



December 2021 News

Love Has Come!

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

Top Stories pg.2

* Features:

Article - Love Has Come 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

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

Tel: 724.254.6145

E-mail: helloeckers@gmail.com

Look for us:



“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you ...” John 13:34 NASB

One of the more delightful aspects of living in Thailand was the Thai’s absolute commitment to partying. It did not matter whose holiday it was the Thais would adopt it as their own and find a way to celebrate to the fullest, complete with decorations, music, and school closings. Josiah’s school celebrated not one but THREE New Years, (Thai, Chinese, and Western) and TWO Thanksgivings (Canadian and U.S.) Imagine our delight to be able to find Christmas trees and hear carols being played in the malls and markets all through December.

Every Thai church plans for months to hold a huge outreach service for their neighborhood, complete with music and skits, testimonies, decorations, prizes and gifts for all, food, food and more food all day long.

The Nativity story is shared, and the gospel, the Good News, preached to this largely non-Christian group of revelers. It is precious, and we have seen time after time, people responding to the invitation to come and give their lives to Jesus. To know the true Reason behind the Season. The Love of God given freely to us, in the gift of His Son.

It is a captivating story: A young family, mother heavily pregnant with no where to shelter to have her baby having to stay in the humble setting of

an animal shed. Angels and shepherds attending. Songs coming from heaven. Joy to the World, the Lord is Come. Let Earth receive her King.

This upcoming Christmas season we may experience difficulty in finding the gifts we want to give our loved ones. One more problem to deal with. One more disappointment.

Before our hearts to become too acquainted with disappointment, let us remember that the birth of Jesus was the event that turned the tide of history. Love came down and rescued us.

We can embrace this as an opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with the simplicity of that first Christmas. Perhaps our celebrations can be more about the joy of being together and rejoicing in other’s well-being. Perhaps this will be the season that we are able to share our testimony with someone new. Have the neighbors over for cookies and hot chocolate and carols?

For we are rescued. We are redeemed. We are loved. We are known. We are blessed. SO very blessed. God in His mercy sent us His best.

Have a blessed, safe and meaningful Christmas. Friends, it is time to rejoice.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

I love the holiday season and the opportunities it presents to see family and friends. Life together is so very precious especially during these pandemic years. We were so blessed to get to spend time in South Bend with my dear mother and other family. The food was so good. (Great turkey, Michael!) But hugging and laughing with my dear mom was...priceless.

Mind Shift ...



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

One of the messages that Jesus and the early disciples preached beginning with the ministry of John the Baptist was "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (See Matt.3:2; 4:17; 10:7 & others.) Further study suggests that this word "repent" means to change the way you think! It's not just a turning from sinful behaviors in our lives, although it includes that. A much stronger case here implies a radical *shift* in our thought processes about how we see ourselves, God, others and the world around us. Why? because the kingdom of heaven has come - it is here, accessible within our reach!

The long awaited kingdom of God's rule is now something that we have access to and are a part of. That in itself should cause us to think differently about everything we say and do!



WRITTEN BY
ELLIE GEPPERT

Lord you are more precious than silver...
Lord you are more costly than gold.... Lord you are more beautiful than diamonds and nothing I desire compares to You.
By Lynn Deshazo
Psalm 19:10

So many many times my husband and I sang this song of devotion together with Dan and

Thank You For Your Partnership!



Thank you for your prayers and financial giving in 2021. Your partnership each month is bringing Christ into selected areas of Thailand and the region through several of our *Global Training Platforms*, providing *Care For Kingdom Families*, and engaging in *Kingdom Advance Partnerships*.

All of our projects and ministry platforms that are in place are bringing forth wonderful fruit in the places we serve. We are *pressing on toward 2022!*

Prayer Points

**“Ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name; Bring an offering and come into His courts.”
Psalm 96:8 NASB**

He will meet you there!

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 4th quarter of 2021.
3. As this year continues to unfold for all of Firstlight to be strategically placed in 2022 and beyond! *projects, *people, * places, *increased funding!
4. For God to arise in all that we do!

Worship Him at Christmas!

Debbie in bible studies and prayer times over the past years. When we focus on the Lord together we become molded and purposed for good.

It has become quite clear to me through the years that Dan and Debbie have not forgotten their commitment and love for the Lord. Whether it's in teaching, providing eye care, prayerwalking, or helping new young workers find a place to serve and grow

serving the Lord, or caring for elderly parents.... He is their *First Love*. They are worshipers and this keeps their focus on the Lord Jesus. He is worthy of our worship.

The wise men knew that It had to be done and they followed a star by faith to find Him and honor Him. Celebrate this Christmas knowing that Salvation is the reason He came. See to it that others hear the Good News of Jesus' love.