

# Heartbeat

## True Communities Practice Forgiveness

By Pastor Scott Roberts

What is forgiveness and why is it necessary for community building and sustaining? I really like this definition of forgiveness:



**...a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or group who has harmed you, regardless of whether they actually deserve your forgiveness.<sup>1</sup>**

Such a definition places the burden of forgiveness upon the one bearing the cost of the pain involved. This is what Jesus himself modeled upon the cross.

**Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”**

**Luke 23:34**

As he was suffering, he made the deliberate choice to release resentment and vengeance and instead asked the Father not to hold these sinners accountable for this act of violence and divine rejection. Had he withheld forgiveness, what hope of reconciliation for sinners would have existed?

Imagine for a moment a gathering of people who remembered every wrong that was done, who held on to the hurts of the past, who felt the

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## True Communities Practice Forgiveness

desire to punish one another until the harm inflicted felt equal to the harm one had suffered. Would such a community be one that you wanted to join? Would such a community be a force for good in the world? Would such a community breed trust, fellowship, and service? The obvious answer to all these questions is “No.” Healthy communities are places where grace, not harm, is extended. Healthy communities are places where people recognize that everyone is a sinner, but that we can trust God to work out the necessary justice to the harms we have experienced, while we move ahead without harboring ill feelings. Such a perspective frees the one harmed to love again. And ideally, the practice of forgiveness will lead to reconciliation, but it may not. Not all people, even if they forgive, are capable of reconciling with every person.

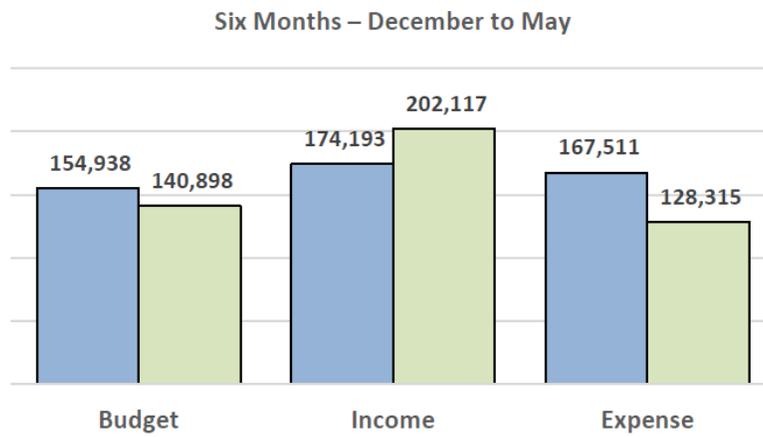
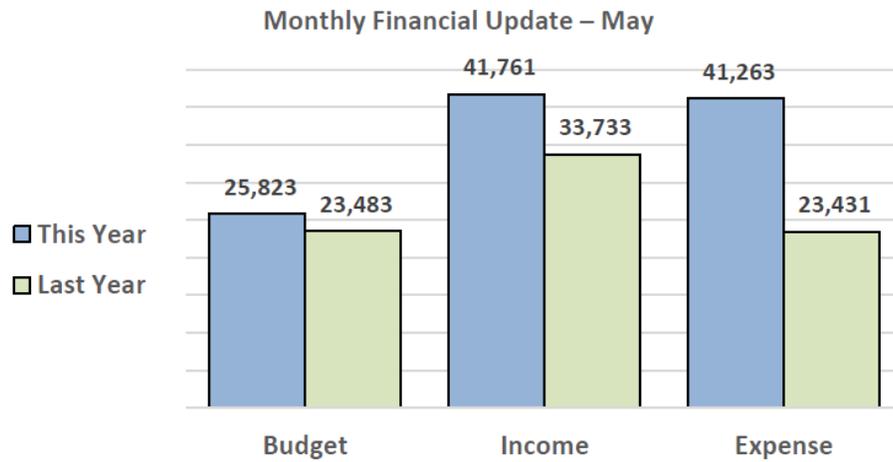
**Reconciliation is not the same as forgiveness. Forgiveness requires one person, the victim, to release his or her personal desire to harm the offender. Reconciliation requires the offender to desire a renewed relationship without violence and the victim to be willing to offer such an opportunity.**

And sometimes the history of the victim and/or the offender, or the gravity of the offense, will make either of these requirements for reconciliation nearly impossible to grant.

But a community filled with people who forgive will be a community where grace abounds, and reconciliation is more likely. Such a community is countercultural in a world where people seek to harm those who have caused hurt instead of forgiving them. And this kind of community will be a place where the Spirit of God is present, for the Spirit conforms people to the image of Christ.

**May we as a church, consciously choose to forgive one another when we feel wronged or hurt. May we cultivate a community of grace and generosity so that the world will see that blessing and not cursing leads to the joy of life together.**

<sup>1</sup><https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/topic/forgiveness/definition>



## HCC MAY Giving

Hope in Christ Church would like to place a volunteer in the foyer each Sunday to monitor the doors and the parking lot area that is visible from the windows.

