



Hope In Christ Church
710 East Sunset
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-733-6177

Heartbeat

Forgiveness

Pastor Scott Roberts

The statement, “You have to forgive,” sounds so wise, but it isn’t always easy. How does one forgive when there is no remorse, no apology, not even an awareness or acceptance of the fact that someone has hurt you? And why is it that some pains seem to linger even when we think we have forgiven the person who caused them? I believe that both of these questions are related. Let me begin with the latter question first.

So often we have been taught to simply say the words, “I forgive you.” We think this is what it means to forgive. But this is erroneous and here is why:

1) It assumes that we must approach the other person and they must be present for forgiveness to happen. This is not always possible, nor is it advisable in all circumstances. While I am all for trying to reconcile with those who have wronged us, reconciliation and forgiveness are not identical. There are overlaps between them, but forgiveness is about my releasing of the hurt another has caused so that I don’t hold it against them any longer, while reconciliation is the process of actually repairing the damaged relationship. One can forgive and not be reconciled, and one can reconcile without ever forgiving. These are less than ideal circumstances, but we are wise to distinguish the two events from one another.

2) It fails to understand and name the hurt that was experienced. This is why some pains seem to come back over and over, even after we have uttered the phrase about forgiving. Wrongs and hurts are like fishing lines with hooks and barbs. Sometimes the line only has one hook that grips our soul, but other times they are more akin to nets that are covered in barbs and the hooks sink into many places. When we are forced to name the hooks that have beset our soul then we are in a position to recognize why some hurts come back and why some pains linger. Maybe there are other hooks, that we haven’t recognized and released. And until we do, those hooks will fester and resurface with their attendant pain.

Inside this issue

Love INC.....	2
Whatcom News	3
Work Day	4
Finances.....	5
GEMS	6
NW Hispanic Ministry	8
Servants	9
Birthdays.....	9
Calendar.....	10

Forgiveness

(Continued
from front page.)

That leads me to the former question. How can we forgive when there is no remorse in the other? This comes down to understanding that forgiveness is about our soul, not about bringing another to an awareness of their sin. Forgiveness is about taking the barb out of our life. Here is some practical advice about how to do this. Long before we ever approach a person and seek reconciliation, we need to have forgiven them. In order to effectively forgive we need to focus not on the actual act, which is what we normally do, but we need to go deeper to understand the emotional effect that act has had upon us. Our forgiveness needs to extend beyond the surface level of the action to the result it created. This result is what we need to forgive and lay before God. A good habit when forgiving is being able to articulate something like "God, I forgive person's name for doing this thing that name the hurt." For example, "God, I forgive Dennis for refusing to help me change after telling me about my selfishness for that made me feel judged, insignificant and unworthy of his time to help me grow." Do you see how this apology recognizes the barbs and so releases them more than, "I forgive you" or even, "I forgive you for doing." I can't tell you why naming the hurt actually lessens its hold upon us, but I can tell you that it works. Counselors will all tell you that until you name the hurt specifically, your mind is unable to let it go. Forgiveness is something we do with God. Reconciliation is what we do with others and sometimes the two can be comingled, but sometimes they need to be distinct and separate processes.

So, if you find yourself in a relationship with another person, you will undoubtedly find yourself being hurt. The next time it happens, try to name the action and the cost it has incurred. Then as you give it to God, you will understand what you are releasing. This is the act of forgiveness and it is what Jesus told us to do when he taught us to pray, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." He wasn't just telling us to forgive people. Debtors aren't just people, they are people who have taken a specific thing from us. It is the combination of the person and the cost that has been incurred that is what forgiveness entails. And only when the cost incurred is understood, are we in a place to release it to God and entrust him with the proper judgment of it. Furthermore, it is once we know the cost that we are in a place to determine how reconciliation might occur. But that is for another article.



