

“In the Heart of the Community with the Community at Heart”



January 2012



The Biblical Counselor's Corner

When I forgive someone, does that mean that I am also required to forget what happened?

Ephesians 4:32 commands us to love and forgive others exactly the same way God forgives us. How does God forgive us? He removes the penalty against us that resulted from our sin. He does this by applying the effects of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to our personal account. Paul's calls this "kind and tender-hearted." **The key to forgiveness is the effect of the cross of Christ on our personal relationships.** We have the ability to forgive because we have been forgiven. Our forgiveness should motivate us to forgive others. When we refuse to forgive, we elevate ourselves even above God!

But what comes AFTER forgiveness? Does God forget after He forgives? Should we forget after we forgive someone? Is it ungodly to say, "I will forgive you, but I will never forget!"? **Jeremiah 31:34** says, "I will forgive Israel's iniquity and their sin I will remember no more." This verse is repeated in **Hebrews 8 and 10**, and like words are in **Isaiah 43:25**. God is not saying that He will have no recollection of their sins, for God had established a promise of blessing and cursing for Israel, and judgment for sin is a constant theme in the Bible. **God is saying that even though they sin, He will forgive them, and not hold their sin against them as a constant permanent, penalty.** We may never forget an offense against us, but that doesn't mean we have to hold it against someone, for that perpetuates the rupture and separation in the relationship. To forgive this way as God does means:

1. I will not mentally dwell on the incident or offense.
2. I will not bring the incident or offense up and use it against the person.
3. I will not talk or gossip about the incident or offense with others.
4. I will not allow the incident or offense to come between or hinder the relationship.

A child's poem puts it this way: "Hurt you not; Gossip never; Friends forever." Of course God remembers our infractions against Him, but once He forgives us, He never brings it up again or holds it against us. We should act the same way. **When we are hurt by others, we are presented with an opportunity to model Divine heavenly forgiveness to the world!**

We forgive, but we may not forget, but we do not use memories as ammunition to inflict our own form of harm or revenge. **Romans 6:23** says, "*The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" We see here that **sin always has consequences.** We will forgive. We may or may not forget, but there will always be consequences for sin that must be addressed and worked through. Some sins have much greater consequences than others, and impact a wider range of people than other sins. **Matthew 18:21** tells us that there is a time for mercy, and **Psalm 99:8; Proverbs 19:19; and Numbers 14:20-23** teach that there is a time for consequences. In each specific situation, it is always best to consider what is best for the person who has committed the offense. Is mercy more appropriate in the situation? Would it be more beneficial in the situation for the offender to make restoration? So often godliness and relationships are forged and strengthened under the hardship of consequences for sin. It is important to remember that consequences are not designed to inflict punishment, but to aid restoration of the relationship. So be sure to check your own heart and motives if you are involved with the "consequence phase" of a sin.

After forgiveness, forgetfulness, and consequences, we often wonder if the relationship can ever be restored. Should it be restored? How can it possibly be restored after what happened? We will see next month what the Bible says.



11005 Foster Rd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

www.gracelive.com

Join us for our...

WE CARE Planning Meeting

At 5:30pm
Fellowship Hall

JANUARY 2012 MONTHLY EVENT CALENDAR

The ROCK

**Raising Our Children
for the King -**
Children's Ministries on
Wednesday evenings at
6:30 pm in Kidmo room
starting Jan. 11
Crazy Hat Night - Jan. 18

College/Young Adult

Small Group

See Tim Lansing for
details

DRIVEN NEWS

Our DRIVEN youth
ministries meet Wednesday
evenings at 6:30 pm in the
Fellowship Hall. All youth
are welcome to attend.
Please see the DRIVEN
page for more details.

MOMENTUM
July 17-22, 2012
Eastern Kentucky
University



CHILDREN'S CHOIR -
Begins Sunday, Jan. 15
9:00am

WOMEN OF GRACE

Join the Women of Grace for
their January meeting on the
10th at 6:30pm in the Sunday
School room. See you there!

Ladies Ministries

secret sisters to begin again
very soon!

MISSION NEWS...

WAYNE & ELLEN PATTON

BRAZIL MINISTRY UPDATE

Praise God!

Ellen has made her final visit- all the stitches are out of her eye and she can see great!

The well at the island of Cotijuba is dug - 33 meters.

The train trip is completed and God provided at every point along the way.

God is providing new pledged supporters - still short but our God is Faithful.

God has provided for new storytelling audio players from Mega Voice.

The story cloth has been printed and ready for use.

That our most of our family gathered for Thanksgiving; Jacob and his new wife were ill.

Prayer Request

Pray for or pledged support level - God will provide new partners.

Pray as we pack and ship things to our location in preparation for our departure.

Our departure is set for January 17. Pray that the Lord will put everything in place for this date.

Back at Cotijuba:

Pray for the 220 electricity can be connected for the water pump.

Pray for the Lord to send us people that want to learn about Bible Storying.

Pray for Val as he prepares his family to leave.

Pray that our outreach team can be restarted upon our return.

From PATTON'S EMAIL

PATTY MORRIS

FRANCE MINISTRY UPDATE

NEW NAME, SAME COMMITMENT TO THE GREAT COMMISSION. You may already know, but GBIM is changing its name to **Encompass World Partners**. The new name encapsulates more comprehensively the essence of our work and makes it clear to a new generation what we're about. Change is never easy, especially with our rich 111-year history. But the heart of what we do, partnering together to see others around the world become followers of Jesus, stays the same.

