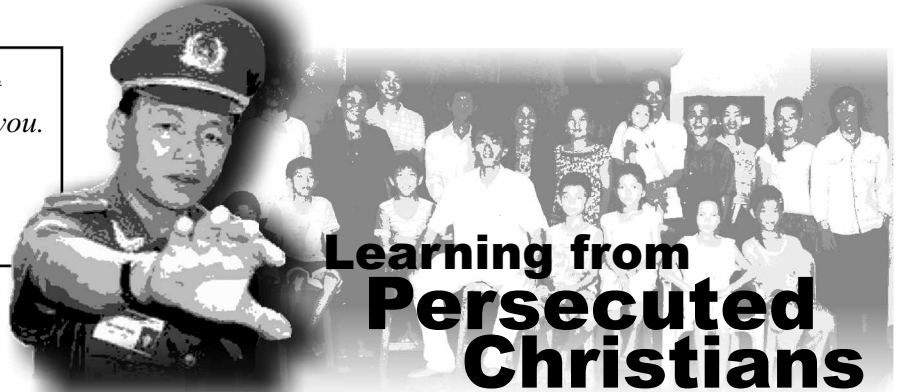


# FORGIVE?

*"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

*But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."*

*Matthew 6:14 & 15*



Do you feel like our nation and the world is rapidly descending into chaos and confusion - like, it's 'falling apart'? Yeah, me too! And like me, are you concerned about the economic, political and spiritual conditions we find ourselves living in? The scope and complexity of the issues seems overwhelming. To add to this chaos, media is cashing in on a merciless battle for the minds and hearts of voters through a barrage of information and disinformation.

Who knows what is fact, hearsay, or blatant lies any more? Whose voice can we trust?

We are all effected by the issues at hand; but let's move beyond the obvious. Let's look at something, a by-product of this season, that perhaps is being overlooked.

In all this upheaval sweeping across our nation and around the world, one of the things boiling up to the surface is that there seems to be a whole lot of people who, in their frustration, are harboring anger in their hearts; anger which is giving fertile soil for seeds of bitterness and even hatred that is being directed towards certain government offices, leaders, and people in general having varied or opposing opinions.

Regardless of the justifiable facts we may have in our stockpile of proofs, a worrisome, bitter, or angry heart can not bring glory to God or his church!

Hearsay, half truths, unbalanced and biased reporting etc. is being propagated from a multitude of sources. We are all targets of it. Like thistle seeds being sown in a field of wheat by an enemy, if we don't stop that enemy in his

The following is a letter I received on May 16 from a Vietnamese pastor...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For a long period of the time, I myself and the church have been constantly threaten, bothered and many times invited\* by the authorities. The Sunday before last Sunday, when we were worshiping our Lord, suddenly they came in, with threaten words. Then they wrote a paper for what they call: 'illegal meeting'.

This morning\*\* many police men came in a truck. They divided into many groups stood along the road near my house. Then one group came into my house, they did the same trick\*\*\*.

Then they withdrew waiting out side in order to stop any motorbike which came out from my house. One of our brother, Mr. (name withheld) fell down when they tried to stop his motorbike. But thank God that he got no injury.

Finally they took away two motorbikes and confiscated the driver licence of another

\* mandatory appearance at the police station for interrogation

\*\* May 16, 2010

\*\*\* public intimidation, humiliation

motorbike. We think that our brothers will face threat and will be fined when they go to the police station to take their motorbike and paper back.

I don't know what will happen to the church next, but it seems that they are intensifying persecutions on the church here. So please pray for the Lord 's divine protection and peace on his church.

Brother in the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Pastor H.

Later that same day I received phone call from another pastor in Vietnam who has faced repeated persecution over the years. Here is the counsel (the essence of it) that he had for the pastor who had just written the previous letter...

*"I just called Brother H. so that I could encourage him in this time of testing," Brother N. said.*

*"I told him that the church needs to pray and fast, not about ending the persecution, but so that he does not allow any opportunity for bad feelings to grow in his heart."*

*"What Brother H. needs to realize is that the real thing that is happening is that Satan wants to infect him and his church with bitterness and anger. He wants to destroy the pure love that they feel in their hearts".*

*"If they focus on the acts of the police, then they will have fallen into the trap Satan has set. Rather, they must understand that this is not really about destroying his church meetings, but rather about destroying what God has done in their hearts."*

*"So I told Brother H. that he must pray and fast because the battle is spiritual, not physical, and that the real victory will be found in holding on to the pure love that comes from the Holy Spirit."*

*"I told him that in order to do that, he must quickly forgive those who are attacking him and see the bigger picture.*

*"I also told him that the persecution is necessary in order to keep him humble. You know, if a church does not have persecution here, then they begin to feel proud - like they are more spiritual than others who do have persecution."*

*"So I told Brother H. to forgive, relax and let the Holy Spirit work in his heart to purify and prove what is true and what is love. Whatever else happens, don't worry about it. Jesus knows what you are going through and He loves you."*

**P**lease continue to pray for Brother H. and many others like him in Vietnam and China who are facing ongoing persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ.

