



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

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“When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit, and was troubled.”

John 11:33

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Focus on Forgiveness

God Feels Your Pain

Sin is an incomprehensibly destructive agent. When people sin against us, they damage us—and we *feel* that damage. Some sins cause so much damage and pain that we can barely survive it.

What is the child, or the adult child, of abuse, neglect or abandonment to do with all this pain? Is there any emotional relief for the parent of a murdered child, or rape victim, or victim of any

other severe and traumatic sin?

Yes there is, and it begins in the heart of God. *God feels our pain!*

In John 11, we see Jesus coming to raise his friend, Lazarus, from death. No one else knows what He is about to do. So Jesus encounters the sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, and others, who are in deep anguish over the death of their brother and friend.

They are weeping and have been for days.

The amazing thing here is that Jesus does not try to stop them from crying. Instead He joins with them in their pain and tears! Jesus feels their pain and is overwhelmed with grief, *even when He was about to take away the cause of their pain!*

God feels your pain, too. He always has. He hates what was
(continued on page two)

Steve's Health

Many of you have been praying for Steve since you heard of his migraine headaches. (Thank you!) In his teenage years, Steve suffered with severe

migraines several times a year. These included partial blindness and paralysis of half his face, tongue and left arm. For the first time in over 25 years, Steve experienced

three of these in June and July. However, doctors have checked him out and concluded that he is in very good health—and no more headaches so far!

The Miracle of Transformation

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Romans 12:2



God is dynamically creative! He has filled the natural world with wondrous examples of His incredible power and ingenuity to transform living creatures into something new.

Take for example the transformation of a tadpole into a frog, or a caterpillar into a butterfly. Through a process we call metamorphosis (the Greek word for “transformation” in Romans 12:2) God entirely re-creates the form and structure of

these animals. It is an “unbelievable” phenomena!

God wants to do the same kind of thing in our lives. Only He is not interested in changing our outward appearance. He is working to change us on the inside, to change our nature and our character. He wants to re-create us into the image of Jesus Christ “that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29) To do this, God invites us to cooperate with Him, to “work out our salvation.”

Practicing authentic forgiveness is one of the five elements of God’s life-transformation process. The other four are: 1) assimilation of truth, 2) deliverance from demonic influences, 3) personal experiences with God, and 4) intimate fellowship with other Christians.

Through your practice of forgiveness God will heal you, deliver you and radically transform you. You will become more and more like Jesus in character, attitude, word and deed.

God Feels Your Pain *(from page one)*

God never takes “pain pills.”

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done to you and He feels the anguish of your soul. As a matter of fact, He feels your pain more deeply and more completely than you do.

God felt you pain before it began because He saw the sins that caused it before they even hap-

pened. God had to restrain Himself and watch as you were victimized. He did not turn His head. And God has felt your pain every day since then. God never takes “pain pills” of any kind.

What should we do when we are in pain?

Run to our loving, heavenly Father who feels our pain and will empathize with us. Learn to cry with God, knowing that He is crying with you, *even when He is about to heal you.* You are not alone in your pain.

Your Support Is Touching Lives

Dear Friends in Christ,

I attended the Forgiveness Seminar last evening at Rose Drive Friends Church. It was the most "light bulb" generating moment of my life. I left that meeting profoundly changed. I cannot express my gratitude to God for giving Pastor Steve this fabulous gift

of Spirit-filled communication.

You must get this message out to as many as possible. I'd love to see Steve on TV, CBN/TBN—whatever, to reach a multitude simultaneously. If there is anything I can do to assist your most needed and enlightening ministry, please let me know.

I have never followed up by writing to anyone like this previously. But, I was so touched—moved by Steve's interpretation of the crucifixion and how it relates to our forgiveness that I was compelled to do so. God bless you all. Sincerely,

Mrs. Bobbie Curtis Monteros

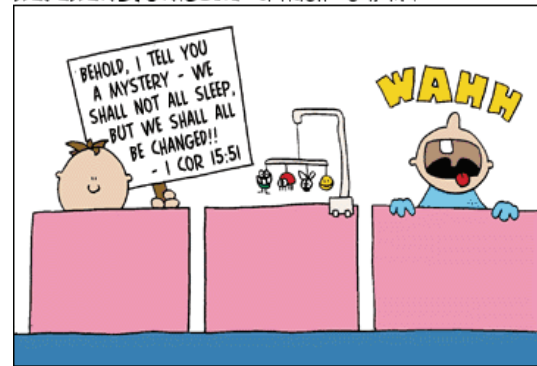
The Ministry is Expanding!

For the first time, we have seven seminars lined up at the same time—and four more verbal commitments to host seminars—over the next six months. This is a tremendous expansion over the past year.

God is opening doors for us in new areas.

Steve has also been working on the first book. It is near completion. We will be self-publishing it while we look for a professional publishing/marketing firm.

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Thanks to Carl Serkland (See 1Cor 15:51)

06-05-2001

Desperate Cries for Help

Hardly a week goes by without at least one person calling us for help—someone who was sexually or physically abused, someone who lost a loved-one to murder, someone who was abandoned or rejected or replaced,

or someone who is just exhausted and fed-up with the insensitive, hurtful behavior of a spouse, parent or child.

Thank you for making it possible for us to minister to them.

Who do you know that needs healing?

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1855 Andrews Drive
Concord, CA 94521

925.689.6427
info@ForgivenessMinistries.com
www.ForgivenessMinistries.com



Steve Diehl Jr. at the Oregon Zoo

RESTORING LIVES AND RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH FORGIVENESS!

Upcoming Seminars

September 30

Walnut Creek Friends Church
San Francisco Bay Area

October 28

Sierra Foothills Covenant Church
Placerville, CA

Upcoming Events

November 1-10

Friends Church, Indonesia

November 16-18

National Friends Pastor's Conference
San Antonio, TX

Check our website for more seminars and events, to see details and to download registration forms.