



May 2017 News

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Look for us:



The Day I Said “I Do”

**“Can two walk together, unless they are agreed”?
Amos 3:3 NKJV**

One swelteringly hot evening 30 years ago, I took my father’s arm and walked down an aisle towards the man who would become my future. In a gown covered in antique lace, my long hair swung in a loose knot and decorated only with baby’s breath, the evening seemed surreal. Weeks before I had been sleeping in a cot in an Indian orphanage, days filled with children and friends, feet shod in flip flops. Now my feet were in satin heels dyed to match the exact shade of my gown. There was a diamond on my left hand. Pinch me, someone, I think I must be dreaming....

Leaving behind me years of airplanes and mud huts and preaching and teaching and singing and praying; before me were years of airplanes and mud huts, and apartments, tiled roofed homes, and a son, and a dog, and preaching and teaching and singing and praying. And laughter.

As I joined Dan at that altar, the joy in the room and the joy between us was palpable. Then, Dan leaned in and whispered something so funny, I caught the giggles.

What he said to me, right in the middle of the ceremony, was, ‘Will you marry me?’ In the only 5 or so weeks that we had been engaged, he had asked me every single day: ‘Will you marry me?’ And my answer, which I gave him every single day, never ceased to cause him great delight and wonderment. ‘Yes. Oh, yes!’

Now, standing before a large and loving crowd, and as Pastor Mark Geppert was talking about the significance of the rings, Dan and I stood facing each other. Suddenly he grinned, leaned forward to me just slightly and whispered my name: ‘Debbie?’

I was startled and whispered back, ‘What??’

‘Will you marry me?’

Well, this just struck me as so funny, us standing in front of nearly 600 people, Mark raring up to begin the vows, and...what on earth did he think?? ‘I could feel the muscles in my face begin to spasm into a laugh, and I choked out a whispered: ‘Yes!!’ And then. The giggles. Recorded for posterity, me laughing through the entire ceremony. My husband who has always had the ability to make me collapse in laughter, started things off in that very manner. The daily proposal is one of the sweetest things that has ever happened to me. It bedrocked into me the knowledge of what it is to be truly desired. To be the object of that much love and hope.

“Will you marry me?”

And, these 30 years later, if he were to ask me again, ‘Debbie, will you marry me?’

Yes! Oh, yes, my love.

WRITTEN BY
DEBBIE ECKER



Power Over Darkness

A must READ for you, and for lives of those you touch!



WRITTEN BY
ELLIE GEPPERT

1. Know who you are.
God Himself

made the light for the earth both physical and spiritual. He said let there be and there was. (Genesis 1:3) He said we are the light and salt of the earth and we are. (Matthew 5:13-14). We of the light, and we are children of the light. (Ephesians 5:8). The darkness will never overcome the light! (John 1:5).

2. Know your purpose.

Our purpose is to shine the light in the darkness - everywhere we go! Jesus said: "You are the light of the world. A city placed upon a hill cannot be hidden. (Matthew 5:14) Our purpose is to go and tell: To make disciples (*true followers of Christ*) in every nation.

Teaching, Baptizing, Going! That's our purpose! (Matthew 28:18-20)

3. Know the prayer.

Apostle Paul's prayer to the Church helps us to see Jesus, and to know our place in Him. If you have never prayed this prayer, please do! "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great power for us who believe." (Ephesians 1:18-20.) Reading further, you will find that all things are subject to Him. (v.22-23) Amazing!

4. Pray in the Spirit

The most effective prayers to pray are the ones that are prayed in the Spirit. The Apostle Paul gives us some instructions or he illustrates what

praying in the Spirit might look like in Ephesians 6:18-19. Here are just a few: On all occasions with all kinds of prayers be alert and always praying for all saints, pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me to make known the mystery of the gospel pray that I may declare it fearlessly. Amen!

Firstlight is in the nations declaring God's Word. We are being the salt and light. I thank God for our teaching gifts to the nations and pray now for Firstlight International to always continue strong in the word and power of His call. If you need a refresher dose or fellowship in the power and gifts of the Spirit to overcome darkness or want to support us with your prayers and gifts please contact Firstlight with the addresses and numbers given on page one.

Ministry News
TOP STORY

A Story of God's Incredible GRACE! Project REAP is producing a harvest in education



Shortly after the death of her father - Am, her mom, and her two younger sisters became one of our very first Families Without Fathers (FWF) families in Thailand, over nine years ago.

At that time Am was just starting sixth grade. Through much hard work, prayer, faith in God, help from others, and with the support of FWF, and Project REAP: (*the Regional Education Assistance Program*), Am was able to complete her elementary, high school, and university education. She now works for the same university that she graduated from in their horticulture department. Praise God!

Thank you for helping to make Am's story possible! Your prayers and financial giving each month is helping us to provide help to others like her through FWF, and Project REAP this year.

