



## September 2021 News

# Look Up!

**“To You I lift up my eyes, O You who are enthroned in the heavens!” Psalm 123:1 NASB**

There comes a point when one is climbing a particularly difficult hill, when one is pressed beyond strength, beyond endurance. When lungs are bursting for air, salty sweat is streaming down one’s face, causing blurred vision. Everything, every single thing in this situation makes the climber want to stop. To sit down. To quit pushing. To look back to where it was easier.

But in those moments, going back is often not an option, and indeed, could be more disastrous than pushing onward. There is only one choice in this moment. Only one place to set one’s face like flint.

It is time to look up.

“I lift my eyes unto the hills: from whence cometh my help? My help comes from the Lord, Maker of heaven and of earth.” Ps. 121:1,2.

Keeping our eyes locked on the Lord is the only answer. He is always beckoning us forward, cheering us, indeed willing us to continue to ascend. Down is not an option. Back is not for us. We did that years ago. We do not want that anymore.

But, how, Lord? You might be asking: How do we stand when everything around us is crashing? How do we proceed, stay to the task, keep following the footsteps You are laying out before us?

In My strength, not your own He says. In My power not by might. By My Spirit, says the Lord.

It is a dichotomy. On the one hand the scripture tells us to run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus who is the Author and Perfecter of Faith. On the other hand, Jesus Himself bids us, also in the scripture, to come unto Him...and find rest. To cease from striving and know He alone is God.

The solution to our dilemma can be summed up one way: Jesus is always with us. We are not alone. We are not walking these difficult paths by ourselves, void of guidance, lacking hope. For, deep inside, there is a river of LIFE that flows from our inmost being. Living waters that bathe and refresh and revive even the most weary and languishing traveler. Holy Spirit, come.

Lord, Your ways are always better. Always higher. Always good.

So, dear one. Cease from striving and know that He is God. Lay aside those things that so easily hinder and beset, causing our feet to stumble. Be still. Know that He has this. Know that He has YOU.

And: Look up.



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## In This Issue:

### \* Ministry News:

Top Stories ..... pg.2

### \* Features:

Article - Look Up!..... pg.1

Item - Prayer Points ..... pg.2

Article - On a personal note .... pg.2

Article - Teaching ..... pg.2

## Donations:

Online via PayPal

[www.firstlightinternational.net](http://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](http://www.firstlightinternational.net)

Tel: 724.254.6145

E-mail: [helloeckers@gmail.com](mailto:helloeckers@gmail.com)

Look for us:



## On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

It seems we find ourselves as a nation and as a world in a 'round 2' with the pandemic. Please be in special prayer for all who are suffering right now, for healing, for safety, for rest. And please specially pray for Thailand, India and Myanmar who have been hit especially hard with this, but without the medical resources of the West. Lord! We need You!

## Lift Jesus Higher!



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

One of the challenges in life as a follower of Christ is to live in such a way that others see *more of Jesus and less of me!* I can remember in the early days singing a Scripture chorus: Lift Jesus higher, life Jesus higher - lift him up for the world to see ... he said that if I be lifted up from the earth, I would draw all men unto Me! *[If you are old enough to remember you, too, may have sung that song!]*

This was in reference to Jesus's words to Nicodemus in John chapter three. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness so must the Son of Man be lifted up [on the cross] so that all who believe in him shall have eternal life. (See John 3:14-15) The results of that [on this side of the cross] is that in order for Christ to be seen now is: "He must increase but I must decrease" (See John 3:30) a road less traveled by many.

## Following His Plan & Purpose!



WRITTEN BY,  
JENNA  
YELOVICH

It has been quite a busy past few months of wedding planning, finishing up graduate classes, interning, moving and as I mentioned in the last mission update, about getting married this past March! My husband Benjamin is an amazing man, and how the Lord has brought our lives together is such a remarkable story of God's incredible faithfulness. I would have never guessed that God was setting this all up this time last year when trips and plans were cancelled and the world went into a global season of rest. I hope to find you and your family well as we are in a continued season of trusting the Father to a deeper place. In this season of personal transition, I have found God calling me back to a place of intercession for the nations and remembering that this life is all about the time spent knowing God in more than just religion but in intimacy. I am excited to just live open and yielded for what God has for us and we are both ready to step into this next season of serving wherever God calls and to be obedient to His leading. Please be praying as God directs our steps in the upcoming months! Thank you for joining with us each month!

## Standing In The Gap!



Each month we continue to stand with our friends, and fellow co-workers in several countries of Southeast Asia, particularly in Thailand and in Myanmar. Weekly prayer calls; coaching; mentoring; and finance is proving to be a much needed source of encouragement and strengthen. Even in the midst of such challenging times we are making a difference in the lives of many. Your part means so much!

## Prayer Points

**“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”**

**Matthew 7:7 NASB**

**Give Him no rest!**

1. Pray for the country of Myanmar: \*ETS core teachers healing from Covid-19. \*peace & safety in the streets during civil unrest.
2. For our Care For Kingdom Families Projects: Project REAP: and the FWF project in 3rd quarter of 2021.
3. As this year continues to unfold for all of Firstlight to be strategically placed in 2021 and beyond! \*projects, \*people, \*places, \*increased funding!
4. For God to arise in all that we do!