



October 2016 News

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

- I Love Church Camp pg.2
- Top Stories pg.3

* Features:

- Article -Battle Ready pg.1
- Article - Board Member pg.2
- Article - It isn't over til its over pg.4
- Item - Prayer Points pg.4
- Article - On a personal note pg.4

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Look for us:



Battle Ready!

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

I remember in the early days when we first moved to Thailand in 1999. Josiah was eight years old and ready to start 3rd grade.

At that time the three of us: Debbie, Josiah and myself were in full blown culture shock. Right about that third month mark it hit us hard. For anyone who has traveled and or who has lived outside of your resident country for an extended amount of time you probably know what that feels like. Everything is different. The weather, the food, the sights, the smells, the people and language - all very different than anything you have ever experienced before. We would often find ourselves looking for something that we were familiar with; something we knew to be ‘normal’. However, as time went on did our best to set up our home and to move on with our lives and ministry.

In those days I became Josiah’s Cub Scout leader at his school. At that time, he attended the Chiang Mai International School (CMIS). The school had a long history with the the Boy Scouts of America. The boys who attended learned a lot. Each one did their projects and earned their badges as they advanced through the program. Lots of good memories of being a part of their

lives. Here’s the catch.

As I read this portion of scripture the other day, I was reminded of the The Boy Scouts motto: Be Prepared! It’s not always be prepared (*as some have said*) but it’s Be Prepared!

This, too, can be applied in our Christian life and in our walk with the Lord. David in this Psalm is expressing who he is in God, and even more importantly - *Who* God is in his life! With God’s help (*training and equipping v.1*) he could face the enemies of his day and be granted victory (v.10). He knew that enemies could be defeated. And that God would rescue and save (v.7 & 11) Even in the midst of his battles, he did not allow himself to lose sight of who it was that he was fighting for (v.12-14) namely: Sons flourishing, daughters fashioned, barns filled, flocks multiplied, oxen loaded down, and enemies defeated! It’s all in there.

And here is the promise declaration of victory in verse 14: “May there be no more enemies breaking through our walls, no captivity, no cries of alarm in our town square.” NLT

Are you Battle Ready?



DAN ECKER
 President
 Firstlight International

Taking a Fresh Look at LIFE!

We haven't flipped the August calendar over as I write this, and the September newsletter has arrived. It seems as if life events, and the seasons seem to be passing by at an ever increasing pace. So much accomplished or maybe not, and now another potential list of things to attempt to accomplish for the Fall Season.

This year in October I will turn 65, much to do as I prepare to pass this milestone, let me not make it a millstone. I daily ask the Lord where to start in this new season in my life. I believe the directive from the Lord on this no matter what season we are in is from Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you". I know this refers to our salvation but we should go about our daily lives looking for the situations and

opportunities to reveal the kingdom to those around us. Placing others first by asking the Lord to reveal to us a need or when provided with a prayer request, take the time to pray right there. Be genuinely interested in their lives and compassionate for their situation at the risk of getting involved at some level, Through Firstlight we have indeed been provided with many ways to keep the kingdom first.

Your prayers and financial blessings have made it possible to move the gospel forward, not only to the people of Thailand, but Myanmar, Laos, China and Vietnam. Projects like FWF/Families Without Fathers and the MEDIT project provides start up funding and administrative support for church members by way of micro economics.

Please take some time to revisit the Firstlight website and refresh yourself about how you are helping the kingdom move forward. No matter whether your focus for ministry is right in your neighborhood or halfway around the world, the Lord will honor your efforts by adding unto you the full care and provision and the joy we seek.

Thank you for doing your part for Firstlight and the furtherance of the kingdom.



BOB ROTH
Board Member
Firstlight International

I Love Church Camp!

It is a life changing event for many who attend each year



The time has come for our Firstlight Fellowship Church Network, and our Families Without Fathers (FWF) Family, Church Camp. It is something that I look forward each year and this year even more so.

2016 marks the 10th year of the Thai Foundation that we have established. Through the years we have watched this annual FWF Project Camp, grow into a regional Family Church Camp for all of our Firstlight Fellowship Churches and several guest churches in the region. **Hundreds have attended and many lives have been changed!** Our Firstlight Area Teams have decided that Debbie and I would be this year's Camp speakers. We will share multiple sessions for both children and adults alike.

