

HALLELUJAH

Express

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DECEMBER 2006

THE HEALING POWER
OF FORGIVENESS

FATHER, FORGIVE
THEM

FORGIVING ONE
ANOTHER

HAVE YOU CHECKED
YOUR WARDROBE
LATELY?

A COINCIDENCE

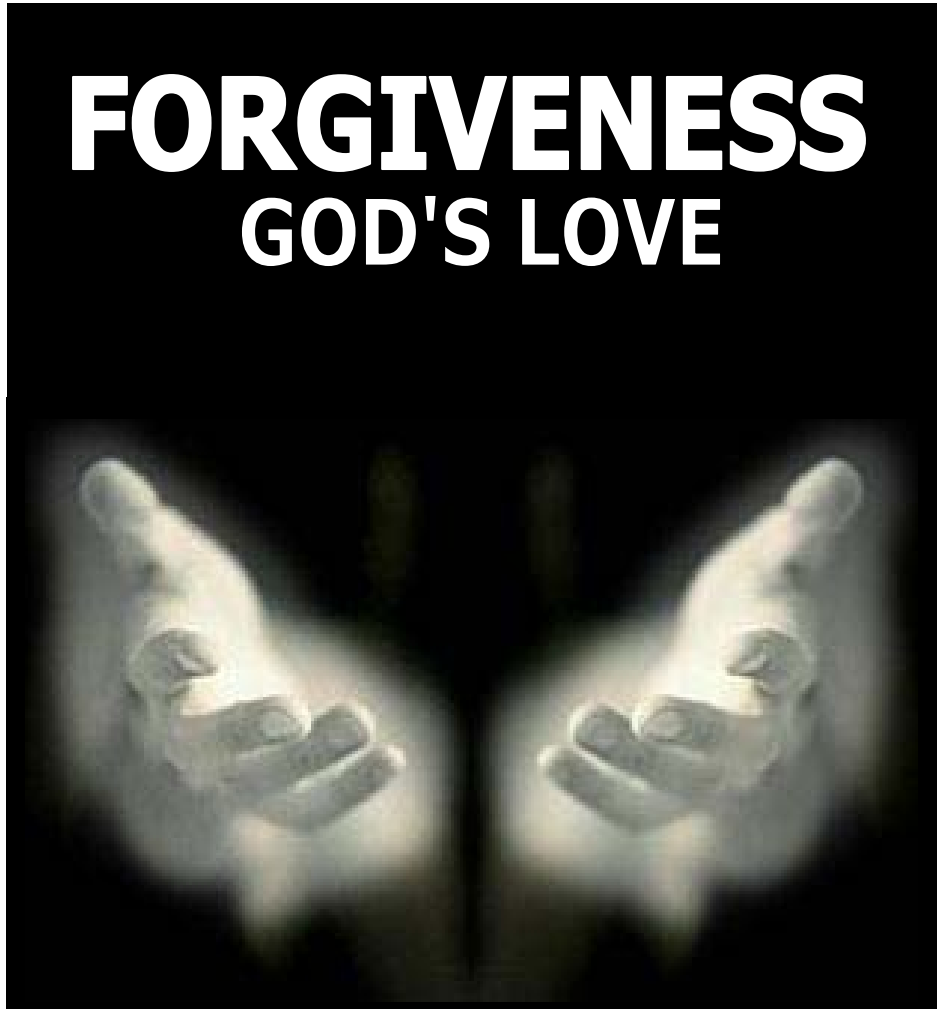
MISSIONS TRIP TO
JAKARTA

MIRACLE SUNDAY WITH
THE HYMNSMEN

HOME SCHOOL AWARDS
NIGHT 2006

FORGIVENESS

GOD'S LOVE



...by My Spirit
Zechariah 4:6

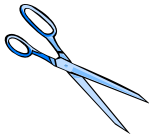
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Gospel Assembly of God's Vision

To raise up a church with Believers who understand what prayer is, who love to pray and know how to pray.

Are grounded in the Word and readily apply the Word in their daily lives.

Are supportive and mindful of every possible means and ways to reach the Lost for Christ.

Who love the Lord completely and are true worshippers of God.

Readers are welcomed to submit articles, testimonies, etc. to the Editor for the

HALLELUJAH
Express

Such contributions are greatly appreciated.





TOPIC **Forgiving Others**
TEXT **Matthew 18:21–35; 6:14, 15**

INTRODUCTION

- How privileged are we today to be born again as believers.
- Having confessed our sins and accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, God has freely forgiven us and made us His beloved children.

Just as God has freely forgiven us, we are expected to freely forgive others.

Jesus illustrates forgiveness for others in our text:

- A servant owed his master, the king – 10,000 talents.
- 1 silver talent represents about 6,000 days' wages for an average worker.
- In other words, he owed 60 million days of wages!
- The king wanted back his money, and he wanted it now.
- He was to be sold, his wife and children, and all he had, to repay his debt.
- The servant knew he was unable to pay, and begged for mercy.
- The king was moved with compassion, and forgave his debt.

