



# Prayer Pointers

1. **Pray for our Church Camp. (June 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>)**
  - **More than 315 have registered thus far. Pray that all campers will be blessed and renewed and there will be NO last minute hinderances.**
  - **God's mighty anointing upon Dr Kahmael as he preaches and upon all our worship sessions.**
  
2. **The NGO "Perkasa" has been making very racialistic remarks.**
  - **let us respond by praying that God will open the eyes of their leader, Ibrahim Ali, to know how to dwell together in unity.**
  - **pray that Malaysia be cleansed from such mindsets and PM Najib will be bold to implement good and united policies for all races and religion**
  
3. **Sri Johor residents are ripe for harvest.**
  - **about 90 of them came for our Parents Day and 30 plus responded to Jesus.**
  - **pray for divine wisdom as to how to do it and the unity of the Cheras churches to work towards this purpose.**
  
4. **Pray for each others' needs as per requests...**

## UNDERSTANDING CURRENT ISSUES

**SUB THEME: THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS.**

**(Part 1)**



The book and film *The Hiding Place* tell the story of a Dutch woman, Corrie Ten Boom. During World War II, Corrie and her family sheltered Jews from the Nazi occupation forces in Holland. She and her family were arrested and shipped to a concentration camp. In the camp, Corrie's sister, Betsey, died.

After Corrie got out, she thought she had forgiven this one particularly cruel guard, but still she was tormented by the hurt. Finally she went to talk to her pastor about it. Corrie's pastor took her outside the church and pointed up to the steeple. "You see those bells?"

Corrie nodded. Her pastor said, "Well, after you've been pulling on the ropes, even when you let go, the bells keep ringing for a while. But let go of the rope. In time, the bells will stop ringing."

In forgiveness, we have to let go of the rope, to stop tugging on the hurt that's been done to us. If we make that crucial decision to take our hands off, after awhile the noisy clanging in our soul will finally slow and then stop. Our hearts will grow quiet again.

The bible is clear in stating that when we refuse to forgive we have no claims on God's forgiveness. Jesus was unequivocal on this point. As his followers, we are required to forgive those who sin against us. (Matt. 6:15) This is the pre requisite to receiving forgiveness, ourselves. **It is interesting to note that the person who genuinely has tasted forgiveness is more ready to forgive others!** Nothing enables us to forgive like knowing in our hearts that we have been forgiven. This is probably why Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." (Matt. 6:12)

**A. Discuss on the following, true or not true and why?:-**

- **Forgiveness is instantaneous or immediate.**
- **If you haven't forgotten what the person did to you, you haven't forgiven.**
- **Forgiveness means you'll be reconciled to the person who hurt you.**
- **If the wrongdoer has never taken responsibility for what he did, you can't forgive.**

**B. Discovering the Eternal Principles.**

1. Forgiveness requires that we **surrender the right** to get even.

\*Which event in the bible that you can remember that will support this truth?

\*What reasons do people give for not forgiving?

\*Think about a time when someone did wrong you. What did you want from that person?

\*If forgiveness is so hard, why bother with it?

Author, Philip Yancey calls **'forgiveness' an "unnatural act"**. Smedes writes in "Forgive and Forget" that **'forgiveness is a miracle.'** It breaks through the normal calculus of morality that calls for evenhandedness and balance. **Forgiving (God's way) is always a decision to put up with an uneven score."**

We learned that we must surrender our right to get even. Every victim will feel that the victimizer deserves to suffer as much as he made us to suffer. But that is not necessarily so. **"The wages of sin (wronging God) is death." (Rom.6:23)** but the payment was made through the death of God's own Son. The blood of Christ covers all of our sins but each of us has to come before God to experience forgiveness. **When we forgive, therefore, we place the outcome of the matter in God's hands and often choose to live with the scales unbalanced – at least until eternity!**

**(To be continued....)**

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