

PROGRESSIONS

WORK IN PROGRESS MINISTRIES

Forgiveness



During the course of the day, I receive many encouraging emails. This particular email touched me, so I decided to share it.

This is a letter from a father written to the man who killed his son.

You are probably surprised that I, of all people, am writing a letter to you, but I ask you to read it in its entirety and consider its request seriously. As the Father of the man whom you took part in murdering, I have something very important to say to you.

I forgive you. With all my heart, I forgive you. I realize it may be hard for you to believe, but I really do. At your trial, when you confessed to your part in the events that cost my Son his life and asked for my forgiveness, I immediately granted you that forgiving love from my heart. I can only hope you believe me and will accept my forgiveness.

But this is not all I have to say to you. I want to make you an offer -- I want you to become my adopted child. You see, my Son who died was my only child, and I now want to share my life with you and leave my riches to you. This may not make sense to you or anyone

else, but I believe you are worth the offer. I have arranged matters so that if you will receive my offer of forgiveness, not only will you be pardoned for your crime, but you also will be set free from your imprisonment, and your sentence of death will be dismissed. At that point, you will become my adopted child and heir to all my riches.

I realize this is a risky offer for me to make to you -- you might be tempted to reject my offer completely -- but I make it to you without reservation.

Also, I realize it may seem foolish to make such an offer to one who cost my Son his life, but I now have a great love and an unchangeable forgiveness in my heart for you.

Finally, you may be concerned that once you accept my offer you may do something to cause you to be denied your rights as an heir to my wealth. Nothing could be further from the truth. If I can forgive you for your part in my Son's death, I can forgive you for anything. I know you never will be perfect, but you do not have to be perfect to receive my offer. Besides, I believe that once you have accepted my offer and begin to experience the riches that will come to you from me, that your primary (though not always) response will be gratitude and loyalty.

Some would call me foolish for my offer to you, but I wish for you to call me your Father.

This is a wonderful illustration of forgiveness. Forgiveness is a powerful tool in living a

born-again life. As believers if we want to become like Jesus, we MUST learn to forgive.

Matthew 6:12 (NLT) says, "forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us."

It is necessary for you to forgive if you want forgiveness. **Matthew 6:14-15 says, "if you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."**

Forgiveness may not be an easy task. But that didn't stop Jesus from dying for us for the forgiveness of our sins. Don't allow his dying to be in vain.

FORGIVE!!

Special points of interest:

- **Calendar**
- **Testimony**
- **First Lady's Corner**
- **Pastor's Reflections**

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Schedule of Events

NOVEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 FAST	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 FAST	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 FAST	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 FAST	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 FAST	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 FAST	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 FAST	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 FAST	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 FAST	31		

- **November 8**—Hospitality donations due
 - **November 10**—Church meeting, 6pm
 - **November 14**—2nd annual Anointed Ones of God—"Dancing in the Spirit", 3pm—6pm
 - **November 15**—Education Department donations due
 - **November 26**—3rd annual Community Thanksgiving Feast
 - **November 29**—Youth Sunday
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- **December 6**—Pastor George Sadler, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church (Middletown, DE) at WIPM, 4pm
 - **December 8**—Church meeting, 6pm
 - **December 10**—3rd annual Pastoral and Church Anniversary
 - **December 13**—Hospitality donations due
—Bishop Charles M. Tilghman, Potter's House Ministries (Fairlee, MD) at WIPM, 4pm
 - **December 20**—Education Dept. donations due
 - **December 27**—Bishop Nelson Lewis, Mt. Carmel (Dover, DE) at WIPM, 4pm
 - **December 31**—Watch Night Service, 10:30pm

Bible Study every Tuesday—7pm

Fast every Wednesday—12 mid night to 2 noon

Radio broadcast—Wednesday 1pm on <http://universalchristianradio.com>

Everyone Can't Be in Your Front Row

Life is a theater - invite your audience carefully. Not everyone is spiritually healthy and mature enough to have a front row seat in our lives. There are some people in your life that need to be loved from a distance.



It's amazing what you can accomplish when you LET GO, or at least minimize your time with draining, negative, incompatible, not-going-anywhere relationships/friendships/fellowships!

*Observe the relationships around you. Pay attention to:
Which ones lift and which ones lean?
Which ones encourage and which ones discourage?
Which ones are on a path of growth uphill? and
Which ones are going downhill?*

When you leave certain people, do you feel better or feel worse?

Which ones always have DRAMA or don't really understand, know and appreciate you and the gift that lies within you?

When you seek growth, peace of mind, love and truth, the easier it will become for you to decide who gets to sit in the FRONT ROW and who should be moved to the balcony of your life.