We often have short memory... lacking compassion and gratitude:

- The forgiven servant found a fellow servant who owed him a debt.
- It was a mere 100 pence debt, equal to a day's wages.
- The debt therefore was merely 100 days' wages.
- He demanded that the debt be settled immediately.
- His debtor begged and pleaded for mercy.
- But he refused, and was not at all kind to his debtor.
- Grabbed him by the throat, and began choking him.
- He threw his debtor into prison for the small debt.

The sad turn of events was reported back to the king:

- The king was furious, calling him a wicked servant.
- Reminded him of the huge debt he had cancelled against him.
- Rebuked him for not forgiving his fellow servant of a small debt.
- The king had him handed over to tormentors until his debt was repaid.

A warning is extended to us as believers:

- The same applies to us if we fail to forgive others (Matthew 18:35).
- No mercy, for those who do not show mercy (James 2:13).
- Forgive, and be forgiven.
- We must forgive, because we have been forgiven.

To forgive means:

- To let go.
- To leave behind.
- To dismiss.
- To cancel a debt.

Jesus is saying to us:

- If we let go of other people's sins, He will let go of ours.
- If we dismiss other people's sins, He will dismiss ours.
- If we cancel other people's debts, He will cancel ours.

Forgiveness is a two-way street:

- If we forgive others, we will be forgiven.
- If we do not hold other people's sins against us, our sins that we ask forgiveness for... will not be held against us

CONCLUSION

When we do not forgive but hold a grudge, we only hurt ourselves:

- Causes wrinkles.
- Causes high blood pressure.
- Causes heart attacks.
- Causes strokes.

We have a responsibility to forgive (Ephesians 4:32).

God's Word is very clear concerning forgiving others (Matthew 6:14, 15):

- If we do not forgive others... we will not be forgiven.
- If we want to be forgiven... we must forgive.

How would you respond to God today?

- Will you hold on to grudges and unforgiveness?
- Will you let go, and let God release you from your burden?



Editor's Write...

But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:44, 45)

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18:21-22)

When it comes to December, there is generally an air of festivity because the year has come to an end and a New Year dawns. Companies pay bonuses, families go on holidays, retail outlets, malls and eateries are lighted up and decorated to draw in the crowds during this holiday season of merry-making, sharing and giving. Indirectly, Christmas is celebrated universally by both Christians and non-Christians but with different reasons.

Christians will understand the significance of Christmas. The birth of Jesus Christ was God's gift of reassurance and hope for mankind that a Savior was born to lead humanity back to God and saved them from eternal damnation in hell. He came for every living soul, regardless of color, creed, position or wealth. God chose lowly shepherds to witness His glory when an angel of the Lord appeared to announce the birth of Jesus Christ. The shepherds were terrified when the glory of God shone but it must be even more awesome when a great company of the heavenly host joined the angel, praising God. (Luke 2:8-14).

From the east, magi or wise men came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Even the king of that time, King Herod and all of Jerusalem was very disturbed with the news. The shepherds and the wise men obeyed what they heard or saw and looked for the Savior to worship Him. But millions today like King Herod, heard, but have no room in their hearts for Jesus (Matthew 2:3-6), even though they may participate enthusiastically in the festivities.

It is God's love and his forgiving nature that saved mankind from the penalty (Romans 3:23) and power of sin in order that we can live a new life in His spirit (Romans 7:6). Many portions of the Scriptures teach on the forgiveness of God (Psalm 51:1-17, Romans 5:1-11). Jesus taught forgiveness early in His ministry (Matthew 5:38-45, 6:14-15, 18:21-35). He demonstrated it from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 22:34).

Forgiveness worked for Corrie Ten Boom. Years after her release from a concentration camp, one of the guards who had held her captive offered to shake hands with her. She could not until she felt the warmth of the Holy Spirit which enabled her to forgive. "Forgiveness washed away the bitterness." The Auca Indians murdered and mass slaughtered Rachel Saint's missionary brother and his friends in Quito, Ecuador. Forgiveness paved the way for the later missionaries to build a relationship with the Aucas and the whole tribe received the gospel. How had these people been able to forgive the perpetrators of such heinous offenses? It was their belief in Jesus Christ. Both by words and example Jesus taught forgiveness.

Many have heard but there is no room in their hearts for Jesus. Why? Most people cannot believe that they are sinners as they have kept their lives within the boundaries of the 10 Commandments. They also cannot accept God's forgiveness of sin and his invitation to enjoy living in his forgiveness (1 John 1:8-9). How about you? Is there room in your heart for Jesus? He came because God so loved us and wanted to reach out to us to live the abundant life, to help us overcome fear, loneliness, bitterness, unforgiveness, anger and anything that is not of Him. What better time than now, to rededicate your life to Him or to receive Him as your Savior!

BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!

The Healing Power of Forgiveness

By Ray Brock

I am writing from the county jail. I read an article in the Pentecostal Evangel about some people who minister to women suffering from post abortion trauma. Is there really forgiveness for this hideous sin? If so, I can't find it. I hate myself for what I have done. Ever since I did it, my life has gone downhill and I no longer feel worthy of God's love.