Love INC of Whatcom County
Love In the Name of Christ

Neighbor Needs

CAN YOU HELP? There are needs recently shared with Love INC. If you, your Bible study, or your small group can walk with these neighbors in need, please contact Oskar by emailing oskar@whatcomloveinc.org. The requests can be found here <https://www.whatcomloveinc.org/nnn>

The list of people and requests is updated each Wednesday. Today, there are a few folks who need some furniture, a mom who needs a carseat and some winter clothes, and someone who needs transportation. Maybe there is something you'd like to help with this week or in the future.

Life-Chain Sunday • October 3rd • 2:00 - 3:00pm



Along the Guide • Between Stuart Rd. & Bakerview Rd., on the west side sidewalk.
(Check-in stations Located along the route)

- Stand with thousands of pro-lifers throughout the USA and Canada! You'll be a light in a darkened world as you help put an end to abortion through prayer!
- Bring your whole family!
- Water, lawn chairs, umbrellas and strollers are welcome and encouraged!
- Rain or shine!

Signs proclaim "Abortion Kills", "Adoption - The Loving option", "Jesus Forgives & Heals", "Lord Forgive Us and Our Nation", "Abortion Hurts Women", "El Aborto Mata Ninos", "Life - The First Inalienable Right" and "Pray to End Abortion".

Call Lynden Human Life for more details @ 360-201-8630 & 360-201-5009

Like us on Facebook and on the web at www.lyndenhumanlife.org

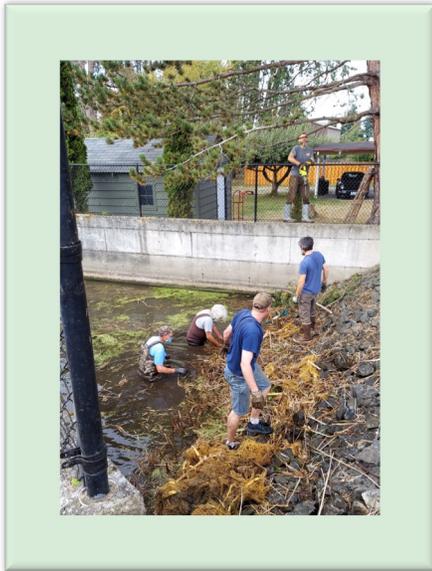
Whatcom Community News

LOVE INC DESSERT FUNDRAISER: Whatcom Love INC (In the Name of Christ) is having its dessert fundraiser on Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. at Bellingham Covenant Church. Learn how God is mobilizing the Church in Whatcom County into local mission and how you can participate through financial gifts. For free registration, visit whatcomloveinc.org/fundraiser. For more information about the event or Whatcom Love INC, contact Oskar at (360) 306-5627 or oskar@whatcomloveinc.org.

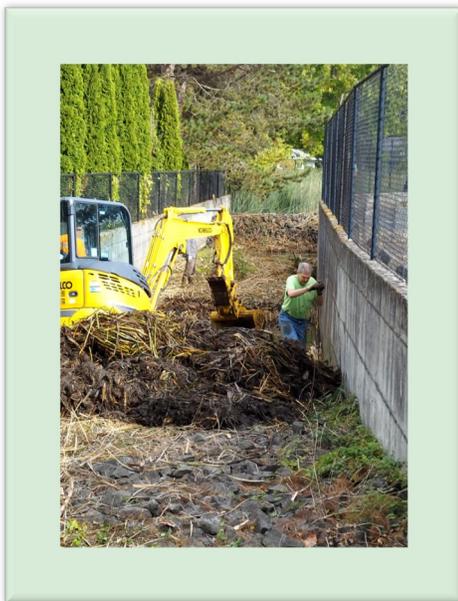
GRIEFSHARE HAS STARTED: GriefShare, a support group ministry that offers care and encouragement to those who have lost loved ones, meets on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at First Reformed Church in Lynden. The 13-week class is free, but there is a \$10 fee for the workbook. For more info, contact Pastor Chuck Kleinhesselink at (360) 354-4221 or visit www.griefshare.org.

