



March 2025 News

In This Issue:

* Ministry News:

Top Stories pg.2

* Features:

Article - Search Me 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:



Search Me

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.” Psalm 139:23-24 NLT

We find ourselves in the Lenten Season, a time of prayer and self reflection. I remember Lent as being very important as a child. We would give up sweets, attend special services, and go to confession. I was young, but I understood the need to bring our lives, and our hearts to the altar and allow God to have a look. Holiness and accountability should never be far from a Christian’s vocabulary. For it is only by humbling ourselves do we find grace to help in time of need.

I always had an understanding that in all things, God knew my heart. There was no use hiding from Him. Even my very thoughts were known completely. Unkind words unspoken, but thought? Known. Suppressed rebellious anger and resentment toward my parents when they seemed to demand so much from me in looking after my much younger siblings? Seen and noted. I remember sitting in the dark confessional at age 8 confessing my sins to our parish priest. When I was finished he would address me BY NAME and forgive me and give me my penance! This seemed to only strengthen my understanding that there was nowhere to hide from God!

This would have all been terrifying if I were dealing with an angry God.

Fortunately for me, my early teachers, my mother and the Sisters of Mercy, were big on teaching us about the GRACE of God, and that He was a God who longs to forgive us our sins and restore us to righteousness.

Psalm 139 so beautifully sums up our relationship with an all knowing, all seeing God, and how to rightly and openly relate to His gaze. “You have searched me, Lord, and You know me.” v1. In v3 David says, ‘You are intimately acquainted with all my ways.’ The psalm is beautiful in its description of such intimate knowledge. There is no fear in the words, only a longing to be right with God. In the final verses David invites the Lord to “search me, God, and know my heart. Test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Yes, Lord. In this season of heartfelt repentance, we invite You to search us and know us. Have Your way in our lives. Let Your will be done. Let Your Kingdom come. Let us always keep your face ever before us. For your love is better than wine, and you are more precious than silver or gold. Amen. Yes. Amen.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

We are just beginning to sense spring trying its best to emerge. But I confess, I think winter is not quite done with us yet. When I was in high school a winter like this would have been wonderful, as my father was the manager of a ski resort and extra cold and extra snow meant GREAT skiing. For now the best thing I can say about the cold and snow is everything looks so bright and clean! Stay warm!

Give Up to Go Up!



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

How many of you have noticed the times when the language in the current culture seems to change as new words are introduced into our conversations. Words like *“the new normal”* or that’s a *“no brainer”* or *“its not rocket science.”* Once words or phrases like these are introduced we find new ways to express ourselves in thought, word and deed.

I can remember in the early 90’s the word or phrase *“paradigm”* was introduced or *“paradigm shift.”* In those days, I would have to look up words like these in my pocket Webster dictionary or ask my wife. Seriously! At first, I had no idea what the word meant let alone how to properly use it in a sentence. But I sure felt *smart* saying it. *(smile)*

I can recall a time when the word *“unprecedented”* entered our vocabulary or the phrase *“going to the next level.”* What I have discovered in the Kingdom to *“go up”* to a new place in God, one must first *“give up”* something to get the there. What is it that you may need to let go of to move forward in 2025? Let.It.Go!

Next Gen Thai Church Leaders ...



Serving next gen leaders, in Thailand

Gabriel is one of many next gen Thai church leaders in Thailand. He represents a new generation of emerging leaders who have caught a glimpse of what their part in history can look like as each one finds their place in the plans and purposes of God for their nation.

Many like him are those who are soon to inherit the challenge of stewarding the legacy of the previous generation. These next gen leaders are on their way. We are deeply honored to serve and to walk with them in God’s great Plan!

Reaching Children From Fatherless Homes ...



Families Without Fathers Learning Group

For those of you who have been with us for some time, I’m sure you are aware of our projects and ministry platforms.

Your prayers and financial giving each month is producing wonderful fruit for the Kingdom and we are grateful for your partnership.

Through *Families Without Fathers (FWF)* each month Thai churches are reaching into fatherless homes in selected areas across Thailand with regular visits to homes and area schools. Each year, FWF is proving to be viable approach for bringing Christ into fatherless homes. Your part is working!

Prayer Points

.... **“but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize.” Phil 3:13-14 ESV**

Forward Focus

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 1st 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!