Yes, there is forgiveness for having had an abortion. David said, "There is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Psalm 14:3). Paul quoted this verse in the New Testament: "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). He elaborated further on this in Romans 3:23.

Paul outlined the steps in receiving God's forgiveness in Romans 10:9, 10. Then he wrote: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1). In 2 Corinthians 5:17 he extended the message: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

What these Scriptures say is rather simple. The healing power of Christ is released in us when we believe that Jesus is the Son of God who came to deliver us from shame, guilt, and sin. When we confess our sins to Him, we experience the healing power of forgiveness. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

This includes all sins – even abortion. What so many people do not realize is: God can forgive and we don't realize it. This is because we focus on the sinfulness of our behavior and fail to accept the comprehensiveness of God's forgiveness. The first time you asked God to forgive you for having an abortion, He forgave you. The question is – have you forgiven you?

Forgiveness is God's way of restoring our relationship with Him which was broken because of our sin. Jesus wants not only to forgive shame and guilt; He wants to heal us from the pain of our sinful behavior. Forgiveness releases the healing power of God in our lives.

Let me suggest some things forgiveness is not:

1. Forgiveness is not forgetting, because we will still have our memories at judgment.
2. Forgiveness is not justifying ourselves before others; we must all learn to take responsibility for our own behavior.

3. Forgiveness is not denial – pretending the sin never happened.
4. Forgiveness is not expecting time to heal all hurts. Time cannot heal hurts caused by sin because they are recorded in our memory and influence us both consciously and unconsciously.

On the other hand, forgiveness is positive action. It requires dealing with our hurts and not running away from them.

1. Forgiveness is an act of the will – a process which starts with a choice, a decision to forgive. Why? Because it is right and God said to.
2. Forgiveness begins with renewing (reprogramming) the mind (See Romans 12:1, 2).
3. Forgiveness allows the Lord to come in and heal our wounded memories and remove the pain of sin. This occurs when we allow the omnipresence of God to move through our personal history to heal our memories and set us free.
4. Forgiveness means we do not charge the offense to another person – no more do we blame others for our sins (See Matthew 18:21, 22).
5. Forgiveness means we will refuse to bring up the past that has been forgiven – we declare a moratorium on all offenses before the time we received God's forgiveness. Then we can become a channel through which forgiveness can flow to others.

The Bible says there is only one unpardonable sin, and it is not for having an abortion: "All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men, but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men" (Matthew 12:31).

The sequence is simple:

1. Believe in Jesus Christ as Lord.
2. Confess your sins verbally to Him.
3. Ask God for His forgiveness.
4. Receive God's forgiveness as an act of will.
5. Forgive yourself, because you have no right to hang on to what God has released from you.
6. Rejoice in the knowledge of sins forgiven.
7. Witness to others about the saving, forgiving, and healing power of God that brings His forgiveness to us.

(Adapted from Pentecostal, January 12, 1997)

‘Father, forgive them’

By John M Palmer with Linda Delbridge-Parker

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left, Jesus said, ‘Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they divided up his clothes by casting lots” (Luke 23:32-34).

Acquaintances and colleagues circulate lies about you. Do you quickly ask God to love them anyway?

Enemies blindfold, mock, beat and insult you. They shred your back with a whip’s sharp piece of iron. Blood flows down your face as they press sharp thorns deep into your head. Can you find it in your heart to pray for your torturers?

A close friend betrays you; a best friend denies ever knowing you. What words can you pray for them?

In the agony and loneliness of such suffering, with His hands nailed to the crossbeam and His crossed feet spiked to the upright, Jesus uttered this: “Father, forgive them.”

When the pressure is on, we tend to forget about the Father. We might wonder whether a loving God is even seated on the throne. No matter how good we are or strive to be, our instinct for revenge takes over unless it is brought under the lordship of Christ. We may not intend to hurt or maim or kill – we may not seek it maliciously – but the desire for revenge calls us to get even. Unfortunately, when we hate the person who has wronged us, we become like that person.

Jesus’ Example

Jesus’ words show the way to deal with pain and move on. He didn’t revile or curse those who persecuted and deserted Him; He prayed for them. When they hurled insults, Jesus didn’t retaliate. When they tortured Him, He made no threats. When they spat on Him, He didn’t return the evil. Instead of seeking revenge, Jesus prayed for His persecutors.

And this was not the first time Jesus sought forgiveness rather than revenge for those who tempted and taunted Him. The Greek word used

in the text means He repeatedly made His request. When He looked at His crossmates on His right and left, He prayed, “Father forgive them.” When the ruler jeered, “If you’re the Son of God, come down and save yourself.” Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive him.” When the soldiers mocked and beat Him and gambled for His clothing, He prayed, “Father, forgive them.” When He thought of Judas Iscariot who had betrayed Him, Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive him.” When He thought of Pilate and Herod who possessed the power but not the courage to release Him, He prayed, “Father, forgive them.” When He thought of Peter who had denied ever knowing Him, He prayed, “Father, forgive him.”