The foyer monitor will still be able to hear the worship service, but would stay in the foyer when it is not occupied.

If this is something you would be willing to do, please speak to Mike Button at church or give him a call. He will be able to answer your questions, and will make a schedule so you will know when it is your turn.

Thank you for considering it!

## Volunteers Needed

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# Encouragement from Encouragement

## Part Two

By Pastor Ethan Rogers

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Last month we discussed encouragement, the two factors that make encouragement succeed or fail (the aim and subject of the encouragement, respectively), and we concluded by noting that God encourages us most consistently by simply telling us He is with us.

I observed that, in light of all the difficulties we face in seeking to encourage each other, it seems odd that God should so consistently fall back on such a singular approach; after all, He does it to many different people, in increasingly variable situations. While it is odd that God should choose one approach, it is far more odd, at least at a glance, that He should have such success. Yet the question remains: Why? Why encourage primarily by reminding us of His presence?

I think in part that could be answered simply by saying, “Well, forgetful as we are, we need the reminder!” I do not dare disagree. But I suspect another serious facet to consider is because there really isn’t anything more encouraging that God could say; He could reassure me of my own ability alone (which I call into question myself), or the support of my friends (who, noble though they are, are as human as I), or perhaps still the love of my family (who are in not so very different a boat). None of these tacks hold the weight my discouragement brings. So it would be should He place any tool at my disposal, or if He should grant me a company of angels; all the good and worthy assets in the world do not rival the encouragement gleaned by knowing that the good, just, loving, and incomprehensibly powerful God is with me.

So then, if a Christian Christian, this should be defense against discour- tians will be rejuvenat- victed, faithful Christians singular concept more



that the Creator loves you, seeks to rid you of the quiet and self-destructive evils you commit, and has already led and yet leads the charge into the world, that it might be won again to His love and good will.

seeks to encourage another amongst the very first lines of ament. Downtrodden Chris- ed, sinful Christians will be con- will be galvanized. There is no potent to the soul than to know

However, I do not believe that this is where we ought to leave the matter. After all, one will not find great success in encouraging a brother from grief if all one says is, “God is with you.” In fact, being in need of encouragement often makes the words taste bitter; “If God is with me, why am I suffering as I am?” The chief result of discouragement, indeed, its defining attribute, is that it compels its bearer to lose sight of either the worthiness of a goal or the ability to accomplish that goal. It drives us to give up. But why we are giving up and what we are giving up on make a world of difference; if I am giving up on doing right because my heart is hardened by sin, then I need a rather different encouragement than I would if I were giving up on myself because I feel unloved and unsuccessful.

The difficulty with most encouragement, then, is that it is highly contextual. Ephesians 4:29 compels us to speak encouragement ‘according to the need.’ The present issue facing the Christian seeking to encourage a brother or sister in Christ is the knowledge of the need. Perhaps there will be time to discuss the particularities of such context at a later juncture, but for now, I would like us to recall the importance of emulating the character of God. Certainly, we must remind each other of His presence of love, but we must also ourselves become presences of love. Often, the reason that the greatest of encouragements can fall flat is because it is, either perceived or intended, as disingenuous. It removes any relationship from the equation; now your problem is between you and God, not something which I or any other Christian could be of service in. Therefore we, before we even begin to unravel the mystery of encouraging communiqué, must begin by coming alongside each other, by earnestly listening to each other, and by sincerely endeavoring to understand each other. No matter what is said, the mere knowledge that someone else cares for you enough to be there for you is encouraging; presence is the base of all encouragement. As St. Paul in Romans puts it, we must “rejoice with those that rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”

**So, for the month of July, I challenge us all to:**

- 1. Seek opportunity to encourage by being present with those that need it.**
- 2. Begin to look at the complexity of encouragement; dwell on ways your encouragement can benefit its receiver.**

Until next month, may the love and grace of our Lord and Savior be with you!

# Legacy Building Roofing Project

By Lou Kooistra

On Monday morning June the 6<sup>th</sup>, a crew of volunteers, the average age of around 70, started in on roofing the former sanctuary with metal, called snap-loc.

First, some history: This past year, our Building/Grounds people determined that it was time to pay attention to some of our roofs which were aging. The former sanctuary roof, where Legacy Church meets, was first in line for a new roof.



Initial bids were quite high, the last one somewhere around \$65K. Lou Kooistra and Mike Boer came up with the idea of reroofing with metal instead. So rather than tearing off the old roof, why not go over the top and use volunteer labor? So, some planning went into it, meeting with a local company to see what material was needed for 4050 sq. feet and what the costs were going to be. In the meantime, we learned that there was money available from Classis N.W. for a project. So we applied for the amount of \$20K and it was accepted, given that we would give them receipts.