*You cannot change the people around you...but you can change the people you are around!
Ask God for godly wisdom and discernment and choose wisely the people who sit in the front row of your life.*

Words of Encouragement:

"Stop Having Plastic Surgery: Let God Be the Potter in Your Life"

Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

When the holy spirit spoke to me and said to "Stop having Plastic Surgery and Let God Be the Potter", my first thoughts were "whoa God." I began to ask him, "Lord, what are you trying to tell me?" He began to minister to me; see, I am at the point in my life that I realize when God speaks something like that to me, the very first thing I do is examine myself. So that is exactly what I did. As I began to do that God showed me what he meant.

He meant that every time I don't seek him first about a decision in my life, I am making myself a God. I am altering who he created me to be. He created me in his likeness and image. I should always look like him. I should always be seeking his will for my life in every decision that I make. Every time I decide not to be quick to forgive, I am no longer in his likeness. Every time I decide to let pride, envy, strife, self-righteousness, or any sin enter into my life I am, in a sense, having plastic surgery done. I am conforming to the world!

Every day we wake up we should look more and more like Jesus. His word should be fresh on our hearts, his desires should be ours. We should love more, show more compassion, dress ourselves in the fruit of the spirit, and allow our light to shine so brightly that we can draw all men unto GOD!

I never want to change who God has called me to be; I want to walk in the fullness of life that God has ordained for me. Therefore, every day I must ask my self "who do you look like today"? Are you going to have some plastic surgery done, or are you going to allow the Potter to mold you into who he wants you to be?

Plastic surgery, to me, is a quick fix at times. I am not talking about someone who has had a major accident or born with any type of deformity. I am talking about when we don't like something on our body and we run to get it fixed. In essence what I am saying is when things don't look right, don't try and fix them; run to the potter. He won't fail you. When you are lonely, run to the Potter; he is a friend at all times. When your money is short, run to the Potter; he will fill all voids, he will make you whole. Truly **"seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all other things will be added unto you"**. No more quick fixes, let the potter mold and shape you into what he has called you to be.

I challenge everyone who is reading this, including myself, to take a deep look into your life and see the areas that you have tried to control or you have put more trust in others than God. Take those areas and say, **"Lord, I repent; I surrender all to you. I trust you to guide me, protect me, provide for me, and love me unconditionally."** I will no longer go to the Plastic Surgeon, I am going to the Potter.

I love you all and God Bless! May you live life and live it in more abundance of health, peace, joy, and Christ.

Love, **Tyisha**

Comments: from Universal Christian Radio

Dear Pastor Jones,

I am so worried about this H1N1 flu that's going around. They said today that Dr. Gupta on CNN had come down with it. I'm sure it is a bad thing and the news folks scare us even more. I am going to try to shake off the fear because I feel like Jesus is going to protect me and the children. I'm going to pray for God's protection and to free myself from fear.

Anna Diaz - Ponce, Puerto Rico



Bless you Sister Anna,

Jesus did not give us the spirit of fear, but of peace. Hold onto the word of God. No weapon formed against you shall prosper. Stay focused on Jesus and His Kingdom. Stay strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Pastor Guy E Jones Sr.

That was some good preachin' Brother Jones. But that's what I say every time I hear you. Since you came on the radio, I have had a new sense of hope and encouragement in the Word of God. You teach the straight truth the way folks need to hear it today!

Mildred Paley - Meridian, Mississippi

God bless you Sister Mildred,

What ever I do that is good, to God be the glory. I want to thank you for tuning in to our broadcast. Thanks! Stay strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Have a blessed day.

Pastor Guy E Jones Sr.

Dear Pastor Jones,

I like the name of your broadcast. We are all works in progress and we make our way in this life and do our best to prepare for the next in heaven with the Holy Father. When I hear you I say to myself "I am a work in progress for God". I am not what I was, but I am also not what I am going to be as I grow in my life with Jesus.

Juanita Carter - Monroe, Louisiana

God bless you my sister,

I thank God for you tuning into our broadcast. I pray that the message was a blessing to you. Stay strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Pastor Guy E Jones Sr.

Dear Pastor Jones,

I have drifted away from the church and done a few things that I am not very proud of. I am trying to turn my life around and I hope you will take a moment to say a prayer for me. I really appreciate it. Thanks.

Joseph Watson - Freeport, Bahamas

Brother Joseph,

Jesus loves you. Get back up my brother! It's time to get back in the game. There is work for you to do in His Kingdom. Just remember Jesus freed you from sin; don't go back into bondage. His shed blood was for you. Love you my brother! Stay strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Pastor Guy E Jones Sr.

Article Submitted by: Cricket Barrazotto

God is again using my sense of hearing to speak to me. And again it was a middle-of the night wake up call.

