



January 2024 News

Focus

“My eyes are continually toward the Lord, For He will pluck my feet from the net.”

Psalm 25:15 NASB

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

Top Stories pg.2

* Features:

Article - Focus pg.1

Article - Teaching pg.2

Article - Family News pg.2

Item - Prayer Points 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:



We are at the beginning cusp of a new year: a 12 month period that will hold for us.... What? What challenges, what joys? What pain, what pleasure? What laughter? What tears?

America, by its mere youthfulness (compared to other far older countries and societies) is an optimistic country. We face our challenges with a ‘Can-do’ attitude that other countries both envy and deride. The pioneer spirit still rides strong within our genes. So many of us are only a few generations from brave forbears who left the safety and comfort of hearth and home to board ships and come to the New World. A world that held for them hopes and dreams, but absolutely no guarantees. Still, they came anyway. Had they not, we would not be here today, dear one, and you would not be reading my words right now.

I will confess, the past several years have tried and tested us. Wars, Covid, divisions within our society and even our churches and families if we are honest. We have become a bit less buoyant. A bit less jubilant at the idea of hurdling into a new year. More cautious. As one of our founding father’s, Thomas Paine said, “These are the times that try men’s souls.”

Is this maturity, I wonder? Or exhaustion? I know one thing. That

if our minds, our hearts and our focus is upon anything but the Lord, His goodness, His promises, His amazing love, we will stumble.

There has never been such a time in my lifetime where it is more important to stay connected to Jesus, and to His simple truths and abundant grace.

Only Jesus can touch the hearts and minds of those we are worried about. Only Jesus can lift the burdens we are carrying and change our sorrow into joy. Spiritual joy. A well spring river of life flowing up inside us by the Holy Spirit. We must never forget these things. These truths are life. Victory begins on the inside, where Jesus abides.

When I remember this, I can look to this new year and be hopeful again.

"And every day, the world will drag you by the hand, yelling, "This is important! And this is important! And this is important! You need to worry about this! And this! And this!" And each day, it's up to you to yank your hand back, put it on your heart and say, "No. This is what's important." Iain Thomas



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

Christmas here was sweet, we had our dear Josiah with us for eight whole days! What a joy and a delight to have him with us! He was able to reconnect with lots of family here in Pittsburgh. He and Dan were able to do some shooting at the range with Josiah's cousin David. The three of them had so much fun! For me, my heart is full of the joy's of Jesus as we enter 2024.

Step into the new!



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

I have always look forward to these nature seasonal changes that occur on an annual basis like the crossing over into a brand-new-year! And once again we find ourselves on the threshold of a new chapter that is opening in our lives as we approach 2024.

This journey of faith that we're on often times beckons us to step into uncharted territories, causing us to embrace new challenges, and to grow spiritually. The significance of stepping into the new and how it aligns with God's greater purpose and plan for our lives are the many lessons to be learned. The following are just a few.

Trust God's plan. In spite of those awkward moments when things are not clear, trust that God's plan won't fail. Rom 8:28; Jer 29:11

Trust God's guidance. Keep your heart open to hear His voice in the word, and by the Spirit. Rom 8:14; Ps.32:8. Remember it is a walk of faith!

Surrender to His will. This might be the most challenging one but in the end it is always the better choice. Luke 22:42

Outreaches in Phuket, Thailand



The Christmas season is always an exciting time for many if not all of the churches in Thailand, in just about every area that has a church.

Special gathers like these pretty much something for everyone to learn about the true meaning of Christmas in a culture where the that is not always known. Crowds like these are often filled with many who would not normally have an opportunity to hear about Jesus, some for the first time in the way they can understand it. This year was no exception in Phuket.

Care For Kingdom Families



Throughout this year we will continue to reach out to children and families from fatherless homes in selected areas across Thailand through projects like Families Without Fathers (FWF) and Project REAP - Regional Education Assistants Program.

Thank you for standing with us each month to bring Christ into communities like these. Together we are making a difference in the lives of those who are being reached & for that we praise Him!

Prayer Points

**“The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”
Deut 31:8 NIV**

1. Pray for our Global Training Platforms in Thailand, & Myanmar this year!
2. For our Care For Kingdom Families Projects: REAP: and the FWF in Thailand, during the 1st quarter of 2024.
3. Ministry plans to unfold for all of Firstlight to be strategically placed in 2024 and beyond! *projects, *people, *places, *increased funding!
4. For God to arise in all that we do!