(Please check out the new Patty's Praises & Prayer Requests letter on the missionary table in the foyer.)

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From PATTY'S EMAIL

CECIL & DEBBIE O'DELL

TOKYO MINISTRY UPDATE

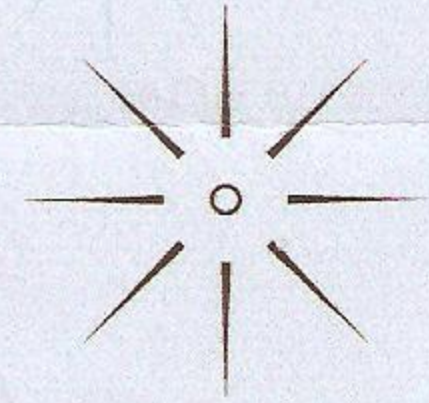
Jesus lived the days of his youth as the Beloved Son, secure in his father's love. He matured as a young man working in the carpenter's shop, and through his time in the wilderness. And then he went to war, and as the great Warrior he rescued his people from the kingdom of darkness, threw down the dark prince, set the captives free. As Lover, he wooed and won the hearts of his bride. And now, he reigns as King. Thus the progression of his life as a man, and thus ours. How blessed we are to have Jesus as our King. Thank you King Jesus for who you are and for all you have done and are doing in our lives.

God Bless each of you...
With much love and appreciation,
Cecil & Debbie O'Dell

From O'DELL'S EMAIL

CE National Celebration Service

Plan Ahead
Sunday
January 29, 2012



Come join
Ed Lewis and TK
at the
Southern California
Celebration Service

Sunday,
January 29th
2012
6:00 p.m.

Community Grace
Brethren Church
8109 Greenleaf Ave
Whittier, CA

For more information
please contact
Judy Fisher at
CE National

Phone: 574.267.6622

Or Email:

Churchrelations@cenational.org

DRIVEN

youth ministries

WINTER CAMP

It's Almost Here! 7th – 12th Grade DRIVEN Winter Camp is just around the corner. It is all happening on February 24th – 26th at a cabin in Green Valley Lake, CA. Cost is \$50 and our theme for the weekend will be focused around "Connecting With God". Reserve your spot today!!!

Christmas Fundraiser

DRIVEN Youth will be taking down Christmas Lights on Saturday, January 7th from 8:00a to 2:00p. Make sure you are there so you can help raise money for this coming year's Momentum Trip.

Momentum News

A quick reminder for those looking to attend Momentum 2012. A package will be sent to your home in early January giving you details about the Momentum Trip for 2012. You must turn in your Confirmation Slip by Wednesday, January 25th in order to go this summer.

CE Celebration Event

Join us Sunday, January 29th at 6:00pm at Whittier GBC and celebrate with CE National the many ministry options they offer such as Operation Barnabas, Momentum, Urban Hope, etc..

Month @ a Glance

DRIVEN WEDNESDAY

6:30p – 8:00p

Every Wednesday Night

Christmas Light Fundraiser

8:00a – 2:00p

Saturday, January 7TH

Momentum Sign-Up Deadline

Wednesday, January 25TH

CRAZY DRIVEN

6:30p – 8:00p

Wednesday, January 25TH

We CARE Outreach

"7 Minute Servants"

9:30a – 12:00p

Saturday, January 28TH

CE National Celebration

6:00p – 7:30p

Sunday, January 29TH

WE CARE Outreach

Saturday, January 28th is a great opportunity to put your hands and feet to work by showing up and helping with the WE CARE INITIATIVE on LeFloss Ave. from 9:30a to 12:00p. Come be a part of the family of God as we seek to reach our neighbors for Christ.

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01 No S.S. No Kidmo	02	03	04 FAMILY NIGHT: 5:30p WE CARE Pizza & Planning 6:30p DRIVEN 8:00p Worship Team	05	06	07 8a-2p DRIVEN – Take down Christmas lights
08 No Kidmo	09 Pastor Jeff Patton Caroll Perkins	10 Lisa Barragan 6:30p Women of Grace – 6B	11 FAMILY NIGHT: 6:30p ABS & DRIVEN ROCK resumes 8:00p Worship Team	12	13	14
15 9a Children’s Choir No Kidmo	16 Josie Lankford 7:00p Ladies’ Discipleship (Patton home)	17 6:30p Pictorial Directory Meeting 7:00p Elders	18 FAMILY NIGHT: 6:30p ABS & DRIVEN ROCK – Crazy Hat Night 8:00p Worship Team	19 Jackson Kimsey Dennis Posada 10:00a Pastor’s Bible study 2:45p CEF club	20	21 Steven Yrineo
22 9a Children’s Choir No Kidmo 6:00p Cong. Business Meeting/4 th Qtr. Mtg.	23	24 Tommy Miller	25 (Momentum slip due to Timothy Lansing) FAMILY NIGHT: 6:30p ABS & Crazy DRIVEN, ROCK 8:00p Worship Team	26 George & Bonnie Miller 10:00a Pastor’s Bible study 2:45p CEF club	27	28 9:30a-12p WE CARE – “7-Minute Servants”
29 9a Children’s Choir No Kidmo 6:00p CE NATIONAL CELEBRATION SERVICE – Whittier	30	31 Kathy Wingerson		ATTENTION Elders & Deacons, please turn in all 2012 dates of upcoming meetings & activities to put on the church master calendar. Thank you.		