HELP WITH COAT DRIVE: You can donate or volunteer to help distribute winter clothing for the Winter Coat Drive sponsored by the Community Assistance Program and the Interfaith Coalition. Churches and groups can collect used or new coats, hats, gloves, and socks in all sizes for children and adults and deliver them on Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to the CAP Center, 508 G St., Blaine. Volunteers are needed to sort, organize, and distribute the clothing to those in need on Oct. 11, 13, and 15 at the center. For more information including how to volunteer, contact Ameer Nelson at (360) 319-0269 or amee.nelson@yahoo.com.

Hope in Christ Church Work Day, September 11th



*Thank you to
everyone who
helped!*



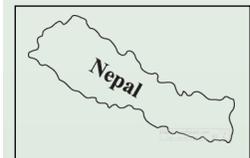
August Giving at Hope in Christ Church

	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 2,633	\$ 29,056
General Fund Offerings	\$ 20,939	\$201,636
Rent / Utilities Income	1,622	20,001
PPP Loan Forgiveness	-	26,700
Interest Income - Undesignated	<u>17</u>	<u>156</u>
Total Undesignated Income	22,578	248,493
General Fund Expenses	<u>(25,569)</u>	<u>(171,200)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	(2,991)	77,293
Total 2021 budget, including ministry quotas		\$281,796
Year-to-Date Budget for 9 months		\$211,347
Total Undesignated Income		<u>248,493</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		\$ 37,146
Loan Balances:		
Classis: \$ 10,000		



September Update from Nepal

S. reports (through our ministry leader in Nepal), "Greetings from unnamed Church. Our church currently has 27 members. We are all healthy, because by God's grace none of us have been infected by the coronavirus. However, because of the country's lockdown, more than half of our church members are unable to meet their basic needs because they are not given the opportunity to work and earn. Please continue to pray for us. In the month of April, the church family met for our regular Saturday fellowship in church. However, during the months of May and June, we held our fellowship in our own homes. However, we practice home fellowship by personally visiting believer's homes as often as possible. During those three months, we preached the Gospel of God to one family. Because of God's grace, two members of that family have continued to attend church and have come to know Christ. This pandemic has affected many people, please continue to pray for us and our family members as we pray for you all. Thank you."





It's an understatement to report that last year was an unexpected challenge with uncertainty, changing directives and emotional angst. Amid it all, the GEMS office provided online materials, words of encouragement, and creative ideas to meet the needs of our girls. So, I like to say, "We ZOOMed through the year!" There were some technical challenges, though with the creative help and leadership skills of our 4 CIT's (Counselors in Training), Amber, Chantel, Mattea and Grace, we were able to have a monthly, hour ZOOM meeting with whole group activities and then breaking out into 4 small groups. Ruth helped with providing a 4th adult for small group supervision. The other three Counselors were Rockelle, Hildred and me. Along with the ZOOM contact, the girls received monthly Gift Bags with lesson materials, their magazine, craft supplies with a purpose to reinforce the lesson, sweet treats and some gift items like stress balls, coloring pages, and art supplies. Don and I made some "porch drop" deliveries and other times the "goodie bags" were picked up at church.

The theme was "Friended" John 15:15 (NIV) "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his mater's business. Instead, **I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**" We learned 5 "One another" challenges. 1. Love one another, 2. Be kind to one another, 3. Serve one another, 4. Pray for one another, and 5. Accept one another. We learned that God is above our anxiety. He is above our frustrations. He is above our schedules. He is above our friend problems. He is with YOU, friend!

Each year's theme centers around a theme venue. For "Friended" the venue was a diner where friends share time together. This year our theme is "Unshakeable" based on Psalm 62:2, "**Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress. I will never be shaken.**" The venue is a Hiking Adventure. We're putting on our backpacks and hiking boots and discovering God's capital T truths. In the Unshakeable study, girls will learn that no matter what circumstances have them freaked out or filled with fear, when they know that God's promises are unbreakable, they can stand unshakeable. Through God's Word, praise and worship, crafts, and other fun activities, our girls will learn who God is and these five unbreakable promises God makes to her: I am loved, I am not alone, I am strong, I am forgiven, and I am a world changer.

Monday, September 20, we had our Kickoff for the season. The weather couldn't have been better! We met outdoors had a pizza party with smores, fun activities: pumpkin bowling, hopscotch, jump rope, and rock painting. Since meetings indoors require wearing masks, we will try meeting outside as much as possible.