If you have been offended, abused, violated, taken advantage of, rejected, or hurt, model Jesus’ response: “Father, forgive them.”

The ‘them’

Who are “them”? “Them” includes His brothers who didn’t believe Him, the disciples who abandoned Him, the soldiers who abused Him, the crowd who spat on Him, the religious leaders who despised Him, the civil leaders who ignored Him.

“Them” are the teenagers who walked into a diner and killed two young adults. “Them” are sexual and physical abusers. “Them” are those who judge others by the color of their skin. “Them” are those who steal, pander pornography, take the lives of unborn children. “Them” are professing Christians who tear down instead of building up. “Them” are those who try to take the splinter out of someone else’s eye while a log floats in their own. “Them” are the irreligious who beat up others by the side of the road, and “them” are the religious who see but ignore the beaten and depressed lying by the side of life’s road.

“Them” are us.

We are recipients of God’s forgiveness through Jesus Christ. While it is our task to preach and proclaim the gospel and to denounce sin as the Lord did, it is imperative that our hearts be filled with love. All of us are sinners, and all of us are “them” for whom Christ died.

Blessings of forgiveness

And the results of forgiveness? Paul wrote, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). We are set free from the penalty of sin to live in peace with God.

Forgiveness results in joy that comes not from a bottle or a drug but from the Lord Jesus Christ.

And most wondrous of all, forgiveness results in the gift of eternity in heaven.

Jesus' prayer, "Father, forgive them," is a word for the offended and the offender. If you have been offended, forgive your offender. And if you are the offender, hear His word of forgiveness for you.

'Today you will be with me in paradise' (Luke 23:43)

"One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: 'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!' But the other criminal rebuked him, 'Don't you fear God,' he said, 'since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'" Jesus answered him, 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise' "(Luke 23:39-43).

Jesus' conversation with the criminals teaches us about salvation and how to get to heaven. Not every road that people take in the name of religion or spirituality leads to heaven. The first thief was more concerned about getting off the cross than getting into heaven. He took the road of self-preservation.

In our society, millions of people have been tricked into thinking the way to happiness, peace, and enjoyment is through acquiring things and denying themselves very little, through ridding their lives of all pain and discomfort and focusing on only the positive.

Some who reach out to God are really seeking a problem-solver who will deliver them from dilemmas, spare them from sorrow, help them with hurts. The Lord does that well and willingly; however, we must not seek to get to heaven by following the road of self-gratification as we look to God to just remove our problems and bless us with material things.

Jesus assured the repentant thief he would join Him in paradise even though he hadn't been sprinkled with water, immersed in a tank, or attended a Communion service.

What would you answer if you were to stand before the Lord and hear Him ask, "Why should I let you into My heaven? Common responses might include, "I was baptized when I was an infant...I attend church regularly...I was confirmed when I was 12...I joined the church and became a member when I was 18...I take Communion every time it's offered in my church.' This thinking typifies walking down the road of the sacrament instead of the road of the Savior.

Those who follow the road of the Savior will observe the sacraments, but those who follow the road of the sacraments may or may not come to know the Savior.

The road of service (good works) also does not lead to heaven. The repentant thief was assured of heaven without ever teaching a Sunday school class or singing in the choir. He didn't have the opportunity of being a chaplain's assistant in prison because he wasn't a believer when he was in jail. He didn't serve on the board of any charities because, after all, who wants a known criminal guiding a reputable organization? Although he had no opportunity to do even one single good work, Jesus accepted him: "Today you will be with me in paradise."

(Adapted from Pentecostal Evangel, March 9, 1997)



Forgiving One Another

This story tells about identical twin boys. The boys' lives became inseparably intertwined. From the first they dressed alike, went to the same schools, did all the same things. In fact, they were so close that neither ever married, but they returned home and took over the family business when their father died. Their relationship was pointed to as a model of creative collaboration.

One morning a customer came into the store and made a small purchase. The brother who waited on him put the dollar bill on top of the cash register and walked to the front door with the man.

Sometime later he remembered what he had done, but when he went to the cash register, the dollar was gone. He asked his brother if he had seen the money and put it in the register, and the brother replied that he knew nothing of the money in question.

"That's funny," said the other, "I distinctly remember placing the bill here on the register, and no one else has been in the store since then."

Had the matter been dropped at that point, a mystery involving a tiny amount of money, nothing would have come of it. However, an hour later, this time with a noticeable hint of suspicion in his voice, the brother asked again, "Are you sure you didn't see that dollar bill and put it into the register?" The other brother was quick to catch the note of accusation, and flared back in defensive anger.

This was the beginning of the first serious breach of trust that had ever come between these two. It grew wider and wider. Every time they tried to discuss the issue, new charges and countercharges got mixed into the brew, until finally things got so bad that they were forced to dissolve their partnership. They ran a partition down the middle of the store and turned what had once been a harmonious partnership into an angry competition. In fact, that business became a source of division in the whole community, each twin trying to enlist allies for

himself against the other. The warfare went on for more than twenty years.