## Join us for the next exciting Go Forth Ministry Bible Courier trip to Hong Kong / China!

*...plus Vietnam!*

NOVEMBER 20 - DEC 4, 2010



**China needs Bibles!**  
We deliver!

**Is God nudging you to help?**

For details contact Go Forth Ministry at:  
Email: [go4th@valkyrie.net](mailto:go4th@valkyrie.net) or call: 330-698-1001

Cost: \$2395.00 - not including \$350.00 for food and sightseeing

To sign up, a deposit of \$500.00 must be sent to GFM by August 30, 2010

Your signed passports with 6 blank pages must be at GFM office by September 30, 2010

### **FORGIVE?** ...continued from page 1

tracks, the seeds he sows in our hearts will spring up to bear a crop of fear, helplessness, anger, worry, depression, bitterness, and hatred.

Questions which arise, or at least ought to be rising in this cacophony of opinions and emotions within the Christian community might be, "Where or what is the source of these attitudes of the heart and how can such attitudes be justified alongside the Fruit of the Holy Spirit", and "Where is God's voice among all of these 'other' voices? And then, "Am I willing to listen to Him if I do hear what is He saying?"

So, "Hold everything!" Could we just take a moment to bring things back into focus, to see our world from God's perspective in light of all His amazing promises?

Yes, as a nation and as individuals we are facing many mind-boggling difficulties as political parties and the media highlight perceived injustices and promote extreme solutions. Confusion, frustration, fear, and feelings of being victimized are resulting in behavior among God's people that needs to be addressed in light of the Fruit of God's Spirit that ought to be working without compromise in the hearts of those who love Jesus Christ.

Have we forgotten that God is over all? I, for one, want to declare that I trust that He loves me and that He has my best interests in his heart regardless of how things may feel or look on the surface. In that fact, I rejoice!

Yet, could it be that we are inadvertently cutting ourselves off from God's good intentions for us? Could it be that these attitudes of anger and bitterness are resulting in unforgiveness which is fermenting unchecked even within the

church and causing damage to the Kingdom of God internally as the external assaults divert attention from the greater issues of the heart?

When Christians get frustrated, angry or scared enough, then we tend to go to 2 Chronicles 7:14, often with the idea that if we can follow this simple formula we will somehow be able to get God to help us reach some sort of political goal and bring an end to the source of our personal discomfort.

*"... If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

2 Chronicles 7:14

I love this promise; I believe it wholeheartedly! But we need to take a close look at the promise, which, like so many of God's promises, comes with conditions.

Before we rush off to our next '2 Chronicles 7:14' prayer meeting, (which I highly encourage) I want to put forth a challenge: No matter what your political slant or opinion, do a 'heart-check'! Then if necessary, if you find that there is anger, resentment, bitterness, etc., fermenting beneath the surface, do something that will greatly enhance the effectiveness of our prayers. Sincerely and humbly forgive any and all government leaders and offices, and people having varied or opposing opinions who have directly or inadvertently offended you!

"Why in the world do I need or want to do that," you may ask? Because forgiveness is a key ingredient in effective praying! If ever there was a time that we need effective prayers, it's now!

Jesus taught in his prayer example...

*"...Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."*

Matt. 6:12

This was immediately followed by Jesus challenge...

*"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."*

Matt. 6:14 & 15

Wow! That's pretty powerful stuff! This is perhaps one of those promises from God (with preconditions) that we'd rather overlook! It seems to me that if we chose to not forgive, turning a blind eye to what the enemy may have already planted in our heart, the end result will be that we will have blocked our access to the promise of 2 Chronicles 7:14, the promise for forgiveness of our sin, which is key to the 'healing of the land'.

That may be pretty difficult! For some, you are feeling the impact of governmental decisions in one way or another right now that may seem so unfair. Yet I know for sure that if we are ever going to see our own nation turned around through our prayers and by the hand of God, forgiveness will be a key foundational ingredient.

Forgive them! Then put all your trust and hope in God and what He has promised for His children. He really does love you! He won't let you down!

#### **FORGIVE:**

- 1 : to give up resentment of or claim to requital for <forgive an insult>  
: to grant relief from payment of <forgive a debt>
- 2 : to cease to feel resentment against (an offender)  
: pardon <forgive one's enemies>

So if we are willing, by forgiving, we can lift up our eyes from the troubles directly in front of us and get a God's-eye-view of what is happening. As we see things from God's perspective we have great reason to not only be encouraged in this season of discouragement, but great cause to be excited about getting caught up in his purposes and his love, and the rapid and powerful expansion of His Kingdom around the world and here at home.

We get to choose. We can choose to focus on the temporal, experimental kingdoms of this world where the seeds of fear, selfishness, victimization, and hopelessness can so quickly spring up into deeply rooted trees of anger, bitterness, and rebellion ...even in the name of God.