The dates will be:
October 17-22.
Please PRAY!



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

Top Stories - *Medical Partnerships in Thailand ...*



Many thanks to Dr. George Rooney, Dr. Fredrick Martin and His Servants Ministries (HSM) for their annual eye care screenings clinics for evangelism in northeast, Thailand.

Through a Medical Partnership with Firstlight in Thailand, thousands are being helped each year. It provides an opportunity to bring Christ in to multiple rural villages where there is very little or no Gospel witness in their communities.

Over the past 8 years hundreds hundreds have accepted Jesus into their lives. Countless number of follow ups have taken place as several of the Firstlight Fellowship Churches have been grown in numbers.

Top Stories - *Kingdom Advance Training is Here ...*



Pastor Nott is a Thai, national church planter in Nan province, in northern Thailand. **As part of the E-5 Project over the past two years, he and his team have planted 8 churches among the Luwa people group.** The Luwa are one of the Hill Tribe peoples located in the mountain regions of Thailand, and Laos. Pastor Nott and his team have done well with several agricultural projects that is supporting this church planting revival movement.

Firstlight has been working with Pastor Nott to reach the Luwa people and beyond. **This month we will provide training to a core of Luwa church leaders with a goal of planting 3 new churches in 2017.** So blessed to be a part of this amazing work!

It Isn't Over til It's Over ...

Many known prophets in the body of Christ have declared that 2016 would be a year of Acceleration. I don't know about you but for Debbie and I, it is proving to be just that. Things are moving at a much faster pace than we have expected and it is exciting! We are deeply encouraged by what the Lord is doing in this season.

When the Bible talks about seasons it's talking about something much different than a monthly or yearly calendar that we all have become accustomed to. A season in my life might be different from the season that you might find yourself in. Your season might be quite different than the one I am in. But in each and every season the Lord is in it - yours and mine. The tree planted by the

streams of living water brings forth its fruit in its' season (Psalm 1). And no matter what the difference is in the season that each of us find ourselves in, that season connects us to the larger season that the Lord lives in. The heavenly realm of the kingdom. That's the realm where God lives. And often times we learn that the Lord has a different timeline or schedule for doing things that we do. His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts! They are higher and so much better!

Therefore, it is of utmost importance for us to position ourselves before God to have proper alignment with His plans and purposes, and to be inline with His sense of timing and not ours. God lives in today!

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever! (Heb.13:8) And today is the day of salvation (II Cor. 6:2) David said: "My times are in your hands." (Psalms 31:15) And Moses teaches us to: "Number our days" (Psalm 90:12).

What this tells me is that I need not to be in a hurry. God is not in a hurry. In fact, often times He seems to go very slow. But. He's always on time in every season of the soul. So let's get everything the Lord has intended for us to get in this season. It isn't over til it's over!



DAN ECKER
President
Firstlight International

On A Personal Note



As the lovely fall air cools down from summer warmth, and sweaters and jackets start coming out, I step into another milestone: after an absence of 2 years, I am returning to Asia to work and minister with my husband!! Woot! First, we will join in a gathering of some of our dearest friends on this earth in the city of Malacca, Malaysia, for a week of worship, prayer, and sharing. The meetings are called: 'Friends', and although it is lovely to be able to meet up in our 'neck of the woods'. Then, we go to the south of Thailand to join in the meetings of the Church Association of Thailand. Again, it has been at least 2 if not 3 years since I have seen them. Then, off to the far northeast of Thailand for one of the sweetest reunions of all: our wonderful annual FWF Family Camp! Dan and I are the speakers at this camp and we are believing for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and that the amazing love of the Father would abound to all. I cannot wait to see this group, and especially preparing my heart to be amazed at the growth of the children. Nearly 3 years is very long in the life of a child. I am so blessed!!



DEBBIE ECKER
Vice President
Firstlight International

Prayer Points

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might."

Ephesians 6:10 NAS

Please pray for:

- 1. Firstlight Family Church Camp: \$3,000 USD needed! (see pg. 2)**
- 2. FWF 2nd Thai school term fee's: \$6,000 USD.**
- 3. Luwa church planters leaders training: (see pg. 3)**
- 4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 4th quarter of 2016. To finish strong!**