Then one day a car with an out-of-state license plate parked in front of the store. A well-dressed man got out, went into one of the sides, and inquired how long the merchant had been in business in that location. When the man learned it was more than twenty years, the stranger said, "Then you are the one with whom I must settle an old score."

"Some twenty years ago," he said, "I was out of work, drifting from place to place, and I happened to get off a boxcar in your town. I had absolutely no money and had not eaten for three days. As I was walking down the alley behind the store, I looked in and saw a dollar bill on the top of the cash register. Everyone else was in front of the store. I had been raised in a Christian home and I had never before in all my life stolen anything but that morning I was so hungry, I gave in to the temptation, slipped through the door, and took that dollar bill. That act has weighed on my conscience ever since, and I finally decided that I would never be at peace until I came back and faced up to that old sin and made amends. Would you let me now replace that money and pay you whatever is appropriate for the damage?"

The stranger was surprised to see the old man shaking his head in dismay and beginning to weep. When that brother had gotten control of himself, he took the stranger by the arm and said, "I want you to go next door and repeat the same story you have just told me." The stranger did, only this time there were two old men, who looked remarkably alike, both weeping uncontrollably. But alas, how many precious years have been lost due to bitterness in their hearts towards each other!

"Follow peace with all men..., Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." (Hebrews 12:14).

(Adapted from Christ Is Victor, Sept/Oct 2006)

Have You Checked Your Wardrobe Lately?

Barbara Johnson

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering, bearing with one another, and forgiving one another...but above all these things put on love.” - Colossians 3:12-14 (NKJV)

Like everybody else, I have to get up and get dressed every day. Too often I go to my closet and throw my hands in the air: “I don’t have anything to wear!” My husband, Bill, shakes his head and laughs. “No really,” I whine, peering into my closet and surveying the rod of hangers drooping with weight.

“This jacket is too worn,” I say to myself. “It’s got little fuzz balls all over it. This dress has gotten too small. That blouse hangs wrong at the shoulders; why did I let my sister talk me into buying it? This little number is totally outdated; I can’t wear that. The blue sweater is the wrong color for my skin, and the pink one has a stain. Here’s a good blouse, but I always feel frumpy in it. This one’s uncomfortable; it chafes. This skirt is too long. This one’s too short...”

I sit on the edge of my bed and pout: “Nothing to wear!” Bill is already back in the kitchen, oblivious to my dismay.

Seasons come and go. Clothing styles change. Different regions of my anatomy fluctuate in size. Fabrics wear thin, fade, and lose their appeal. Good thing I have another closet with unlimited choices. I have a wardrobe that will never fade, wear out, or go out of style. Best of all, these clothes fit perfectly each time I pull them out and put them on.

Have you checked your spiritual wardrobe lately? The apostle Paul listed the garments of the Holy Spirit in his letter to

Colossian believers. First on his list is *tender mercies*. Also known as compassion, tender mercies are acts of empathy for weak or hurting people. They are usually motivated by feeling the same kind of pain as others or being able to imagine it. I call tender mercies the underwear of God’s wardrobe – personal and next-to-the-skin. They are the foundation for everything that goes on the outside.

Next on Paul’s list is *kindness*. Everyone can use a warm-hearted deed as simple as a smile. But kindness is more than that. It’s an attitude that becomes part of your life-style. It involves treating others with honor and significance. The attitude of kindness is everyday stuff like a great pair of sneakers. Not frilly. Not fancy. Just plain and comfortable.

Humility is next. No matter how much we win or lose in life, God wraps us in a beautiful cloak of grace. When we’re humiliated, he loves us exactly as we are. When we’re in the limelight, we understand the big part he played in our success.

Meekness is one of my favorite things to wear. Some people think it’s nondescript, but I disagree. Meekness makes it possible to endure difficult circumstances and poor treatment at the hands of others. It is a durable garment with interesting textures. And meekness looks different on everyone!

How about *long-suffering*? Sometimes I wish that old rag would just wear out so I could get something more glamorous and colorful. But I know God has fashioned even this to enhance my life. There are times when long-suffering is the only appropriate thing to wear for a particular occasion – and then I’m glad it’s in the closet.

Bearing with others and *forgiveness* are the outerwear of God’s designs. They are the last things we pull on over everything else before we go out into the world. It would get awfully cold without them. They protect us from the elements and keep the wind from blowing down our necks. As we go in and out of various experiences, we button them up often and keep trudging.

Above all else, Paul says, put on *love*. Without this, we are never fully dressed. You might think of love as your best hat or the jeweled pin on the lapel of life. It is that one essential accessory you should never leave behind. Dust it off, shine it up. Never go out without it!

Put away the shabby clothing of the past and enjoy all the garments in your spiritual wardrobe. Dress like the man/woman God made you to be. He replaces sackcloth and ashes for garments of praise!

(Taken from Joy Breaks)

A Coincidence?

Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For whatever measure you deal out to others, it will be dealt to you in return (Luke 6:38 NIV).

I was very proud of my daughter Emily. At only nine years old, she had been carefully saving her allowance money all year and trying to earn extra money by doing small jobs around the neighborhood. Emily was determined to save enough to buy a girl's mountain bike, an item for which she'd been longing, and she'd been faithfully putting her money away since the beginning of the year.

"How're you doing, honey?" I asked soon after Thanksgiving. I knew she had hoped to have all the money she needed by the end of the year.

"I have forty-nine dollars, Daddy," she said. "I'm not sure if I'm going to make it."

"You've worked so hard," I said encouragingly. "Keep it up. But you know that you can have your pick from my bicycle collection."

"Thanks, Daddy. But your bikes are so old."

I smiled to myself because I knew she was right. As a collector of vintage bicycles, all my girls' bikes were 1950s models – not the kind a kid would choose today.

When the Christmas season arrived, Emily and I went comparison-shopping, and she saw several less expensive bikes for which she thought she'd have to settle. As we left one store, she noticed a Salvation Army volunteer ringing his bell by a big kettle. "Can we give them something, Daddy?" she asked.

"Sorry, Em, I'm out of change," I replied.

Emily continued to work hard all through December, and it seemed she might make her goal after all. Then suddenly one day, she came downstairs to the kitchen and made an announcement to her mother.

"Mom," she said hesitantly, "you know all the money I've been saving?"

"Yes, dear," smiled my wife, Diane.

"God told me to give it to the poor people."

Diane knelt down to Emily's level. "That's a very kind thought, sweetheart. But you've been saving all year. Maybe you could give some of it."

Emily shook her head vigorously. "God said all."

When we saw she was serious, we gave her various suggestions about where she could contribute. But

Emily had received specific instructions, and so one cold Sunday morning before Christmas, with little fanfare, she handed her total savings of \$58 to a surprised and grateful Salvation Army volunteer.

Moved by Emily's selflessness, I suddenly noticed that a local car dealer was collecting used bicycles to refurbish and give to poor children for Christmas. And I realized that if my nine-year-old daughter could give away all her money, I could certainly give up one bike from my collection.

As I picked up a shiny but old-fashioned kid's bike from the line in the garage, it seemed as if a second bicycle in the line took on a glow. Should I give a second bike? No, certainly the one would be enough.

But as I got to my car, I couldn't shake the feeling that I should donate that second bike as well. And if Emily could follow heavenly instructions, I decided I could, too. I turned back and loaded the second bike into the trunk, then took off for the dealership.

When I delivered the bikes, the car dealer thanked me and said, "You're making two kids very happy, Mr Koper. And here are your tickets."

"Tickets?" I asked.

"Yes. For each bike donated, we're giving away one chance to win a brand new men's 21-speed mountain bike from a local bike shop. So here are your tickets for two chances."

Why wasn't I surprised when that second ticket won the bike? "I can't believe you won!" laughed Diane, delighted.

"I didn't," I said. "It's pretty clear that Emily did."

And why wasn't I surprised when the bike dealer happily substituted a gorgeous new girl's mountain bike for the man's bike advertised?

Coincidence? Maybe. I like to think it was God's way of rewarding a little girl for a sacrifice beyond her years – while giving her dad a lesson in charity and the power of the Lord.

Ed Koper

(Taken from Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul)

MISSIONS TRIP TO JAKARTA, INDONESIA (NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 2, 2006)



I thank and praise God for the opportunity to witness what He is doing in Jakarta. Rev. Suen, Sisters Rosalind, Yoke Lin, Etni (our interpreter) and I were privileged to be invited by the Women's Ministry there for this Mission Trip.

The Indonesians are very hospitable people as we were warmly welcomed at every church we visited. Despite very bad traffic jams in Jakarta, we were encouraged by their enthusiasm in attending church services and also by the way they sing unto the Lord.

I also thank God for their freedom to choose their faith. I believe God is doing mighty works in Indonesia by the many churches that are planted there. I pray that many Malaysian churches will support them in prayers, finance or in other ways. Praise and thank God again and glory to His Mighty Name!

Sis. Lin Chua

I thank God for this trip to Jakarta. It was an eye-opener for me to see a Muslim country that has the freedom of worship. The churches we attended in Jakarta were big, and the congregation consisted of poor, middle-class, rich, educated and uneducated Indonesians. The language they sang and preached in was Bahasa Indonesia. It was quite a change from English.

Praise God for loving all His creations!

Sis. Rosalind Too

I am deeply encouraged by the way the Indonesians sing and worship God. Their commitment to attend church is commendable for in spite of bad traffic jams and distance, it was not a deterrent for them not to attend church

I thank God for widening my horizon and to be able to witness the mighty works of God in our neighboring country. Praise His Name!