Or, we can choose to focus on a Higher Kingdom where hearts dare to press into the reality of fullness to overflowing with the promised Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (which, by the way, no law or legislation can stand against). Galatian 5:22-23

With our focus on that Higher Kingdom, with ears turned to the Spirit of God, let's humbly and aggressively pursue the promises of 2 Chronicles 7:14, calling, seeking, and praying in the Name which is above all other names, Jesus, in whom is ALL POWER and ALL AUTHORITY in heaven and on earth!

Matthew 28:18-20

I received the following report a few weeks ago. It is an update of what God is doing through the labors of the Vietnamese Christian leaders you are enabling through your financial support and prayers. Thank you so much!

Dear Wendell,

*Greeting you in the Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you very much for your love, prayer and help to us in the whole past year. We are very thankful to the Lord for last year.*

*Though recession hit the whole world, the Lord is still faithful and He have done abundantly exceedingly above our prayer and imagination.*

*I would like to give you last year's statistics and you can convey it to our supporters.*

*In 2009, I received \$55,400.00 from you (not including \$8,705.00 of the balance of 2008), see attachment file. We supported 103 workers (including me). We shared Gospel to 75,730 people, 3,756 people received Christ as their Savior and 36 new churches have been planted (from 7 members to 30 members).*

*I will call soon. May God bless you man!*

*Love from Brother N.*



Pastor P. ministering to his church of lepers.

May 19th, 2010

Kindly to: Wendell Martin, family and the church.

On behalf of all believers at \* church, I honestly thank for your prayers and helps to our church. In our gathering meeting, we pray for the Lord's blessing abundantly pouring on you.

Through Wendell Martin, you know the difficulty of \* church, most of believer here are the leprosy. Even believers here have a loving heart for the Lord, but they always live in complex of disease and often are remote from society because of transmissible disease. Our place is a location separated to the outside society.

For believers with minor problem, they get married and have children. Their children normally have no hereditary disease, but because of lacking and difficulty, they are struggling in supporting their parents making a living.

Most of them are illiterate for having no money for school fee. Some charity organization sometime come to help but it does not relief much in their need of life.

There are 8 people having operation in more than one month. For serious cases, doctor has to cut one part of their hand or leg that spoiled.

There are 310 people in leprosy village. Some believers, their disease have radiated so tense that they ask us to pray for them soon coming back home to the Lord.

These people have no relative, no money, same situation, same pain and they can not help one another. I and my wife are serving the Lord without payment, our lives are in difficulty too and we can not support them with finance.

Therefore, I would like to ask for your prayer and support believers here, especially the serious disease without finance for treatment so that their lives will get much better in their disease circumstance.

One more time, we pray that God abundantly bless you.

Yours sincerely,

In charge of \* church

Brother P.

This may be a ministry that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you or your church to respond to. Please contact me to discuss how together we can best help these hurting Vietnamese Brothers and Sisters. Call 330-698-1001

While much of what I've shared in this newsletter has focused on Vietnam, the Bible Courier ministry to the underground Church in China still remains central to the mission of Go Forth Ministry.

The need for Bibles among millions of Christians in China remains vast and the need for people to help bring them across the border into China remains a critical link to the continued growth and well-being of what is being called "the Greatest Outpouring of the Holy Spirit to ever hit Planet Earth... Ever!"

**"The church is growing in China and with it the demand for Bibles..."**, reports *Christianity Today* in a May 14, 2010 article entitled, **"Hunger for Bibles 'growing' in China"**

While the statistics given in this article are very conservative, regardless, it's interesting that the report affirms that there is an ongoing and growing need for Bibles among China's growing Christian population. The need is above and beyond the limited amount that is being produced by 'Amity Printing Press', the only governmentally approved Bible printer in China.

*Here at home...*

My father, 88, passed away on April 15. With family at his side, God quickly and peacefully brought to a close a miraculous life that was witnessed by so many in our community here!

In early 2002 Dad was diagnosed with acute leukemia, with a prognosis of 10 months to a year to live. Astonishing the doctors, Dad continued to carry on with his life and ministry of many years of grading Bible correspondent courses of men in prison. He remained full of the Joy of the Lord and an inspiration to many for an additional 8 years.

Once again a good chunk of our summer will be spent in Asia. Beginning on June 12, Daisy and I will lead a team of 11 to Hong Kong to help bring Bibles into China. After that I'll be going to Vietnam for 10 days followed by a quick trip to Central China where Daisy and I will go to see our long-time friends who left everything here several years ago to answer God's call on their lives to 'go to China'.

Wedding bells are ringing! Our one and only daughter Ellie will be getting married to Clint Snyder (from Hawaii) the end of August here in Kidron, Ohio! They met on the mission field and following the wedding, will immediately head back to China to answer God's Call on their lives that they both share.

*As always, thanks so much for doing what you do to help represent and carry on the work of Jesus Christ through the outreaches of Go Forth Ministry! God bless you!*

*Wendell & Daisy Martin*