The material was ordered right before a price hike on metal, and the first week of June the lumber and foam board arrived.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> the crew, headed up by Doug Bosscher, started in by screwing down the purlins (2x4's) every 2 ft and then came the 1 ½" foamboard to be installed in between purlins. All the purlins were installed in a single day- not bad for a bunch of old guys! By Tuesday afternoon we were ready for the metal.

On Wednesday the metal arrived, almost 25 ft long and 16 inches wide. We hired an experienced guy named Gilbert to help out with this type of metal, which basically hides the screws that hold it down. After some initial organizing of the crew as to what had to be done, we divided up by having some people on the ground and some up on the roof laying tar paper, flashing and sheets of metal. By the end of Wednesday, one side was completed and because of rain we took a break until Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Enough volunteers showed up on a rainy morning to complete the other side by day's end.

After paying our two contractors, we will have roofed the building in four days for around \$25k. This demonstrates what is possible when a bunch of hard-working guys put their minds to completing a huge task. We give thanks to all that were involved, too many to mention by name, and to our God who goes before us and provided safety and funds.

## Whatcom Community Bulletin



**CELEBRATE WITH WORLD RENEW AT THIRD:** The World Renew DRS 50th Anniversary Tour comes to Lynden on July 19 for an open-house style celebration from 4 to 7 p.m. at Third CRC. Reconnect, join in fellowship with a meal, and celebrate 50 years of World Renew Disaster Response Services's work with churches and volunteers in sharing Christ's hope and love through disaster response, home repairs, and more.

**DISABILITY CONCERNS OFFERS TRAINING:** Join CRC-RCA Disability Concerns online Aug. 11 and 12 from 8 to 11 a.m. PDT for its annual training event. Unpack ableism and consider ways to help reduce the impact of ableism in churches. This event is open to everyone interested in learning more about this very important topic. For more info, visit the website Let's End #AbleismAtChurch. Register at <https://bit.ly/ableismatchurch>

**HELPING LOCAL FLOOD VICTIMS:** There are many churches and organizations in our communities still helping with relief efforts for those affected by the winter flooding. You can learn how you or your church group can volunteer to help or how you can donate financially by visiting [www.whatcomstrong.com](http://www.whatcomstrong.com).

**WOMEN'S PROGRAM COORDINATOR NEEDED:** Envision Mission is seeking a women's program coordinator for its Summit houses. It is a 30-hour-a-week position. If you are interested, contact Mitchell Senti at (360) 392-0289 or [mitchsenti@hotmail.com](mailto:mitchsenti@hotmail.com).

**VOLUNTEER TO HELP HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** If you would like to volunteer to help construct affordable housing locally, contact Habitat For Humanity in Whatcom County at (360) 715-9170, ext. 1016, or [volunteer@hfhwhatcom.org](mailto:volunteer@hfhwhatcom.org).

**VOLUNTEER WITH JESUS TAXI:** Whatcom County Love INC (In the Name of Christ) is offering mini-missions trips in the form of the Jesus Taxi. The servant ministry brings together those in need with volunteers who are "taxied" to neighborhoods to pray, offer a helping hand, and love those who need it. For more info about this and other Love INC programs, call (360) 671-6201, e-mail [oskar@whatcomloveinc.org](mailto:oskar@whatcomloveinc.org), or visit [www.whatcomloveinc.org](http://www.whatcomloveinc.org)

**TEA PARTY, FASHION SHOW AT THE BRIDGE:** The Bridge Community Hope Center is hosting a tea party, fashion show and raffle on July 9 at 3 p.m. at the ministry center (4815 Alderson Road, Birch Bay). Tickets are \$5 each and seating is limited to the first 30. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20 with items valued at \$50 or more. All proceeds go to support the Bridge's ministries to those in need. To RSVP, call (360) 366-8763. For more info, visit [www.thebridgehope.com](http://www.thebridgehope.com), or check out the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/thebridgehope>). The Bridge is open Wednesdays through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

# July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 a.m. Worship with Communion	4	5 12:15 p.m. Zoom Prayer	6 11:45 a.m. Elders Meeting	7 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7 p.m. Deacons Meeting	8	9
10 9:30 a.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. Jesus Gathering 6-9 p.m. Youth Event At Parsonage	11	12 12:15 p.m. Zoom Prayer	13	14 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7 p.m. Council Meeting	15	16
17 9:30 a.m. Worship	18	19 12:15 p.m. Zoom Prayer	20	21 6:30 a.m. Men's Group	22 August Heartbeat Deadline	23
Creative Youth Theater in Worship Center this week.						
24 9:30 a.m. Worship 6-9 p.m. Youth Event at TBD	25	26 12:15 p.m. Zoom Prayer	27 Worship Planning Team Meeting	28 6:30 a.m. Men's Group	29	30
Creative Youth Theater in Worship Center this week.						
31 9:30 a.m. Worship						

## Happy Birthday

5 Marlene B  
8 Chuck D  
9 Ken W  
12 Jay K  
15 Donna V



15 Karen F  
15 Michal R  
16 Evan B  
19 Tena V  
29 Jeannette M  
31 Winne K