Sis. Phoon Yoke Lin



From L – R: Sis. Etni, Sis. Yoke Lin, Pastor Tony and wife, Pastor Yulianus M, Pastor Tetty, Pastor Suen, Sis. Lin, Sis. Rosalind

MISSIONS TRIP TO JAKARTA, INDONESIA (NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 2, 2006)



Women's Ministry Christmas Celebration in Gereja Sidang Jemaat Allah Bethlehem, Bogor



Worship Service at Gereja Sidang Jemaat Allah Batu Tulis, Jakarta



Songs presentation by the Senior Adults of Gereja Sidang Jemaat Allah Batu Tulis, Jakarta



Praise and worship session in Gereja Sidang Jemaat Allah Kemurnian, Jakarta



Sermon preaching by Pastor Suen in Gereja Sidang Jemaat Allah Kemurnian, Jakarta

Gospel Assembly Resource Center (Home School) Awards Night 2006

The Home School, GA Resource Center, held a year-end Celebration Night on Friday, 17th November 2006. Parents, siblings, friends and even grandparents as well as people who attend GA were there to show support and celebrate with the students of their achievements this year. Several of the families are not Christians and we were very happy that they could join us.

The night started with a time of Praise and Worship followed by a sermon by Pastor Kelly. Then the students took it away with a short skit titled, "And in Heaven, the Angels." It was a skit that got the crowd laughing as well as capturing their hearts as we covered the birth of Jesus and His crucifixion. Following the stirring mood of the end of the skit, the older students performed a 'Stick' dance to the song, "Arise, my love."

Next came the younger students performing the song, "Lord, I lift Your Name on high." As a finale of performances, all the students got together as a choir and sang 2 songs: "Hail Jesus, You're my King" and "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Singing in separate parts! Very impressive! Future Grammy winners! ☺). After the loud clapping and cheering from the audience, awards were given to students for their achievements through out the year. As someone commented, the night was very well organized. Good work kids! Basically, the night could be summed up in one verse, "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).



Student Choir

CLASS OF 2006



Carmen Khong



Chew Jin Yin



David Ho



Goh Qing Yi



Jason Tan



Jeremy Cheong



Joanne Soo



Jonathan Saw



Joseph Ho

CLASS OF 2006



Joshua How



Katherine Lai



Liang Yihui



Loh Evan



Marcus Chew



Phuan Ching Seet



Rachel Tung



Rebecca Tung



Samantha How

CLASS OF 2006



Shammie Ng



Tan Kar Mern



Tan Kar Reid



Tommy Shum



Wong Mann Woei



Woo Zhong Min



Yap Reuel



Jonathan Soo

Absent

- Joshua Khoo
- Lewis Chew

PHOTO GALLERY

Senior Adults Day - August 27, 2006



Song presentation by the Senior Adults of Gospel Assembly of God

Water Baptism - October 7, 2006



From L – R: Rev. Kelly Yap with the water baptism candidates; Bro. Oscar Lim, Justin Yee, Phang Jo Yee, Yap Reuel, Benjamin Cheong, Joel Soon, Justin Choong

PHOTO GALLERY

Miracle Sunday - October 29, 2006



Songs presentation and testimonies by the Hymnsmen on Miracle Sunday

PHOTO GALLERY

Children's Day Outing - November 4, 2006



Children's Day outing at the TTDI Park

Discovery Hour Bible Quiz - November 12, 2006



The Winners of the Discovery Hour Bible Quiz 2006

PHOTO GALLERY

Home Cell Rally - December 2, 2006



Various presentations by the different cell sectors

What's so glorious about everyday living?



When a fourth grade teacher asked her pupils to compose essays on the human body, one little boy wrote:

Your head is kind of hard and your brains are in it and your hair grows on it. Your face is in front of your head where you eat. Your neck is what keeps your head off your shoulders, which are sort of like shelves where you hook the straps of your bib overalls. Your arms are what you have to pitch a softball with and so you can reach for the muffins at breakfast. Your fingers stick out of your hands so you can scratch, throw a curve and add arithmetic. Your legs are what you run on and your toes are what get stubbed. And that's all there is of you, except what is inside. But I've never seen that.

By Daisy Hepburn

(Taken from What's So Glorious About Everyday Living?)

Maintaining a Healthy Family

By Bill Carmichael

A survey asked 1,500 children, "What do you think makes for a happy family?" They did not list fancy houses, more money, new cars, or other status symbols. "Doing things together" was their response. What families do is not nearly as important as the fact that they do it together.

And it isn't just the fun stuff. Doing daily chores like housecleaning and yard work should be a big part of togetherness.

Today we struggle with the togetherness issue because so many voices scream for our time and attention. Family time competes with so many other things that demand attention. In this time pressure cooker, many parents end up missing out on their children's childhoods.

Raising our children is a special calling. There may only be one window of opportunity when a child will ask a certain question or one time when a teenager will be open to your input. If you miss that moment, it may be gone forever. Time is a nonrenewable resource, when it's gone, it's gone forever.

Your children need to feel they have you completely and exclusively once in a while. They need to sense by your actions that they are the most important person in the world to you. This is not something you give your children as an option. It is vital to their healthy development and their sense of self-worth.

