



# Power Up!

## July 2015 News

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Look for us:



**“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”**

**Acts 1:8 NAS**

When Jesus walked on this earth in the flesh, He spoke long and often about the coming of the Holy Spirit. We see the Holy Spirit being mentioned in all four gospels, but especially in the book of John. Jesus speaks of Him as ‘the Spirit of Truth.’ OH! How our world NEEDS this Spirit of Truth.

This world with all of its hatred, lies and ruthlessness needs those who follow Jesus to be empowered by His Spirit, enamored of His love, filled with grace that can calm a riotous anger and peace that passes all understanding. It needs a people who LIVE Pentecost, not just celebrate it as a church holiday once a year, then put it away like so many advent candles.

To live our lives in the way that Jesus intended, it is absolutely necessary to do so in the power of the Holy Spirit, whom He has given to us freely, gifting our lives with His wisdom, His guidance, His grace and mercy. This wonderful Gift will also pour into the lives of those around us faith, healing, signs and wonders, miracles. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was a culmination of all of God’s fondest longings for mankind. No longer would He be

separated from His people by the veil which represents our sin. The Veil of His flesh having been torn, His Spirit was free to be poured out upon ALL flesh.

God is Spirit, you see. And they who worship Him must do so...in Spirit... and in truth.

Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, ‘receive the Holy Ghost.’ Receive. If we want what God wishes to give to us, we must open up our arms and receive. We must not obstruct this giving, by will or by intellect. We must not talk ourselves out of the very best things that God is just waiting to do in our lives.

No more excuses. No more stalling. Today is the day you can receive the Holy Spirit and all the power that He wishes to fill you with. Today is the day to no longer be defined by our fears, our past failures, our hurts. Let’s lay down all that would hinder our empowerment. Today is the day to allow the Spirit of God to fill us to overflowing. Today is the day to ‘Power up.’



DEBBIE ECKER  
 Vice President  
 Firstlight International

# Teamwork is what happens when the team works

The concepts of teamwork, like many other good trends often find their roots in scripture. Here are four to contemplate and to be reminded of.

**Ecl 4:9-12** *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

**Eph 4:16** *From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when*

*each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

And one of my favorites from Psalms, written by King David;

**Ps 133:1** *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.*

**3 John 1:8** *Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.*

*People like these* is referring to ministers of the Gospel. Like many other missionaries before them, Dan and Deb are bringing the Good News to the lost. It has often be said that we are only

as good the people we have around us. As we gather around Dan and Deb, and this great work we, too, have a part in everything that is taking place. Our prayers and financial giving, show that we care deeply and are committed to the success of the team namely: What is being accomplished for the kingdom.

From the Board of Directors, I just want to say thank you for being an important part of our Firstlight team!



JAY DEEMS  
Board Member  
Firstlight International

## New Training & Church Planting opportunities in Myanmar & Thailand

At the beginning of this year, we began to put together our annual ministry plans (AMP'S) for 2015 and beyond. It is of utmost importance for us to be in the places on the earth where the Lord would have us to be in so that we can know for certain that we are walking in His perfect Will for our lives and for the ministry of Firstlight International. Therefore, having a plan is essential for our success.

As we begin the seventh month of this year, I believe that we are right on track with our AMP for 2015.

This month we will provide theological training to the first year students of the Emanuel Theological Seminary in Kalaymyo,

Myanmar. These students have heard the call of God to prepare themselves for ministry: To study the Word to show themselves approved. (II Tim.2:15) We are honored to be a part of their training experience and to impart a spiritual gift that they might be established. (Rom.1:11)

This will be our second time this year, and Lord willing one more time in October during which time we will launch a pioneer church planting initiative among the Pu Lang people, in Lashio Shan province in north-north east Myanmar, 60 kilometers from the Chinese border. There are millions of the Pu Lang people and according to the research, there is no known church among them.

This church planting phase will be a partnership between Firstlight International, and Frontier Harvest Ministries. The plans will also include engaging the existing church to complete the great commission by conducting regular trainings and sending into unreached areas.

In Thailand we are preparing to launch a School Of Leaders (SOL) for the Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand. This month we will put in place the plans to make that happen!



DAN ECKER  
President  
Firstlight International



## Top Stories: *Reaching the fatherless*



As a new Thai school term begins in 2015, weekly visits are being made to home and area schools to 80 children plus from fatherless homes in seven locations across Thailand. Our Firstlight Area Teams in each location are bringing Christ into the conversation during each of these weekly visits.

