



October 2024 News

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**Look for us:**



# Atonement

**“In him [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses” ...**

**Ephesians 1:7a ESV**

Atonement is word for our times. It means to be forgiven and reconciled. It is an old word, from English in the early 1500's to express: at - one - meant. It is marked by making reparations for wrongs done to another. In a religious context, it means removing obstacles to reconciliation with God. For atonement BRINGS reconciliation, both with God and with others.

I remember the earliest years of my walk with Jesus. My pastor and his wife had been raised in the Baptist tradition, then later had deep encounters with the Holy Spirit which changed the church's direction and even the worship style. Hands raised, eyes closed, sometimes clapping, sometimes shouting. I guess you could have described us as Bapti-costal? We were filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. Our song service was at least one uninterrupted hour long! We thought this was completely normal.

We were a congregation of people who were hungry for God, hungry for His presence, and fully aware of the forgiveness we had received through the forgiveness of our sins. We were a peculiar people who had been called to show forth the praises of HIM who had called us out of darkness and into the glorious light of the kingdom of His dear Son. I can still hear my pastor's wife, Gloria, her sweet voice

singing songs of atonement that marked that era:

“He paid a debt, He did not owe, I owed a debt I could not pay, I needed Someone to wash my sins away, And now I sing a brand new song: Amazing Grace! Christ Jesus paid the debt, that I could never pay....”

“ I'm not my own...I belong to Jesus  
I'm not my own...I'm His.  
Bought with a price, the blood of Jesus...  
I'm not my own...I'm His.”

Beloved. This a season to call to mind the times when our faith was young, and to take stock of our lives. With God's help, remove every obstacle to being AT ONE with the Lord. Are we struggling in our hearts? Has the root of bitterness crept in to rob us of the joy of our salvation? Then do the first works again, putting away all vain and vile conversation and embrace the beautiful reconciliation we have with God in Christ. Be cleansed! Be whole again! And then watch and see the Lord work on your behalf to bring reconciliation to the rest of your life.



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

## On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DEBBIE ECKER

I have two things I want to share this month. First, I have been given an amazing opportunity to teach on one of my all time favorite subjects: Church History! Classes will be Monday nights at Covenant Church of Pittsburgh beginning October 7th at 7pm. My heart is full! All are welcome! Second: I need your prayers!!! Both for my preparation and teaching this class, but also for healing. I have been struggling with my health particularly arthritis. We know Jesus heals! Amen and thank you.

## Jesus, paid it all ...



WRITTEN BY,  
DAN ECKER

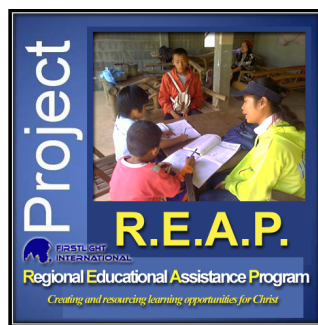
I can remember in the early days worshipping to a simple series of praise and worship songs, often times that seemed to be taken straight from a particular verse or from a famous Bible story highlighting the victories that followed.

Little did I know (*at that time*) that I (*along with the many others who were also worship to these types of songs*) were actually learning the Scriptures from a different way of learning that we were not normally accustomed to, only to discover that was what those types of songs were intended to do.

You see, much of the book of Psalms were written during times of Israel's journey as songs that were used in Temple worship as well as during times of historical transition. These songs became the reference points that when sung shifted them into their next season of breakthrough as they recounted Who God was and what He had promised.

The song "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe" always reminds me of the Cross and the price He paid to wash me clean.

## Helping Others Pursue Education



The testimonies of what the Lord is doing through projects like REAP: *Regional Education Assistant Program* & Families Without Fathers (FWF) children and young adults from fatherless homes are being reached in selected areas across Thailand.

Your partnership with Firstlight each month is providing weekly visits to homes and areas schools with school fees and related supplies being provided for every child involved in the each of these projects.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in prayer and financial giving.

A Support & Care Ministry Project of Firstlight International



## Learning How to Follow Christ



Services like these are trying place in the Rapha Ministries Church in Phu Ket, Thailand.

Each week after an extended time of worship, the service moves on into a time of personal ministry, prayer, testimonies and a solid message from the word of God.

Attendance is up and there is a fresh hunger for more of God across the city. Pray for a solid core of leaders to be raised ups and for a harvest that is ready to be reached.

## Prayer Points

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 2024 and beyond! \*projects, \*people, \*places, \*increased funding!
4. For God to arise in all that we do!

**“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;”  
Isaiah. 55:6 ESV**

**Focus on Him!**