Connecting through touch

Appropriate touch is an important way of connecting. Several studies show that infants who are touched, cuddled and held, sleep better, gain necessary weight better, and are healthier than babies who are not touched by a loving caregiver. Loving touch communicates security and builds children's self-esteem.

Hugging is like a miracle drug. It reduces stress, assists the body's immune system, and induces sleep. It makes us feel loved and cared for. Hugging melts hostilities and fosters closeness. It is a vital part of connection and togetherness.

Connecting through commitment

To ensure our children's sense of connection and belonging, we must remember that the stability of our marriage relationship affects our children for their entire lives. Good marriages take hard work. Good marriages are something we do. It is a matter of the heart. It is understanding the meaning of commitment. Working hard to create love and harmony is a choice we must make every day if we want our children to have a sense of connection and wholeness.

Connecting through grace

Sometimes a little grace at the right time will not only strengthen the connection between you and your child but also point his/her life in the right direction forever. It is better to bind your children to you through acts of mercy and grace than it is through acts of fear and punishment.

Don't be afraid to ask for grace. When you make a mistake, ask your family for some grace. Some parents feel it is a sign of weakness to repent and ask for forgiveness, when in reality it is a sign of strength. How else can your children learn about grace and repentance if they don't see you dip into its solace once in a while? Your acts of repentance will bond and connect your children to you in a powerful way and put a needed nutrient into the good ground of your home.

Threats to connection

The most conspicuous threat to family togetherness is found in nearly every family room: the television. In some homes, it has turned the family from a close-knit unit into a disjointed collection of individuals. It is important for parents to remember that television has a tendency to destroy a family's interaction with each other.

We teach our children what is valuable by the way we spend our time. Television is addictive. It can steal our time.

Showing compassion

One of the most wonderful ways to connect with your children is by doing things together for others, expecting nothing in return. Something wonderful happens when you reach out to help others, to see the needs of others as more important than your own.

Our children need to know how to give to others; how to be compassionate; how to identify with the poor, the elderly, and the disadvantaged. They need to appreciate what struggles others may have to endure just to survive. Home is where we can learn the concept of compassion and charity.

Charlotte Lunsford, national chairperson of volunteers for the Red Cross, says, "When people begin volunteering (for service) at a young age, normally they volunteer throughout their lives." Parents can cultivate the good ground of their homes by making them places that demonstrate Christ's compassion."

Home is the school for building relationships. Home teaches us how to get along and how to connect with others.

(Adapted from Pentecostal Evangel, October 12, 1997)

Poetry Corner...

Glorious Christmas

The whole world is rejoicing,
Excitement is in the air.
Christmas lights are glowing brightly.
Love and joy are everywhere.

The aroma of fresh baked goodies
Lingers long into the night.
Snowflakes gently falling,
What a glorious, wondrous sight.

The church bells in the steeple
Are ringing loud and clear.
The carolers singing softly.
You can feel God's presence near.

It's the Christ Child's birth we celebrate
On this glorious Christmas Day.
The rich, the poor and lonely
All bow to Him and pray.

On bent knees we thank Thee, God,
For all of the gifts You send.
May there be peace on earth
And goodwill toward all men.

Shirley Hile Powell

God's Promise

Whenever your heart is hurting,
And you're filled with much despair,
Wherever you turn, friend, for solace,
Remember that God's always there.

Whatever fate brings without warning,
Whatever the trails that you bear,
God's love and grace will enfold you,
If you turn to Him in prayer.

For He is the rainbow above us,
Awesome for all to see,
Reflecting His promise and glory
When we seek Him implicitly.

Vi B. Chevalier



NOTICES

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to Sis. Sharon Foo and her children on the loss of her husband, Bro. Ben Foo, who went home to be with the Lord on September 30, 2006.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the newly weds, Lawrence Chong and Angie Goh, who were joined in holy matrimony on October 18, 2006.



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Email: wga57@streamyx.com

CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY

English Worship Service	9:30 am
Discovery Hour (Children)	9:45 am
Chinese Worship Service	10:00 am
School Of Christian Growth (Youth)	11:45 am
School Of Christian Growth (Adults)	12:15 pm
Christ Ambassadors (Youth)	1:30 pm

MONDAY

Men's Intercessory Prayer	8:30 pm
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WEDNESDAY

Corporate Prayer Meeting	8:30 pm
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FRIDAY

Women's Intercessory Prayer	10:00 am
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FORTNIGHTLY

Home Cell Meeting (English) (Call our Church Office for details)	8:00 pm
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COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Christian Counseling By Appointment
- Christian Marriage & Registration
- Christian Funeral Arrangement & Helps
- Resource Center (Home School)

PASTORS AT YOUR SERVICE

- Rev. Kelly Yap (Senior Pastor)
- Rev. Suen Chee (Associate Pastor)

CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

- Sis. May Lim (Administration)
- Sis. Toh Jin Ai (Resource Center)
- Sis. Kong Kar Yoong (Resource Center)
- Sis. Jaime Yap (Resource Center)
- Bro. Yap Rufus (Resource Center)