Ning to the left, is one of our Families Without Fathers (FWF) project staff in the Seka district of Buang Kan province in northeast Thailand. Even though she is new to the project, she is actively involved each of these families lives. Bringing home and affecting change!

Families like these desperately need our help. According to the reacher, over 30% of all Thais have been affected in someway by a fatherless home. Our FWF project has answered the call to bring Christ into families like these.

Your prayers and financial giving each month is needed and very much appreciated! Send a financial gift today and help to support FWF this month. *Thank you!*

## Top Stories: *Signs, wonders, miracles*



Each one of our Firstlight Area Teams in Thailand are engaging the culture daily with the good news of Jesus Christ. In each location they are given plenty of opportunities to present Christ to the unsaved who are living in rural areas with very little or no gospel witness in their communities.

What we are finding is that in some cases when a person has been healed or set free from demonic oppression, that they are more willing to accept Christ into their lives.

Recently, several believers that have known the Lord for years are being healed from things that have held them back for a long time. Whether it's in a normal church service, cell group or house church meeting miracles like these are taking place! Praying for the sick and believing God for miracles, signs and wonders is becoming a Christian culture norm for many in our Firstlight churches. We are pressing in to do the very works that Jesus did, and even greater works, because HE has gone to the Father! (John 14:12) Without the power of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, we are limited in our efforts to represent Christ to a lost and dying world. With Him, we can!

## Thailand: *Power in the name of Jesus*

It is a great privilege for me to serve the Lord in many locations of the Firstlight Fellowship Church Network - Thailand. As the Operations Assistant for Firstlight in Thailand, I have many opportunities to see first hand how things are going and what is being accomplished in each location.

Recently, in the Seka district of Bueng Kan province, God healed a lady who was blind as a result of her recent fifth surgery on her eyes. There was nerve damage and she was made blind. When I prayed in the name of Jesus for her eyes to be

opened, that she was instantly healed and she joyfully saw our team who had come to prayer for her.

The power of His name is still working mightily among all believers, hallelujah! So I would like to thank God so much that today her eyes can see clearly again and later on she has excepted Jesus as her Savior!

Shortly after my time in Seka was finished, I had the opportunity to preach in the Firstlight Fellowship Church in Suwannakhuha. And

praise the Lord - it was obvious that many people were very receptive to the movement, and anointing of the Holy Spirit. Several were open to receive healing.

After my preaching, I was asked to pray for a lady who had a Rheumatoid Arthritis and she was healed! Gradually her hands and legs can function well again. I was so excited for God who has empowered me for His kingdom!



NATTHIKA  
TANTAVEEWONG

Operations Assistant  
Firstlight, Thailand

### Featured Article

## On A Personal Note



June marked the fulfillment of our son, Josiah, of his undergraduate work at Seattle Pacific University. And on June 13th, in the bright sunshine and lush green grass and trees, we gathered with all of the other proud and weepy parents to watch their children walk to receive their degrees. The ceremony is often more meaningful to the parents than to the children, because it took us back to that first moment of joy when he received his acceptance letter, to the tears of joy when he received an amazingly generous scholarship which made it possible for him to accept that acceptance. 5 years of moving and Skyping while parents moved here and there, father often in many locations, son in one spot, pushing on, working hard. Processing a new country, a new city, a new culture. Working part time jobs, painting houses, babysitting, yard work, and teaching toddlers to swim. And all the while studying, studying, studying. Amazingly as his course numbers rose to the 3 and 4 hundred level, his grades rose with them. So many A's we stopped counting. Josiah my beloved son, we could not be more proud of you. Your diligence, your courage, your compassion. We are so blessed in our son. We thank God for you, every.single.day. You are our treasure in this life.



DEBBIE ECKER  
Vice President  
Firstlight International

### Featured Item

## Prayer Points

**“Blessed be the Lord,  
my rock, Who trains  
my hands for war, And  
my fingers for battle”  
Psalm. 144:1 NAS**

### Please pray for:

1. Souls saved in the location where Firstlight is working.
2. Spiritual breakthroughs for all Firstlight: Projects. People. Churches.
3. For God's abundant provision during this 3rd quarter of 2015.