



November 2024 News

In This Issue:

*** Ministry News:**

Top Stories pg.2

*** Features:**

Article - Forward Thinking ... 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:



Forward Thinking

“but one thing I do: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, ” ...

Philippians 3:23b NASB

Let’s face it; sometimes we get stuck. Inhospitable circumstances blocking our way. Unexpected bills piling up and demanding attention. Work deadlines passing us by and all the self condemnation that brings with it, further paralyzing us from moving. A house that refuses to get up and clean itself and not having a clue where to start?

Worse yet. A country paralyzed in place waiting for a much dreaded election season to be finally over. In the midst of all the angst, relationships feeling frayed and uncomfortable. Social media, in fact ALL media piles on the sense of doom. And we stand.....still. Not knowing where to look. Not knowing what to think. Not knowing how to start.

Beloved. We praise God that the One who knows the way forward is always by our side. He is ever our Good Shepherd, and the Light on our pathway to guide us. It is His sweet and tender voice that speaks to us, not from the wind or the fire or the whirlwind, but that still, small Voice speaking from over our shoulder: “This is the way....walk ye in it.”

His ways are not our ways. His thoughts are not our thoughts. For even as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are His thoughts higher

than our thoughts and His ways higher than ours. And beloved, His ways are always LOVE.

Dan and I have said it to each other hundreds of times over the past 37 years when we are stuck, when relationships are difficult and painful, when hope is dim. We look at one another and say, “*love is the only way forward.*”

And inevitably we find a way. A door opens up. Resources flow again. Relationships heal and become even sweeter than before because they have weathered the storm. Jesus makes all things new. Jesus lights our path. Jesus is the love that guides our thoughts and decisions.

The greatest power that we Christians possess in this life, is the ability, with Christ in us the hope of glory, to walk in love, patience and humility into a dark, angry and too proud world. In that way we bring life giving change to those around us. The light and love of Christ can be seen in us clearly and brings glory to God the Father.

Let us take each other by the hand, love well, and in the fulness of the Spirit, keep moving forward.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

November is one of my favorite months as it holds my favorite holiday: Thanksgiving. Ours are different and quieter these years but i am always mindful of the many years when our home was filled to the brim with missionaries and their families and the joy and love their brought with them. Many denominations, often other countries. Great love. Great food. So thankful for these precious memories.

What is On Your Mind?



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

The Scriptures have a lot to say about our thoughts and the way we think. Because so much of the what we think about and the way we think is tied to the direction of our words, actions, and our deeds. Thoughts create words, words create actions, actions form habits and habits form character.

New York Times best selling author *Craig Groeschel* in his book *Winning The War In Your Mind* suggests that: "Our lives are always moving in the direction of our strongest thoughts." Therefore, the need to pay attention to *what is on your mind* and begin to challenge our assumptions of how we interpret the world around us becomes a matter of "thought" or "mind management." The whole idea of "critical thinking" and the way we think even from a Biblical perspective seems to be a lost art in our current culture. The whole idea of the "renewed mind" is crucial to our proving what God's will is. Rom 12:2

Equipping Thai Church Leaders ...

Pastor Ken Cramer teaching a session on the Five Fold Ministry Gifts - as a church structure model to 60 plus Thai pastors and church leaders from each of the four regions of Thailand, last month, in Bangkok.

This was a well planned and much needed conference for so many who are wanting to lead their churches in a Biblical way realizing the plurality of Christ in each of these five Giftings and more.



Ken Cramer teaching in Bangkok

Imparting Spiritual Gifts ...



John Paul Sprecher prays for Thai leaders

It is amazing to see what God can do when leaders gather in moments like these to receive equipping and impartation by the Spirit, for such a time as this!

A few sessions last month in Bangkok, resulted in a time of personal prayer, impartation and commissioning. For many this was a significant moment of stepping into a new season of life and ministry with a *sense* that something fresh is beginning to take place!

Prayer Points

“Enlarge the place of your tent; Stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, do not spare them; Lengthen your ropes And strengthen your pegs.”

Isaiah 54:2 ESV

1. Pray for our Global Training Platforms in Thailand, & Myanmar this year!
2. For our Care For Kingdom Families Projects: REAP: and the FWF in Thailand, during the 4th quarter of 2024.
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!