

Please pray for Lorna's recovery! She had her right hip replaced on September 8th. The last several years she has tried to manage the pain but with no cartilage left, she's even struggled to walk for any distance. Given that a major part of her ministry is working with athletes you can imagine the benefit it will be for her. Pray she has full recovery within 3 months so that before the end of the year we can replace her other hip (for insurance reasons it will save us \$5,000). ☺

Her days as a world-class athlete who trained 8 hours a day has caught up with her. Pray that as a couple we manage well the schedule changes needed over the next six months. Our girls have already made plans to assist mom! Yay! Many friends are already providing meals for us. We feel so blessed.



WE HAD A GREAT SUMMER!

Our summer travels/ministry took us through:

- **Xenia, OH** (Athletes in Action's Headquarters where Lorna ministered with athletes from across the nation.)
- **Chicago, Duluth/Superior, Minneapolis /St. Paul, MN**
- **Ft. Collins, CO** (Cru's Nat'l Staff Conference)
- **Dallas, Austin & Houston, TX.**
- Flew to **San Diego/Oceanside, CA** area.

It was great seeing so many of you this summer. And for those we missed, we'll be coming back. ☺

- **Dirke has already started teaching a "Spiritual Formation" class** for Ministry degree students, several are youth ministers.
- **Lorna has made great progress developing an Athletic Training Academy.** She has a high school that has agreed to be her pilot school. The Orange County public schools as well as the county social services have agreed to cooperate with her as she works with urban ethnic at-risk athletes. **Now pray God provides the facility to house the athletes.**

- At our home church that Dirke is an elder and is **launching a new weekly Bible study series** on "40 Things That Happened to You the Moment You Became a Christian." Pray for great turnouts & life-change from the many who attend.
- Pray for Dirke as he is engaged in **helping to write Cru's theological position on ethnic issues** and he is in the midst of working on improving Cru's missional team leadership training that is used around the world.



Our oldest daughter Danelle at left is pregnant with our first grandson. The due date is December 14th. Danelle & Gordon are standing in front of their new home in Washington DC where we plan to gather together as a family for Christmas to celebrate the new addition to the Radney household.

If all goes well with Lorna's recovery from her right hip surgery, she will have her left hip replaced the last week of December. Pray it be so!

On the back of this letter is Dirke's recent blog which is also on our website: *When Is Forgiveness NOT Forgiveness?*

Check out our Personal Ministry Website: www.GCX/DirkeandLorna

Dirke & Lorna

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Cru wants to keep you informed of the activities in the lives of its staff. Gifts for Dirke & Lorna's ministry are payable to Cru or Campus Crusade for Christ. Thank you for sharing so generously.



When Is Forgiveness NOT Forgiveness?

The power of forgiveness was on display in Charleston, SC as the media watched in amazement as the Emmanuel AME church victims' families chose to express forgiveness to Dylann Roof who had gunned down 9 people in cold blood during a Bible study. Given the tenor of the nation's current race relations the media had expected an ongoing spew of bitterness and vindication for this horrific act. And in this case, no one would blame them: An injustice of the greatest proportion had been committed. But the profound and powerful act of forgiveness left many speechless. They had no category to put this. It's not natural. It's supernatural.

In Christianity the Scriptures are clear that we will be held accountable for our actions. But forgiveness means that I no longer hold the offense against the perpetrator. **Forgiveness does not mean that justice is not served or that consequences are not experienced.** Dylann Roof must be held accountable for his sickening acts. But when I forgive, I release myself from being in bondage to the transgression committed.

The Meaning of Forgiveness

We see the power of forgiveness as potent for the one forgiving and for the one being forgiven. Two Greek words are used to translate "forgiveness" in the New Testament. The first is *charizomai* which has its root in the word *charis*, meaning grace. It appears 27 times in the N.T. and grants favor unconditionally. Followers of Christ are to forgive one another in the same way Christ has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 2:13, 3:13). It is this meaning of forgiveness that strikes at the heart of the forgiveness demonstrated in Charleston.

When one is a recipient of God's unconditional love, grace, and undeserved forgiveness, how one responds to others is radically altered. At the funeral, Aja Risher, the granddaughter of shooting victim Ethel Lance, said, "We have no room for hate. We have to forgive." Such a response can only come from a heart filled with God's supernatural love and grace.

But there is a second word in the N.T. that is translated forgiveness. It is the word *aphiemi* which means "to send away." It occurs nearly 150 times, almost exclusively in the Gospels. When it is used of forgiving, it is in regard to forgiveness of (a) debts [Matthew 6:12]; (b) trespasses [Matthew 6:14; (c) blasphemies [Matthew 12:31]; lawless deeds [Romans 4:7]; wickedness [Acts 8:22]; and (f) sins [approximately 10 places where sins are forgiven].

When someone forgives, they not only demonstrate grace and kindness, they send the offense away. They release its hold on them. **When we forgive we are in the state of "for-giving." When we are unwilling to forgive we are in the state of "un-giving," or withholding, keeping, storing the hurt of the offense. When we are "un-giving," we can't give them a smile, a conversation or kindness.** Forgiveness releases a person from the act of offense whether they are sorry or not!

It's possible to tell people we forgive them but not demonstrate *charizomai* or *aphiemi*. We may say "I forgive you" because we are expected to but there is no power to our words. No power because there is no state of "for-giving" (releasing).

When is forgiveness not forgiveness? When there are strings attached. When we say we forgive so that the other person will change, or, just because they asked to be forgiven; When we forgive in words, but not from our heart. When we forgive to make someone feel bad or to make ourselves look good. Forgiveness that has strings attached is not forgiveness.

I find myself in a state of unforgiveness when I want that person that has hurt me to feel the hurt and pain they have caused me. Expressing to the person how I have experienced their words or actions is helpful and usually needed. But whether they embrace my words is completely out of my control. I have sinned against God on many occasions and have not fully embraced my own motives or cold heart. Yet, God has forgiven me because of Christ. So who am I not to forgive?

Our Choice

When I choose not to forgive, I often want revenge on the one who has hurt me. But the Bible is clear, "*Never take your own revenge, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, says the Lord, I will repay.'*" (Rom. 12:19) **When I choose to forgive, I'm choosing to trust God. When I choose to "un-give" I'm choosing to play God.**

The word "Gospel" means, good news. The good news of the Gospel is found in Luke 5:20 and in 1 John 2:12 when it says, "Your sins have been forgiven you." The verb tense is in the perfect tense indicating that our sins have been sent away from us permanently. If one has turned from depending upon good works to accept God's forgiveness found only in Jesus, then forgiveness is theirs to be received. God has put away (released) our sins at the cross to all who embrace God's forgiveness found in Christ. God promises *He will remember our sins no more* (Hebrews 10:17).

Receiving and giving forgiveness is at the heart of the gospel! It's not natural, it's supernatural. It doesn't and never will originate from my heart. But by God's Holy Spirit power, it's possible. Thank you to our brothers and sisters in Charleston who chose not to play God, but trust God and so eloquently demonstrated the Gospel in front of all of our eyes.