I was tossing and turning last night. I do not know if it is a lumpy bed or jet lag that had me fitful during the night. I was not anxious, simply agitated. I must have rolled over a hundred times during the night. I thanked God that John was not with me. This would have been a night where one of us, would have left the bed so that the other could get some sleep, otherwise, a fight would occur!

This one time I checked my bedside travel alarm clock. 4:41 AM. I prayed yet another prayer and asked the Lord to give me one more hour to sleep. I rolled over, closed my eyes and gave a big sigh.

It was then that I noticed the drone of a nearby mosquito. Usually the sound of a mosquito in the nighttime is only a mild nuisance. But here in Malawi mosquitoes carry parasites. And the parasites can infect you with malaria. And malaria can kill you.

Mind you, I was already sleeping under the bed net. I had faithfully slathered insect repellent on my arms, head, and legs, the exposed parts on a hot night. Yet still, the sound of the insect made me stop and try to locate its whereabouts.

As I was listening for the bug, another sound penetrated the early morning darkness. Somewhere outside our tall walls from within a neighbor's compound came the sound of a man at morning prayers. At first I was uncertain about what I was hearing. As he continued his chants with their pauses and their nasalized phrases, I recalled previous trips to Lilongwe when I have stayed closer to town near the mosque. Every morning at 5 AM a loud speaker from high on top of a minaret broadcasts the first prayer of the day. Here in a community just outside the city limits, a solitary man maintained the ritual.

Although one was close to me and the other farther away, the two noises had a similar quality to them. Each was high-pitch and monotonous. I prayed and asked the Lord about what I was hearing. After all, just two days ago I adopted a prayer posture of asking God to speak because I was truly listening. I knew in my heart of hearts that the conversion of these sounds in the wee hours was no accident.

The mosquito, as already mentioned, is a death broker here in Malawi. You might get lucky and get bitten by one that is non-infectious, but you could just as easily get bitten by one that will give you a life threatening illness. One needs to take precautions to remain protected (think anti-malaria meds, bed nets, and insecticide, all big guns) to stay out of harm's way. Fortunately, I did not fear because of the protection that was mine and I located the bug outside the net.

The man in morning prayers is a different threat. This man was lost in worship, chanting to his God whomever that might be. He was calling out for everyone to hear, unashamed and willing to pierce the night with his passion and conviction, his appeal to the heavens.

As I asked God about the significance of the two, the Holy Spirit whispered to me about false gods. Anyone or anything that takes me away from Jesus has the potential to sting, infect, and lead to death. It does not matter whether it is the lure of another religion. That, of course, can definitely undermine my walk with Christ. Why even Christianity when legalistic, rigid, and full of manmade rules can lead me away from the Lord. The mosquito could just as easily come in the form of materialism, pride, lust, or a hunger for power and control. Each calling out in the night, buzzing around my head. Come follow me. And if I do not take precautions, be on guard, the ensuing sting.

The odd thing about malaria is that one does not know immediately that she has been infected. The disease can be symptomatic in just a couple of days, or the parasites can lay dormant internally for weeks. Doesn't moving from Christ as center manifest itself similarly? It is not until we are sick with sin that we realize that we have been stung and the infectious process has undermined our walk with God.

The man up the road stopped his chanting. The mosquito disappeared, but the message remained. So I rolled over in my bed knowing the God to whom I bow down had His net of protection safely secured around me in the wee hours of this morning.

First Lady's Corner

Jesus You're My Refuge and My Strength

When troubles surround me, Lord, I will trust in YOU.

Thank you, Lord, for your help whenever I come to you with all my needs. I hide within your cloak of safety. Lord, I truly take courage in your strength. No matter what my situation may be, you are there guiding, helping and strengthening me.



When all seems impossible, you are my mighty deliverer. Even though I am unworthy, you perform marvelous wonders in my life; for that I give you praise. Thank you for your promises to supply all my needs. I am so grateful that you keep your word. Lord, you are all knowing and constant. Heaven and Earth will pass away and grass and flowers will fade; but your Word, dear Lord, will remain forever. Thank you for being with me. At times I feel weak; yet when I'm at my lowest, your strength shows up to the maximum. Knowing I'm in your will, I can do all things you ask of me, through your name, Christ Jesus.

Thank you for granting me the strength I so often desperately need. This is only because of your mighty power working within me. Without you, I amount to nothing. As I continue to obey and serve you, let others see your wondrous works within me. Lord, you are the joy of my salvation, my refuge and my strength.

Praise goes all to you, Lord because I, First Lady, get no praise. I'm thanking you for all that you're doing. Glory to the Highest Praise.

