



June 2020 News

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Look for us:



Moving Forward!

“ ... walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, ...” Ephesians 5:2b NAS

If our lives and the living beings of the world were one big, amalgamated video on a giant screen, then for nearly 3 months SOMEONE hit ‘Pause’. 2020 burst out of the gates with excitement, joy, anticipation, a sense of renewal and rededication to dreams. Plans set. Trips booked. Seminars on the calendar. Rising to new involvements. SO exciting.

And then...just like that: Pause. We were all put in suspended animation. Flights cancelled. Seminars, too. New routines dissolving long before lack of resolve had a chance to set in. Pause.

It was horrible and scary and unknown and unthinkable. A virus, so sneaky, it could hide upon your person for up to 14 days, infecting many. Some would get a mild case. For others, it would mean death. We began new routines, wiping down every piece of mail or food delivery that came to our doors. Wearing masks outside the homes, first makeshift from scarves and such around the house. Then, better, more protective ones. We made many calls to Josiah in Seattle which was the original epicenter for ‘the virus.’ We also began to Facetime with our loved ones, perhaps even more than we used to make phone calls. Zoom meetings, Skype Meetups, Whatsapp. (And oh, dare I say...Tiktok?? Where a world of quarantined humans were being

their most hilarious, inspirational and laughter inducing selves.)

The world was put on Pause. We wept to see bodies in the hallways of Italian hospitals; and wept again to hear Italians singing beautiful music from their balconies. We watched in horror as NYC became the new global epicenter, weeping with and for the frontline workers who were exhausted, frightened and overwhelmed.

Praying. Praying. Praying. Praying. A whole new respect for the words: ‘Pray without ceasing.’ Saturating the atmosphere with prayer and worship and intercession. Pause.

And now, it would seem that the pause might be finished? What does that mean? How are we to proceed?

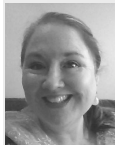
Continued prayer. Praying without ceasing, for our leaders, doctors, medical teams and first responders. Our pastors. The still sick. The bereaved.

Be loving. Be kind. Be Jesus to everyone you see. Love will lead the way and Jesus will be glorified. And finally, with Jesus leading...we are moving forward!



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

We are mindful of each other perhaps more than before these global events. Thankful for the people who have been able to keep their jobs and work from home. Josiah is among that crowd, and is safe and healthy in Seattle. Also mindful of those many who have lost theirs, or are still in suspended animation. Prayer continues for all in need of help and healing! Love you!

A Father to the Fatherless ...



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

Last month's plans were formed and budgets confirmed to provide aid, connection and encouragement to families who have lost the head of their household either through death, divorce or abandonment: That is the mission for our Families Without Fathers Project, (FWF) in Thailand.

Several of our Thai partnership churches weekly visits to homes and area schools are taking place to 40 plus children in four locations in selected areas around the country. School fees and related supplies are being provided for every child involved in the program.

With your help, we are privileged to be a part of this amazing work!



WRITTEN BY,
JENNA
BIERNESSE

Middle East ... Open Hands ...

Over the past few months plans have changed again and again. Thinking I would only be home for 3-4 months, now already turning into a much longer stay. From the trip cancellation to Iraq with Partners Relief and Development to the South Sudan trip also being cancelled, the doors that were opened, soon closed. We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps. (Proverbs 16:9) This place is not unfamiliar as plans tend to change very rapidly in the Middle East, always needing to be flexible.

To live with open hands. Hands that are ready to receive whatever the Father places in them; even when it turns out not what we expect. Hands that are willing to freely give. To allow God's gifts, power and intentions to flow through in efforts to bless others. Hands that are held open in full surrender to a Good God. Hands that have learned the secret of being content, with little or with much.

The truest place of freedom we can obtain is obedience to God. Are we willing to follow God in the staying as much as the sending? To live an obedient life, we must live with open hands. I encourage you to open your hands to God's plans.



WRITTEN BY,
BILL
THEMELARAS

The Request of Partnership! ..

2020 sure has been a crazy year with the recent turn of events of Covid19. Even though we are approaching the halfway mark of this year, don't let the last few months dictate the rest of your year. God is still moving and working. This is a divine RESET in the earth and the Body of Christ must receive it so we can come out of this season in fullness. God is giving His church the opportunity to repent, refocus, hear from Heaven and extend the Kingdom.

One thing is for certain- Jesus still reigns as King of Kings. His Kingdom is ever expanding and being established on the earth. We get to partner with our Heavenly Father as we say, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." More specifically we can all pray, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done in and through Firstlight International, as it is in Heaven."

The request for partnership is to partner with those who are in ministry and to send them on their way with a generous gift ... so that we can be their partners as they teach the truth. (See 3 John 1:6-8 NLT. The request for partnership is to partner with those in prayer! (See Romans 15:30 TPT. Your partnership with Firstlight helps to bring heaven's resources to troubled places and we are grateful for it. *Thank you!*

Breakthrough Prayer Points

“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.”

Colossians 3:2 NAS

Gain God's Perspective!

1. Families Without Fathers (FWF) project plans for the first part of 2020. *for children and families to be reached this year.
2. For Thailand: * powers of darkness broken, * souls saved in each region, * for kingdom expansion, new churches planted.
3. For all of Firstlight to be strategically places for increased effectiveness this year.
4. For the Lord's abundant provision, open doors, and lasting fruit in the 2nd quarter of 2020.