

HEALTH MATTERS

A man sought medical aid when he had popped eyes and a ringing in his ears. A doctor looked him over and suggested removal of his tonsils. The operation brought no improvement, so the patient consulted another doctor who recommended removal of his teeth. The teeth were extracted yet still the man's eyes popped and the ringing in his ears continued. A third doctor told him bluntly, "You've got six months to live".



In that event, the doomed man decided he'd treat himself. He bought a flashy car, hired a chauffeur, had the best tailor in town make him 30 suits. Then he decided even his shirts should be made-to-order.

"Okay," said the shirtmaker, "let's get your measurements. Hmm, 34 sleeve, 16 collar..."

"Fifteen" said the man.

"Sixteen collar" the shirtmaker repeated, firmly.

"But I've always worn a 15-inch collar!" said the man.

"Listen," the shirtmaker said, "I'm warning you. You keep on wearing a 15 collar and your eyes will pop and you'll have ringing in your ears."

A PROPER REQUEST

A little boy had been to a birthday party, and, knowing his weakness, his mother looked him straight in the eyes and said, "I hope you didn't ask for a second piece of cake!"



"No," the little boy, Bobby, replied. "I only asked Mrs. Jones for the recipe so you could make some like it, and she gave me two more slices of her own accord."

BRAINS

Father asked his wife, "Do you think our son gets all his brains from me?" His wife quickly responded, "Probably; I still have all mine!"

Living in Difficult Times (continued)

Do not love the world and search for fortune, power, pleasure and fame.

But seek the God's will by helping others, rejoicing always, praying, and you will find peace and joy that remains.

Lord, let our actions show your will and help us to depend on you;

Allow the Holy Spirit to continue to change us because Jesus has many plans for us to do.

By Kim Lang

Lester, you walk EAST and I'll walk WEST.

Let's find out how far apart they are!



God has removed us from our sins as far as the east is from the west.

First Baptist Church Strathroy

Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

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There is No Limit to the Forgiving Love of Christ!



Where Christ is cherished, family is loved & everyone is family!



Sunday, 11 a.m. Services.

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "If you have a mom, there is nowhere you are likely to go where a prayer has not already been."

~ Robert Brault

Living in Difficult Times

When I turn on the radio and hear about the destruction and hate in the world today;

I wonder how I can keep my confidence, be positive, joyful – keeping hope for a better way.

From hurricanes and flooding to senseless shootings, we don't know what is next in store.

But we must keep our hearts focused on our Lord, His love for us, and praise Him even more.

We need to help our brothers and sisters who need our prayers and encouragement when in distress.

Don't give up for the future as we patiently wait for Jesus to return and save us from this unrest.

Always be thankful for the blessings we have even when things seem mundane.

We're also thankful for the soldiers who gave their lives and others who continue to serve our country to help keep the peace to remain.

(continued on back page)

THE BABY

For weeks a six-year-old boy kept telling his teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. Then one day his Mom allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year-old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event.

The teacher finally sat down with the boy and said, "Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?"

Tommy burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mommy ate it!"



Something to Think About...

"Then Peter came up and said to Him, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" (Matthew 18:21-22)

Those who've come to Jesus, have a new relationship with Him. Instead of being His enemies, we're now God's sons and daughters! We've been forgiven of our sins because of His loving kindness. When we come to God and seek forgiveness, receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, God promises, "I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12) and again His Word tells us, "In love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back" (Isaiah 38:17). Having been given such an amazing gift of love, can we do anything less than forgive as we have been forgiven? Jesus actually taught on this very thing telling us, "If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15).

Forgiveness is important because it can lead to less hurt, anger, stress, and depression leading to more hope and optimism, allowing us greater compassion for those around us, and to building healthier relationships. The alternative to forgiveness is anger, resentment, bitterness, and regret. These infest the whole body and leave us isolated and wasted. But how do we forgive someone who badly hurt us? It requires more than just the courage to move forward. It demands our humility, honesty, compassion, and faith. That's why Jesus' command to forgive is so essential to our well-being. Jesus instructs, "Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent', you must forgive him" (Luke 17:3-4). How do we forgive and move on when someone offends or harms us causing a damaging impact on our lives, or destroys a part of us so that we barely hold on? The tough truth about forgiveness is the *necessity of forgiveness*. It's not something we choose to do or not to do. Forgiveness is essential both for the one who's been offended and the offender. Moreover, it's God's will that we forgive. First, Jesus says, "Pay attention to yourselves!" What attitudes do you bring to the relationship? Is our personal concern for ourselves, our pride, holding us back,

or are we willing to extend the olive branch, lovingly care for each other and do all we can do to keep one another from continuing to sin. Each of us struggles with sin and with overcoming particular sins in our lives. Rather than judging however, we're called to "Bear with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive" (Colossians 3:13). Our aim is never to embarrass or hurt the offender when they seek forgiveness, but to encourage them to repent; let God's Spirit cleanse them and restore them. Then what is left is to forgive them. In fact, we must make forgiveness a habit when others sin against us over and over. Will we humbly receive their repentance and forgive? Isn't that what our heavenly Father has done for each of us? Jesus accepts no excuses for our failing to forgive. It's not when our brother or sister shows fruit appropriate to repentance. We simply take them at their word, giving the benefit of the doubt, encouraging them to faithfully rely on Jesus to lead them onward. It's not a matter of increased faith. No, it's about obedience. Jesus says that faith as small as a mustard seed can do wonders! Nor is it only "if I feel like it".

In obedience, we don't depend on how we feel but conduct ourselves to bring glory to God, serving Him with all our heart. We forgive as we're instructed to; we forget the transgressions against us knowing our Father has cast *our* confessed sins all away and remembers them no more. The Scriptures remind us, "He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." (Micah 7:19).

We often think we forgive because we have to, and heeding Christ's command, we're certainly compelled to forgive. But much more, we forgive out of love for Jesus, which transforms our hearts to pour out our love for one another. The forgiveness that will change others, begins because of God's restorative love for us. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Therefore, we accept the promise to not only forgive but to forget. This promise involves three things: first, I won't raise these matters with you ever again (keep a diary); then I won't tell others about them (gossip); and I won't dwell on them in my own mind (poisoning of my mind). Having this in mind, keeping your promise to God and therefore with one another, forgetting the past, then when you're asked to forgive, it isn't for the first, or the fifth, or even the seventh time, it's always the first as we forgive because we're forgiven so much. If we live with God's great compassion in us, truly love one another, there's no room for Satan's masterful ploys to enter and destroy our relationships, or peace of mind.

Mark Your Calendar!

May 5th – Communion

May 11th – Men's Breakfast (8:30 a.m.)

May 12th – Mother's Day

Special Guest: **Strathroy Police Services**

Wednesdays 1:30 p.m.

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Godwinks' Café)

Message Series

Pursuing God's Wisdom

 **Wise with Christ who lives
Forevermore!**