Thanks to Don R and Clair for helping with set-up, pizza pick-up and clean-up.

Thanks to counselors Rockelle, Hildred and CIT's Amber, Chantel, Mattea and our newest CIT, Michal for their help and commitment to this new season.

The GEMS girls club thanks you all for your support though prayers, financial gifts, and multiple other resources. Continue to pray that all we do will be blessed by our Father to whom we give our thanks and praise through the gifts He gives us.

Submitted by Darlys R



UNSHAKEABLE
PSALM 62:2



Northwest Hispanic Ministry

Report for September

Joe Strong

NWHM
701 W. Blackburn Rd.,
Mt. Vernon, WA 9
8273

Angie had graduated from the university and had a job as a community organizer back in her home country of Columbia. However, she had a lot of push back from local gangs and eventually death threats that made her quit. Angie and her husband decided to try coming into the U.S. They came in through Mexico and soon afterwards, the US Immigration Service picked them up in Houston, Texas. They deported her husband but left Angie because she was pregnant. They simply told Angie to get lost. She didn't know what to do. She only speaks Spanish. She then came up with a plan to try to get to Canada. This didn't work out very well either. She ended up at the Lighthouse Mission after being on the streets of Bellingham, WA. Yazil, a member of our church and who also works with the Mission brought Angie to our Amor Viviente Church. That is when things began to change for this 33 yr old woman. She stayed 4 days in the basement of our church, then we got her into the women and children shelter in Lynden. Our church blessed her with love, with clothes for a pregnant woman, with baby clothes and had a garage sale in order to help Angie with cost of living. I was very proud of our group of women who showed the love of Jesus to this stranger. Angie felt so loved that she is now attending our church. She is due Sept. 24.

On Sept 14, a couple of days ago, Harold Caicedo and Mirtha Villafane came to visit the work that Northwest Hispanic Ministry is doing. Harold is the president of Consejo Latino, a group of Hispanic leaders in the CRCNA. Mirtha is an organizer of non/Anglo church plants with the CRC and works with Resonate Ministries. (She works with Clarence Pressley in Seattle). What a great time we had. I laid out my vision for the future of the two churches that I am responsible for and it fit perfectly with what these two pastors are promoting. We then met with the Amor Viviente Church in Lynden and caused a tremendous amount of excitement. Harold and Mirtha train leaders for ministry. They offer classes in what is the CRC, what does it mean to be Reformed, hermeneutics (preaching), Reformed doctrine etc. There were 18 members of our Amor Viviente Church who came to the meeting. We plan to start this education this fall. We have a lot of future leaders who are very capable. Thank you for your support.

Serving Schedule

October 2021

Greeter Schedule

3 Gina N, Joe P
10 Jerry & Faye
17 Lanny & Christine
24 Len & Terry
31 David & Ida

Prayer Room

3 Ev
10 Ida
17 Len
24 Chuck
31 Tanya

Communion Prep

03 Hildred & Carlson Family

(No Cookies Needed)

*Not able to
serve when
scheduled?*

*Please call
someone to
take your
place.*

*Thank you for
your help!*

Happy October Birthday!

1	Del B	13	Elisabeth F
4	Mike Boer	17	Diane B
5	Alice B	27	Pat B
6	Bekah R	31	Joe P
11	Don V		





October 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9:30 a.m. Worship & Communion 11:00 a.m. Sunday School	4 GEMS	5 12:15 Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	6 HCC Day2Pray 11:30 a.m. Elders	7 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Deacons	8	9
10 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 7:00 pm Kaemingk Group	11 7:00-8:15p.m. Friendship	12 12:15 Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	13	14 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Council	15	16
17 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School	18 GEMS	19 12:15 Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	20	21 6:30 a.m. Men's Group	22	23
24 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 7:00 p.m. Kaemingk Group	25 7:00-8:15p.m. Friendship	26 12:15 Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	27 7:00 p.m. Worship Planning Team	28 6:30 a.m. Men's Group	29	30
31 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School						