the inner light, of Christ lighting up our souls. Him coming into our quiet, dark winter of the soul, and warming us with His love. Calming us with His peace. What a great, great gift! We send our love and greetings to you and your families this holiday season. Let our heart's cry be, 'Come, Lord Jesus! Prince of Peace!'

Prayer Points

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”

Romans 11:36 NAS

Please pray for:

- 1. Good follow ups to the eye care screenings. (see pg.3)**
- 2. Families Without Fathers (FWF) 2019. (see pg.3)**
- 3. Looking ahead to 2020. Confirmed projects, plans, budgets and costs.**
- 4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 4th quarter of 2019 - to Finish Strong!**