



**FIRSTLIGHT
INTERNATIONAL**



May 2025 News

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Contact:

www.firstlightinternational.net

Tel: 724.254.6145

E-mail: helloeckers@gmail.com

Look for us:



Dunamis = Power

“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; ...” Acts 1:8a NASB

Years ago, I worked along side of Thai teachers in English camps during the Thai school holidays. During one of those camps, in a remote town, we got to know the local English teacher. She was in her late 30s, married with several children and she LOVED her job and she loved people. She had a radiant smile and open heart. Our dear co-worker and friend Hungsuee shared the gospel with her, and before long, she was bowing her head in prayer to receive Jesus into her heart.

The following morning she ran up to us, excited to share with us what had happened on her walk home. Before this, every evening after work she would walk home along a dark path to her home. According to her, nearly every night she was accosted by ‘ghosts’ or ‘spirits’ along the road which frightened her badly and made her walk home each night excruciating. “But last night,” she said excitedly, “last night the ghosts never came. They left me alone for the first time!” We continued our friendship with her for years and she never again was troubled by spirits. Not only that but her husband and children all believed and became leaders in their church.

The Greek word used in the book of Acts where Jesus promises His followers that they shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon

them, is the word ‘dunamis’. It is also translated into English as ‘dynamite.’ The Holy Spirit power that came into that teacher’s life, into her being that day she received Jesus as her savior, had the power to chase ghosts, fear, demons; literally all the works of darkness. And she didn’t even really know it fully yet. But it was there; HE was there, working on her behalf to change her life for the better. Perfecting her with His love and casting out all fear.

We have seen this absence of fear in new believers many times especially in non-Christian countries where the local religions are either animist in nature, or give place to spiritual activities, even welcoming spirit mediums. In these cultures fear is very prevalent. The children that came to our weekly Awana clubs were no longer ‘afraid’ of the idols, their teachers told us. People tormented by bad dreams would have sound sleep for the first time in years. God’s wonderful love protecting them and perfecting them.

Dunamis=Power. Jesus promised that we would receive this same power when the Holy Spirit had fully come. And God knows, we sure do need it! Lord! Fill us with Your Dunamis!!



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

In May we mark 38 years of marriage for Dan and I. Such fond memories of a joyful gathering of family and friends celebrating with us. And what a whirlwind when just four days after our wedding we boarded a plane and headed out overseas. Lord! Thank You for the places we have been and the people we have met and loved these 38 years. May the future continue to give You pleasure and glory. We are grateful!!

Unshakable ...



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

Beloved, we seem to be living in very troubled and turbulent times when everything that we have become accustomed to doesn't seem to be as reliable as it used to be. Our assumptions or understanding of how things work are being shaken to its very core. Cultural norms are changing at an unprecedented pace. Our values systems are being challenged. Social structures are being stretched to the point of breaking. Relational issues are a constant. Political unrest. Economical uncertainty and the list goes on and on. Its as if the ground beneath our feet is shifting. Why is all this happening?

The writer of the book Hebrews gives us some insight into these "divine disrupters" designed by God to move us from the "shakable" to the "unshakable" from the "temporal" to the "eternal" having "received a kingdom that cannot be shaken." (See Heb 12:25-27) External shifts that cause us to pay closer attending to what is happening at a much deeper level.

Bringing Hope to Families in Need ...

This month starts a new Thai school term in many locations across Thailand. A time of year when children and young adults are preparing to enter into another year of learning on their educational journey.

For some this is can also be a challenging time in life in households that are lacking the parental care of fathers in the home. Through Families Without Fathers (FWF) Firstlight is bringing hope to families in need by providing educational scholarships and regular visits to homes and area schools.



Families Without Fathers, in Thailand

Standing with Thai Church Leaders ...



Thai Church Leaders Conference, in BKK

Pastor Sawang and wife Leeann, lead an amazing church in the central region of Thailand. They are committed to reaching their nation through church planting, networking with other Thai churches and by engaging in creative outreaches to reach children, youth and young adults.

They are committed to function in authentic apostolic ministry to see a full release of God's power and glory manifested in every church in Thailand, and beyond!

Prayer Points

"For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come." Heb 13:14 NASB

No turning back!

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!