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***If Christians are not the worlds leading experts in the practice of all aspects of God's forgiveness, who else could be?***

# Focus on Forgiveness

## Forgiveness in Pennsylvania

In early October, an Amish community in Pennsylvania found themselves in the national spotlight when an intense need to practice forgiveness was thrust upon them. Several of their young girls had been shot execution style, five of them killed, by an angry man. The whole country then watched as many of the relatives of the victims immediately extended forgiveness toward the

murderer and his family. As one commentator put it, "the Amish buried their anger even before they buried their children."

I do not know the theology of the Amish, but they obviously take seriously God's forgiveness and His directions to forgive others! What an incredible testimony! My only wish was that they would have given more explanation of what forgiveness is and

how they did it. The whole country was eager to hear their answers because everyone has been wounded by the ravages of sin. Everyone is hurting. Everyone is angry. Everyone needs to forgive, not just one person, but many people. People are hungry to know how to deal with their anger and pain in effective ways.

For this reason, people are watching you. *(continued on page two)*

## Forgiveness in Indonesia

Steve will be in Indonesia, on the island of Kalimantan on Nov. 3-9, 2006. He will be teaching 50 pastors and church leaders the basic principles of forgiveness.

This will be a challenging task as Steve will be teaching through a translator and without the aid of slides or notebooks. The cultural differences between the East and the

West also add to the difficulty of communicating forgiveness effectively. Please pray for Steve and those listening, that they would hear God's truth clearly.

### Helping Each Other to Become Free

On our vacation at the beach, our youngest son (11) decided to try and catch a pigeon. He used the old "box propped up by a stick" trap with



bread crumbs for bait. To my surprise, he actually caught one—and it turned out to be very fortunate for the bird he caught. While removing it from the

box Steven Jr. discovered that both of the birds feet were terribly wrapped up in fine fishing line. Some of the

line had become so tight that it had almost cut off circulation to one of the bird's toes. So together we worked to release the bird from the painful web in which it was trapped.

It was difficult to remove the line. It had been wound around the bird's ankles and toes for a long time. It took four of us working together for over 20 minutes to set the bird free.

Sins, and the damage from those sins, entangle our lives in just the same way that fishing line can entangle a bird's

feet, causing pain and crippling our ability to function well. And just as that pigeon could never have freed itself, so ***we too, need other people to help us to become free.***

If you want to develop a lifestyle of forgiveness then you will need to participate in a small group of people who are trying to do the same. You cannot do for yourself what only other people can do for you. You need to let other people help you to become free—and you need to help them.

***“And whenever you stand praying, forgive if you have anything against anyone...”***

***Mark 11:25***

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### Forgiveness in Pennsylvania *(from page one)*

You may never be interviewed by reporters or be on television, but everyone around you watches to see how you deal with your pain, anger, guilt, depression and fear. They are looking for someone to show them how to overcome these debilitating emo-

tions. They are looking for someone to show them what real forgiveness is and how to experience it.

As you develop a lifestyle of forgiveness, you will become a shining light in a dark world. Be ready to forgive. And be ready to tell people

about the Cross of Christ and how God made forgiveness a reality through His perfect sacrifice on our behalf..

**Remember: Jesus paid the penalty for your freedom and He also paid for those who have sinned against you—**

**Jesus Says to Us...**

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor' and hate your enemy, but I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons (and daughters) of your Father who is in heaven. For He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the*

*unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the worst sinners do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the non-believers do the same?"*

*Matthew 5:43-47*

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(See Luke 6:31)

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HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF?

**Hurting People Hurt People**

Not only did we see in the Amish a good example of what can happen when people forgive, but we also saw a **tragic example of what can happen when people do not forgive.** The man who

shot those girls and then committed suicide was a very broken man. He was angry at God, at himself and at others.

His suicide note included, *"I'm going to make you pay for my daughter."*

He was a man who deeply needed to practice forgiveness. Because he didn't, his inner life collapsed into uncontrollable emotions. As a result of his bitterness, many people suffered!

***"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God, that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled..."***

***Hebrews 12:15***

**Growing Pains**

Jesus has impressed upon our hearts the need to share the message of forgiveness with as many people as possible. That number is growing, but it has not yet reached the point of full support of our family and ministry. The ministry is about \$12,000 behind in its support for the year. We

do need your help, but we are so very thankful for the ways in which many of you are already supporting the ministry. If you can help with the Indonesia or Texas trip, or if you can increase your financial support, your giving would make such a difference and be greatly appreciated!



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**RESTORING LIVES AND RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH FORGIVENESS!**

### **Upcoming Events**

**November 2-10**

The Annual Conference of the Indonesian  
Friends Church Indonesia

**November 17-19**

The National Friends Pastor's Conference  
San Antonio, Texas

### **Upcoming Seminars**

**December 9**

Walnut Creek Friends Church  
San Francisco Bay Area (925) 935-7530

**January 27**

Meridian Friends Church  
Meridian, Idaho (208) 888-2721

[Check our website for more seminars and events, to see details and to download registration forms.](#)