

Learning to Forgive Ourselves

To me, this is the most difficult part of forgiveness. As Christians, we are quick to offer the grace of our Lord to the world, but we often parcel it out meagerly to ourselves.

Consider King David, who committed adultery and then murdered the husband to cover up his offense. When his sin was exposed, David repented, and the Lord sent the prophet Nathan to tell him, *"Your sin has been pardoned."* Yet, even though David knew he was forgiven, he had lost his joy. He prayed, *"Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice... Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit"* (Psalm 51:8,12).

Why was David so disturbed? This man had been justified before the Lord, and he had peace through God's promise of forgiveness. Yet, it's possible to have your sins blotted out of God's Book but not out of your conscience. David wrote this Psalm because he wanted his conscience to stop condemning him for his sins. And David couldn't forgive himself. Now he was enduring the penalty for holding onto unforgiveness—an unforgiveness directed toward himself—and that is a loss of joy. The joy of the Lord comes to us as a fruit of **accepting** his forgiveness.

I have been greatly impacted by the biography of Hudson Taylor. Taylor was one of the most effective missionaries in history, a godly man of prayer who established churches throughout China's vast interior. Yet he ministered for years without joy. He was downcast over his struggles, agonizing over secret longings and thoughts of unbelief.

In 1869 Taylor experienced a revolutionary change. He saw that Christ had all he needed, yet none of his own tears or repenting could release those blessings in him. Taylor recognized there was only one way to Christ's fullness: through faith. Every promise God had made with man required faith. So Taylor determined to stir up his faith, yet even that effort proved vain. Finally, in his darkest hour, the Holy Spirit gave him a revelation: faith comes not by striving, but by resting on the promises of God. That is the secret of tapping into all of Christ's blessings.

Taylor forgave himself for the sins that Christ had said were already cast into the sea. And because he rested on God's promises, he was able to become a joyous servant, continually casting all his cares on the Lord.

Reprinted from

www.devotions@davidwilkersonglobal.org

Life group prayer and praise

- The **Rev. Ray Reeder** passed away early this morning (Wednesday) in the long-term care using in Jerome ID. Ray pastored ABC in N D; Miles City, MT; Rupert, ID and Shoshone, ID. He has lived in Jerome, ID the last few years. When his wife, Dehlia, was suffering from the devastation of Alzheimer's, Ray visited her faithfully, usually twice a day, even though she did not recognize him. Ray and Dehlia married late in life and had no children.
- **Tom and Sandy Klempel** were here on Sunday, great to be home—but they have to head back to CA soon. Pray for traveling mercy and protection during the trip. Please pray for Sandy, she is still not 100%.
- **Joyce Watkins** asks that we pray for a closer walk with God for her.
- I am going to be with my youngest son and family in Kansas, he is having a brain tumor treated October 13 and has asked **Donna** and I to come and care for our granddaughter and to stand with him through the procedures. Those of you who knew **Becky's** issues can understand my going to be there. The tumor is not cancerous to our best understanding. ~ **Richard Axmann, former ABCNW pastor**
- Please pray for **Gail Downing**, she has a mass on her lungs and needs healing from several addictions. Pray also for **Jim**, he needs healing and strength and wisdom for life's struggles.
- Housing Update: We feel we have found our home in the Lake Goodwin area, we made an offer after church last Sunday. We'd love to have continued prayer for open doors and smooth process. In addition, guidance for housing during the process. ~ **Wendy Roullier**
- Thanks for the prayers for **Keaton**, he has Marfan Syndrome, it attacks the ligaments and tendons, so far he only has a mild case and the Drs. want to see him once a year. ~ **Rose Toscano**
- Please keep **Dave Kerr & family** in your prayers.
- **Darcy Stanyo** would like your prayers for wisdom about **Nina's** father.
- Please pray for **Ruth LeMaster**, she needs a used small economy car for work.

Mark your Calendars: The North Puget Sound Area Fall Convention

Is coming October 10th. David T. Olson is the special guest speaker. Watch for more info.

Pray for our Military

- *Jonathan Michaels Estrella—son of Sharon Boswell.*
- *Jason Bjazevich—Megan Owenby's husband—Army Special Forces— Stationed at Fort Lewis.*
- *Joel Ellis—son of John & Midge—Serving in Iraq.*
- *Scott Harpell—son of Brian & Lynne—Stationed at Fort Bragg.*
- *Aaron Weston—nephew of Ken and Kathy—Stationed in San Diego.*
- *Eric Schmidt — son of Gene and Pat Schmidt — Camp Fallujah, Iraq.*
- *Benjamin Lagonia—dear friend of the Naylor family—stationed in Manitoba.*
- *David Coyle—son of Karen Mark—residing in Seattle, member of the National Guard.*
- *Adam Flynn—a young Marine safely home and out of military.*
- *Brett Love—grandson of Wilma—Army National Guard—Serving at home.*
- *Robin Swartz - Serving in the military - currently home in Everett.*
- *Christian Chmielewski—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.*
- *ENS Andrew E. Timpner (fiancé to Christin Suthard) on deployment with USS Momsen.*
- *Devin Abbitt—nephew of Paul Abbitt - Marine, stateside.*
- *Doug Baer—a teacher at Kamiak HS heading to Iraq in the Army Reserves—thru Sept. 09.*
- *Duane Neyens—brother to*
- *Kathy Chapman—Nat. Grd. Afghanistan.*
- *Philip Ankney-LCPL Afghanistan Cousin of MaryAnn Peterson.*
- *Jeffrey Lillard—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed in Afghanistan.*
- *Aaron Chmielewski—joined the Marines. Nephew of JoAnn Couturie.*



Life Group Happenings

All in the Family

by Florence Miller

Hearing is a God-given gift. So are finding your hearing aids. **Esther Friesen** had been missing hers for quite some time until a niece recently did a serious search and found them! Esther appreciates hearing with understanding now.

