



August 2021 News

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Look for us:



Cross Shaped

“ ... put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,” Col. 3:10

The Bible is Holy Spirit speaking through the writings of 40 distinct authors: Kings and shepherds, Scholars and fishermen and farmers. Prophets and preachers. A tax collector and a doctor. Diverse backgrounds and education yet speaking with the same voice. Each passage revealing truths about an Eternal God, His great love, and ourselves.

At first glance, many find the Bible overwhelming. Too deep and difficult to interpret. But, in reading it, one quickly finds the passages are mostly abundantly clear. God does not hide or play games in this book. He is clear from the beginning. We are to love God with all our hearts, minds, soul, and strength; and, having done that, we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

SO simple and pure, but mankind has managed to overcomplicate things, adding layer after layer of “theology” to the simplicity of a life of loving and God and loving others. Many who have never known God are turned away by the seeming difficulty of living such a life. And yet....

Our call, our HIGHEST call, is to live a life transformed by that amazing love, poured out on us so freely, without measure. And in that transformation, we are changed. We do not change ourselves, but rather,

the harsh ugly things inside us die as we get nearer and nearer to the Presence of such pure and accepting love. When we know that we are truly forgiven for our worst moments, our darkest deeds, the desire to hold others to account melts to nothingness.

And in that melting, Christ is formed. The same Christ who hung naked and bruised on the cross, looking at His accusers and mockers, and said, without guile or resentment, “Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing.”

It is said that Jesus is perfect theology. I believe that.

For it is in Jesus that purity of love, that release of supernatural grace is released within our hearts. And if we are willing to be made willing, the ability to forgive even the most unforgivable things that have been done to us or to those we love... becomes a reality. And it is like a boulder rolling away from our hearts. We are free. We are healed. We are released from hate and anguish.

This is everything. This is what the Lord wants to do in the hearts of His children. This is the Cross Shaped Life.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

Project REAP in Thailand ...

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

Being able to gather with friends and family has brightened our hearts. Recently at the retirement party of a family member, I was amazed at the celebratory atmosphere throughout the venue. People standing in lines for food and bathrooms were laughing and talking to each other like long lost friends. Such joy at being out around others again. We need each other!

Featured Article
TEACHING

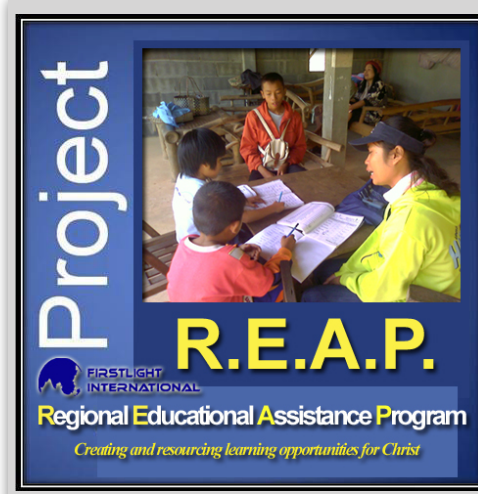
Christ in me!



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

One of the discoveries of the New Testament narrative is the fact that it's "Christ in you the hope of glory." (See Colossians 1:27) I will never forget the question I was asked by a friend around my conversion: "How did you go from one extreme to the other in one day?" This was in reference to the radical change that occurred the moment that Jesus came into my life. Without fully understanding what all this might mean I had become a living reality of what the Scriptures refer to as being "born from above". (See John 3:3-8) That transforming power of the Holy Spirit that takes you from one state of being to another by an act of faith on your part in response to God's will. The greatest truths are the simplest. Here we are thirty five years in the future and its still *Christ in me* the hope of glory!

Every month throughout the year, we continue to implement a series of projects that are bringing Christ into rural settings across Thailand. Project REAP (*Regional Education Assistance Program*) is one of them! For over a decade a good number of college age students in selected areas are hearing about Christ while furthering their education. This month project REAP will embrace another three students in Northeast region of Thailand. May each one come to know that Jesus is the Way towards a brighter future!



Ministry News
TOP STORY

Kingdom Advance Partnerships ...



We continue to stand with those who are dealing with the effects of Covid-19 in Kalaymyo, Myanmar. Last month we released another \$1,000 USD to purchase much needed medical supplies. With your help, we can do more!

Featured Item
PRAYER

Prayer Points

“Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; And confirm for us the work of our hands; Yes, confirm the work of our hands.” Psalm 90:17 NASB

We will not be moved!

1. Pray for the country of Myanmar: *ETS core teachers healing from Covid-19. * peace & safety in the streets during civil unrest.
2. For our Care For Kingdom Families Projects: Project REAP: and the FWF project in 3rd quarter of 2021.
3. As this year continues to unfold for all of Firstlight to be strategically placed in 2021 and beyond! *projects, *people, * places, *increased funding!
4. For God to arise in all that we do!