

First Baptist Church of Lowell Newsletter

VOLUME 41

MAY, 2011

From the Heart *Teresa Gomez*

Forgiveness

How do you react when someone offends you? Do you fight? Do you run? Do you hide? When I am hurt or if someone I love is hurt, offended, attacked or in some way ridiculed, my natural instinct is to cut myself off from the offender. I stew over it. Then I bury the hurt. The problem is that the hurt never stays buried. My mind often turns up the soil to revisit the pain. This takes me to a place of bitterness instead of a place of true fellowship with God and with others. The truth is, when I hold on to the hurt, it only hurts me.

I have been reflecting on Christ's amazing ability to forgive. Even on the cross, He was asking God to forgive those who were crucifying Him! Jesus said, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* (Luke 23:34)

If Christ can forgive, in the midst of His crucifixion, what excuse do I have for harboring resentment when hurt? The only one of us who has the right

not to forgive is the blameless Christ and He chose to forgive!

We are told that we cannot come to the Father unless we forgive others and seek reconciliation. *"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."* (Mark 11:25) *"Leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."* (Matthew 5:24)

Forgiveness can be difficult, but the rewards are well worth it. When we choose to forgive others, we release ourselves from the stronghold of bitterness and allow God to heal us so we can live the Spirit-filled life He intended for us.

"Forgiveness is not an emotion...Forgiveness is an act of will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart."

Corrie Ten Boom

What would our lives, our families, our church look like if we would only choose to forgive others? They would look a little more like Christ.

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May Devotion: Prayers of Praise

On Wednesday evenings, I get to give a short devotion for the AWANA T&T group of third - sixth graders. As I prepared that devotion this week, it occurred to me how relevant it was for all of us, not just children, so I'd like to share a bit of it with you.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God; it is He that has made us,

and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to all generations." Psalm 100

When we pray, do we remember to offer prayers of thanksgiving without asking for anything? Do we simply say, "Jesus, I love You?"

While He wants to hear our requests, we should sometimes just give Him our praise. He deserves it and so much more.

In the book, God Can do Anything by Roy Lessin, one of the reflections says, "Jesus Christ's death on the cross and victory over sin, the grave, and the devil gives you something to be thankful about...joyful about...certain about...and hopeful about."

May Recipe: Caramel Rolls

1 pkg. Cook & Serve butter
scotch pudding
1 stick butter
1 cup brown sugar
15 frozen dinner rolls

Evening before or morning before serving:

Place rolls in 9x13" pan. Sprinkle pudding over rolls. Melt butter; add brown sugar and



pour over rolls.

Cover with plastic wrap and kitchen towel and leave to rise. Next morning or evening, bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Let set for 5 minutes. Invert onto serving dish.

From the kitchen of:
Sonia Stanfill

Current Events

Vacation Bible School

Sign-Ups

Now is the time! Sign-up in the foyer to help with 2011 Vacation Bible School. Be part of reaching the children in the Lowell community for the Lord!

Parade Masters Needed

If you are willing to lead a ticker-tape parade through your neighborhood inviting others to VBS, please contact Penny.



Children's Activities

Silent Auction

**May 15 - 6:00 p.m.
Dinner, Variety Show,
Silent Auction**

Featuring art and craft talents of our own members this year!

Join us for a great time of fun, fellowship, and food. Donations and silent auction proceeds benefit Children's Camp.



Garage Sale

**May 21
7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
FBC Gym**

Bring donated items to gym after church on May 1, 8, or 15.

Call for pick-up of large items, if needed.

Proceeds benefit Children's Camp.

May Calendar

May 3 - Saints Alive Trip

May 8 - Mother's Day

10:30 a.m. - Baby Dedication

6:45 p.m. - Business mtg

May 13-14- Youth Weekend

ODM Canoe Trip

May 15 - 10:30 a.m. - Graduat-

ing Senior Recognition

6:00 -Silent Auction/
Dinner/Variety Show

Last day for garage sale
donations

**May 18 - 6:00 p.m. - AWANA
Award Night**

May 21 - Garage Sale

**May 22 - 6:00 p.m. - Children's
Choir Spring Program**

**May 25 - Adult Bible Study
moves to 6:00 p.m. for
summer**

**May 30 - Office Closed - Me-
morial Day**

Take Notice:

**Check out our website
www.fbc-lowell.com**

We are making a real effort to update the website with relevant information.

**Also available:
FBC Face book**

Children's Choir Spring Program

**May 22
6:00 p.m.**

Thought for the day:

"The secret of my success? It is simple. It is found in the Bible. 'In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.'"

George Washington Carver



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*"Hospital for the
broken."*

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Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Orchestra Practice 8:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday:

Wednesday Meal 5:15 p.m.
AWANA Clubs 6:15 p.m.
Youth Revolution 6:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

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