I love you all, Work In Progress Ministries. Pray that I will continue to do all that God has for me to do in this Ministry and my life.

I come to lift Jesus up. Give him the glory and the praise.

I love you and be encouraged,

First Lady Sherrilyn Jones

Pastor's Reflections



This is an email I received from our sister, Cricket, as she does ministry work in Malawi, Africa.

The back of the car was full of them. There were bags and bags stacked on top of one another. Buns. Fresh baked buns. Earlier that morning two of the Somebody Cares workers had ridden their bicycles to the local bakery where they had purchased over one hundred-fifty rolls.

These rolls were to be the lunch for the youth who were attending the pastoral teaching that day. The teens would each be given a roll. That is it. The roll was lunch and nothing else. The roll would be enough. This batch of rolls was fresh out of the oven, steam filling the cellophane bags.

I sat in the back seat of the parked car, intoxicated by the aroma of fresh baked bread. I actually turned around in my seat and lustily looked at the scores of rolls behind me. I was desperate for a chunk of butter and one of the rolls. I was so overtaken by the scent within the enclosed car that I actually got out my camera and took a picture of the bread.

I closed my eyes for a moment and I allowed my sense of smell to take me into ecstatic places. The fragrance of fresh baked goods can do that for me. It is no wonder I married a baker! I sensed the Holy Spirit whispering. I was reminded of the passage in Scripture that mentions that followers of Jesus are the "aroma of Christ" to those who are being saved and to those who are perishing. Wow! A question was quickly thrown my way, "Does your walk with Me attract others in the same way that you are overwhelmed by the aroma of this bread?"

I did the mental inventory there on the spot. Is the sweet fragrance of Jesus so attractive on and in me that people want to come get a whiff? Is there anything about me that is enticing enough to cause another to want to taste? The Holy Spirit let me squirm as I gave my response. This inquisition made me begin to think a lot about bread: the smell of bread, the taste of bread, the feel of bread, the ingredients that go into bread, and eating bread.

When I go to the store to buy the family's bread I am very careful in my selection. Take baguettes for instance. I go to the bags of baguettes in their baskets and fondle at least four or five loaves before I settle on the one that I place in my cart. I am looking for a loaf that has some body, a good crust, but most importantly I am looking for fresh bread. I think to some measure, bread is such a dietary staple that all of us have learned how to select the freshest bread from the racks. Whether we are reading the expiration date on the outside of the plastic package or doing the squeeze on a the day's just baked baguette, freshness is paramount. No, I do not want to buy or consume stale bread. I want rolls like the rolls in the back of the car.

It was at that moment that another question was posed. "So why are you spiritually existing on stale bread?" Another squirm. "Your quiet times are abbreviated. You can find excuses not to sit and linger with me. When we are together, you are content to allow books from teachers rather than the Scriptures themselves feed you. You are pleased by shallow teaching. All of this is stale bread. And stale bread develops bits of mold. How does a person grow and be nourished when the bread is covered in mold? You do not eat moldy bread from your kitchen table. Yet you are content to allow your spiritual bread to mold and then serve it to not only yourself, but also to your family, and to your friends."

How does the back seat of a car get transformed into a temple of holiness? I sat, just sat, and chewed on the message. Stale bread. I was eating and had become stale bread. I was dispensing stale bread to others. The image was distasteful to say the least. Confession and repentance followed. I tried not to let the other people in the car see the tears trickle down my cheek.

A couple of days later... in a morning quiet time, with rooster crowing and early bird sounds outside the window, I was told to send this to the church in the United States. So here I go. I have often shared the message that a wonderful seminary teacher conveyed early on in my studies of Christ. Dr. George Renner asked me if I loved Jesus Christ and had sold out to him. He then questioned me, "If you love Him, are you willing to be a fool for Jesus?" So this is one of those moments where I feel foolish and I want to duck out of the way as I hit the "send" button on the computer. After this week in the Spirit's presence in Malawi, I think that this cringing feeling will become more familiar. It is the tangible expression of obedience and speaking forth.

"Do what I say, when I say it, in any way that I require. Don't just eat my fresh bread of Life, but be the freshest bread of Life to others." It is a call to holiness for each of us and holiness has a very distinctive smell.

2 Corinthians 2:15 (NIV)

For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

Your Servant in the Lord,

Pastor Guy E. Jones, Sr.

God is not through with us yet!

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News and Events

3rd Annual

Thanksgiving Feast

November 26, 2009

3rd Annual

Pastoral & Church Anniversary

December 2009

Saints Ball

Saturday, February 13, 2010
Modern Maturity Center—Dover, DE

Please pray for the sick and bereaved in our community.

Great News!!!

Visit us on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.wipministries.com/>

Be sure to check often for new and inspiring information.