Ralph and Shirley Schapler, along with **Jack and Mary Elaine Burgess** just returned from an Alaskan cruise. Their ship couldn't go into Sitka because of hurricane force winds so instead cruised among the icebergs in Tracy Arm-Fjord which they found beautiful.

Doug and Terry Brundage just purchased a second home in Sequim. It will serve now as a vacation destination until Doug retires. Congratulations!

Mabel Elder came through her heart surgery successfully. The critical time is now. She is in ICU in the UW hospital and has been sitting up at times. Do keep the prayers going!

John VanDalen came through surgery well, his arm is sore, but getting better, now he can feel all his other aches and pains.

SAM is having a garage sale for **Florence Miller** at her home 4320 Ridgemont Drive here in Everett. The sale will be Friday from 9-4:00 pm and again on Saturday, Sept. 18th & 19th. She has moved into town now and has had to downsize.

We received two notes in the office, one from **Lela Kerby**, *"I just wanted to thank you for all your prayers for me while I was so sick, I am better now and it's great to be back!"* the other was from **Carol Colyn & family** about the service we held for **Darlene Udman**. She said, *"We thank God for FBC, Pastor Brian and the ladies that served the memorial desserts, the musicians and technicians, everyone was so friendly, kind and organized! Every detail was graciously and lovingly taken care of."*

Preschool ministry is in need of two or three radio/CD players to use on Sunday mornings with their curriculum.

If you have one you would like to donate, please contact Christen Weller

Friday Nite Update

We have had a good summer. We had an increase of guests - up to 165! the last Friday of August. We have also had an increase in team members overall though sadly, the group from Intermec has had to discontinue their once a month meal prep. Our prayers go out to them in appreciation of their support and for better times financially as their company continues to down-size and some of them will be jobless in the near future.

Eight team members have completed training with Ivar's to assist in running their concession stands at Safeco, Qwest and Husky Stadiums. In return, they will contribute to our ministry financially each time we work their stands. Five of us were able to participate at the WSU vs. Hawaii game last Saturday and we will head to Husky Stadium this week. A fun time (and tired feet) were had by all. We have openings for a few more to get trained on October 3rd. If anyone is interested, please contact me ASAP to get your name on the list.

Prayer requests for this week are: **L** - pray for safety as a person she testified against three years ago is released from prison, **I** - (age 7) my brother needs to come home; **KV** - for my son to be better from pneumonia.

Be Blessed - Chris

Lifegroup Contributing Opportunities

Update September 13th

Adult attendance: 274 Children: 9 am: 17+8 10:30 am: 44+16
Youth Small Group: Middle School 16+3
High School 9+2

Happy Happy
Happy Happy
Happy Birthday!
Happy Happy

Sept. 19th, Jim Milsap
Sept. 20th, Ashley Naylor
Sept. 21st, Jeanne Iversen

ABMM Meeting

ABMM will meet September 17th at 12:00 pm for their monthly luncheon. The program will feature our Youth Pastor, Nathan, with a report on the Mission Teams experience in Mexico. Please come and join us by making your reservation by the 15th. Get the latest mission news. RSVP to the church office , 425-259-9166 or by calling Faith.



We need 100 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child!

Regular sized shoe boxes are best. Please bring empty, unwrapped shoeboxes to FBC by October 4th. If you have questions, please contact Beverly DeCelles.

Get to know us! Newcomer's Desserts are designed with you in mind!

"Let's get acquainted" is the emphasis at the dessert. You'll meet some of the staff and leaders from the church and other newcomers like yourself. We provide some information about the church, but the accent is on friendship. Our first fall Newcomer's Dessert is scheduled for Sunday, September 20th at 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

If you have questions or would like to sign up for a Newcomer Dessert, call the office @ 425.259.9166 or email the office at joanne@fbc-everett.org for more information.

CONNECTING CLASS : Want to explore membership—ask questions, meet pastoral staff and join others in this opportunity to explore what it means to be part of a Biblically-functioning community of faith? Next offering is Sunday Sept 27th at 9 am in Rm. B56 in the Community Center. Sign up using your yellow communication card or stop by the church office.



USHER CAPTAIN 2009:

September-Darrell Olson
Marc Owenby
October-Pete Sontra
Lucky Elkins

COFFEE HOUR 2009

September 20th
Janet Duvarado
CR Life Group
September 27th
Marty Visser
Sunday AM
October 4th
Dan Clark
Life Group
October 11th
Bill Erickson
Clipper Class