



April 2025 News

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

Top Stories pg.2

* Features:

Article - He Lives 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:



He Lives

**“Why do you seek the living One among the dead?
He is not here, but He has risen.” Luke 24:5b-6a NASB**

Throughout the world Christians will rise before dawn on Easter Sunday morning to go and celebrate a sunrise service together. From every country, every language, every tribe, they gather together to celebrate the moment that Mary and then John and Peter ran to the tomb and found it...empty. These believers will greet each other with the words:

“He is Risen!” And the response:
“He is risen, indeed!”

Later, many of these celebrants will join their larger congregations for a joyful celebration of the day that Christ our Savior rose from the dead. Defeating death. Defeating sin. Bringing hope and joy to all who put their trust in Him. He is risen.

What are they celebrating?
Redemption. Redemption of a sin weary world full of war and pain and suffering and slavery being redeemed in one act of sacrificial love in the death of a glorious Savior. Then the same Savior kicking death and hell in the teeth and walking out of that garden tomb. He is Risen. He is Risen, indeed.

And we know this not because one person shared this story, but multiple people shared their encounters with the glorious risen Christ: Mary, first at the tomb, John and Peter, then the entire room of disciples who were hidden in fear for their lives in the

Upper Room. Imagine that moment when in walks Jesus, right through the walls. Joy, rapturous joy. And love. Oh! The love.

Later, there were the two walking home on the road to Emmaus remembering what had just happened in Jerusalem when Jesus himself came and began to walk with them! I think He was having so much FUN!!

He appeared to them over a period of forty days the scripture says, and during that time he gave many convincing proofs that he was, indeed, alive. He ate with them, He taught them. And He made them a promise, that if they were to wait in that place after He left, He would send ‘Another Comforter’ to them, to be with them forever. He promised they would be baptized with fire and with the Holy Spirit.

After that, to them nothing was impossible. The accounts are written in church history of their travels and the hundreds of churches they planted throughout the known world, from the British Isles, to the Russian Caucasus mountains, to the kingdoms of India and Persia, and though all of Europe and the Middle East.

All of this because of one thing. Jesus was alive. Jesus IS Alive. He lives!



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

Remember how we used to wait until after 9 pm to call each other and talk so as not be charged, but now there are NO extra charges and we don't talk, only text. Those darn kids!! They have trained us all to only text instead of call. Well, this Boomer is happy to report I had two unexpected phone calls last week from dear friends through the day...and we talked for HOURS! Left me feeling young and happy! Try it!!

Vertical Pull ...



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

Often times people have asked me through the years how did you become a missionary? Or better yet - how did you know God's calling on your life?

To have a little fun my answer would sometimes go like this: How much time do you have? (smile) Do you want the short version of the long version? Seriously! No matter how many times I get asked that question the answer is always the same.

The only way I can describe it is from day one - there seem to be a *vertical pull* on my life that I could not get away from. Now. The journey to fully surrender took years. My mother's prayers *and others* finally worked! On Mother's Day, May 12, 1985 in response to a Sunday morning altar call that day, I fully surrendered my life to Jesus.

Paul describes it as the "upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (See Phil 3:14) That he would "lay hold of that for which I also was laid hold of by Christ." (See Phil 3:12) The words "Follow Me" implies follow and never stop following.

Standing Together for the Harvest ...

Earlier this year, at the Apostolic Summit in Bangkok, I (Dan) got a chance to worship and pray with some amazing people who are attempting *by faith*, to believe God to do what is not yet been done - a task that is yet to be fulfilled.

One of the many take aways from our time there is that the *Great Commission* requires a *Great Collaboration* of individuals, churches, organizations, prayer movements and a massive sending of harvest workers across the globe.



With Ray & Lamyai in Thailand

Projects & Ministry Platforms ...

This is the time of year when each of our Thai partnership churches are putting together their project plans for **Project REAP** in four locations across Thailand. Educational scholarships are being provided to a select group of students entering college and universities from fatherless homes. Every interaction creates an opportunity for each of them to encounter Christ.

We are also passionate about mission of **Families Without Fathers (FWF)** in Thailand. Every month throughout the year 40 plus children from fatherless homes are being reached. We are praying over a decision to add two new locations in 2025. Join us in prayer this month!



A Support & Care Ministry Project of Firstlight International



Reaching Into Fatherless Homes!

Prayer Points

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” Col. 3:1 NASB

RisenWith Christ

1. Pray for our Global Training Platforms in Thailand, & Myanmar in the New Year!
2. For our Care For Kingdom Families Projects: REAP: and the FWF in Thailand, during the 2nd quarter of 2025.
3. Ministry plans to unfold for all of Firstlight to be strategically placed in 2025 and beyond! *projects, *people, *places, *funding, *increased effectiveness
4. For God to ARISE in all that we do!