Water Baptisms in northern Myanmar



We are blessed to be a part of this amazing work in northern Myanmar. Shortly after the training last month, our core of 40 student-leaders went out and preached the gospel in multiple villages of the Pulang for about 10 days.

In one of the villages we learned that there are 37 families living there - half Shan and half Pulang. Our teams are beginning to see some of the 'first fruits' of a mighty harvest. Just in that one village, two whole families decided to follow Jesus, and eight people were water baptized, two of them happened right on the spot!

More training and sending like these are being planned throughout this year. Ask the Lord to pour out His Spirit in a great way among this whole Pulang district!

A New Generation is Rising Up!



This past month in Thailand, I (Dan) saw some things that I really got excited about: A new generation of young Thai church leaders are rising up like never before!

As Debbie and I stood in the midst of worship, in the Z Gen Church (*the five fold ministry gift church in Thai*) in Chonburi, Thailand I deeply aware that I was in Presence of God, in the midst of a group of trained, Holy Spirit led, and filled 'young people' who worshipped God with such passion that I have not seen in over 20 years of ministry in Thailand. It was as if I heard the Lord say: "This is unstoppable!" And that what we are experiencing was better than whatever 'the best laid plans of man could ever produce' not even close! For the first time, in a long time I could see it! That in this way, and in this generation, all of Thailand will, and can be reached!

Spiritual Parenting



WRITTEN BY, Hello
JOHN PAUL FirstLight!
SPRECHER It's a joy to
be writing
again to
you! Dan

and Debbie have asked me to share a bit on the Father's Heart, and how it is released to us from God, and from us to others. Of course, I was so blessed and honored to share our passion for this, our life-message that burns inside our hearts.

One of the key places God draws my heart to daily, which gives fuel to everything else that follows, is the Biblical Truth that God becomes our *real and actual* Father when we are Born Again (John 1:). For so long I

acknowledged this Truth because God wrote it in His Word, and I had given my life to Jesus. Because of that, God said that I had been Born Again. From this point on, there was no doubt that I had become a different person. I could feel it, and I began to encounter God personally. It was awesome, but still I felt as though Jesus was "added" to my life...and that I hadn't truly gotten a totally brand NEW LIFE. Then, the Holy Spirit started to open up a deep level of relationship I had not really known before. He began to teach and seal inside me that it was not a vague, mental-only understanding that I was Born Again, but it was a real reality... I have *actually been* Born Again, and

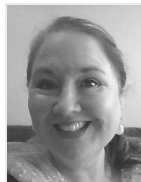
God, yes God has become my real and actual Father!

The effect of this tangible awakening inside me has formed how I see everything else. It causes you to see *first* the Father's Heart over people, and stirs you to want to be a vessel who brings His Fatherly love and care. We are really His own Children! We also are called to go and call others into the *real* Royal Family of God! Without a doubt, this has softened my heart to those around me. It has stirred my heart to be a spiritual parent to those that don't know His Fatherly love yet! There is nothing like it!

Blessings from Father's Heart,

It's all about Him!

On a personal note!



WRITTEN BY
DEBBIE ECKER

After 30 years of marriage, it was so good to be back at my husband's side, traveling with him through Asia. This is something so sweet and so familiar, it brought us both great joy. We were

warmly welcomed by friends in Singapore, where we both ministered and were ministered to. Dan taught two evening sessions (I shared a few testimonies) with our friends at Soakability Church. We then went on for an extended time of travel throughout Thailand, literally praying or ministering in ALL FOUR REGIONS: NORTH, NORTHEAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTH during the five amazing weeks while we were there. Our days and nights were FILLED with people, meals, meetings for prayer, times of worship, teaching the Word in several different church settings, - we held the annual meeting our Thai Foundation with Firstlight project staff and volunteers. And sometimes just networking with others, listening to their dreams and hopes, and offering wise counsel with an encouraging voice, saying, "Yes. You can do it!" For in this season, more and more we are finding our role is as spiritual parents to those younger, just starting out on this journey. Somehow our lives, our love and our ministry has become a beacon of hope to others. What an honor. Dan is planning a short visit to Seattle to spend some time with Josiah. Just after we got back from Asia, Dan was able to fish for two days, a much needed time of REST! He is preparing for a family wedding in June and for a prayer team for Thailand in July. So ... we are busy and BLESSED! It's all about JESUS!

Prayer Points

**"I will call upon the Lord,
*who is worthy to be praised; So
shall I be saved from my
enemies."*** Psalm 18:3 NKJV

Please pray for:

1. For the Pulang work in northern Myanmar.
2. For our Firstlight projects: FWF, REAP, our Firstlight Fellowship churches.
3. U.S. ministry opportunities - resource development
4. God's abundant provision for Firstlight International during this 2nd quarter of 2017.