



To Forgive by Carol Landis

Although a number of years ago, I clearly recall the rays of the sun forming a cross. At a particular place on Cowpath Road, I “saw” Jesus, lovingly look down at me from that “cross,” with arms out-stretched, inviting me to release my hurt. *At that moment I realized because He died for all sin, this included sin done to me as well.* The memory is my reminder to allow His blood to heal hurts. And forgive.

Forgiveness can be hard. I believe all of us, have hurts where an apology didn't feel enough, or, where no apology has been received because the one who did the wrong was blind to the sinfulness of their words and actions. Gerald Stitzer writes of this in his compelling book, entitled, “*Grace Disguised.*” He threads the story of instantly losing his wife, mother and daughter in an accident caused by a drunk driver, with experiencing

God's love and grace in the devastating loss. Although written a number of years ago, an analogy he offers has become a principle I desire to live by. **“Unforgiveness makes a person sick by projecting the same scene of pain into the soul day after day, as if it were a videotape that never stops. Forgiveness requires that we refuse to play the videotape and choose to put it on the shelf. We remember the painful loss; we are aware of who is responsible. But we do not play it over and over again. Instead, we play other tapes that bring healing to us”** (pgs. 128 & 129).

“Forgiveness requires that we refuse to play the videotape and choose to put it on the shelf.”

I found Mr. Stitzer's practical analogy helpful. Jesus, who was perfect, died a horrific death so all can have a close relationship with Him both now and forever. Unlike Jesus, I have sinned. I've also been blind to the damage of my own words and actions. I've been someone else's hurtful video. Yet He offers me the grace of forgiveness. And, in love, reminds me to allow that same grace to wash over my pain and tears as well.

Lord Jesus, although hurtful situations are part of my history, thank you that because of Your death, resurrection and the gift of Your Spirit, I have the strength of Your power in my inner being (Eph. 3:16) to leave those videotapes on the shelf. And forgive. In Your name I pray, Amen.

April 2022 |





Making Connections

Who is **Denise Alderfer**?

I am a daughter and sibling...

I made my arrival into this world as a Cassel. My parents are Dave and Gerry. They provided me with examples of Godly living and Christian marriage. My sister is Donna, married to Jeff Godshall, and my brother is Butch (David), married to Rhonda. Childhood memories include camping (getting 5 people and everything needed for a week of tent camping into a Chevy Impala was no small feat!) and many southern gospel concerts. As a young girl my ears were saturated with four part harmony and hymns. I am thankful for my heritage.

I am a wife...

I became Mrs. Mark Alderfer in 1991 and on that day received the blessing of another great family! Mark and I reconnected after high school at Franconia Conference's young adult activities. We attended Covenant Community Fellowship for 25 years before joining Franconia in 2014, which was Denise's 2nd time becoming a member of this congregation. Our story includes seasons of mountaintops and deep valleys, but we are stronger as a couple and as individuals because of all of it. Mark is my "steady" and still the person I can't wait to come home to at the end of each day.

I am a mom...

When I grew up I wanted to be a nurse and a mom. While never a nurse, I was given the blessing of becoming mom to Jordan David, now 25 and Evan Mark, now 22. What a gift! When we welcomed them into this world it gave me some insight into the intensity of the love that my heavenly father has for me. The years of raising them were sweet and years I count as some of the best. Mark and I are thankful for the relationship we share with these young men and always look forward to our family time. In July 2021 we welcomed Jordan's wife, Mattea Ruth, into our family. I am grateful to have some female reinforcement on the ground! :) We love her as our own and praise God for bringing her into Jordan's life!



I am an employee...

I never became a nurse, but did complete a Medical Assistant program and had the opportunity to work as a CNA at Peter Becker, a Medical Assistant in a doctor's office and be a caregiver to my mother-in-law for a short season. Later years included various administrative jobs in insurance, bookkeeping, etc. For the past 9 years I've been enjoying my work in the Financial Services department at FIFS.

I am a daughter of the King...

My relationships and other identities are so much sweeter when this one remains central. No one or no thing fills the void that only Jesus can fill. I say with confidence that all my life He has been faithful and all my life He has been so, so good! "What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer! There is no more for heaven now to give!"

"The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17



Get Involved!

Do you enjoy fresh air, exercise, and good conversation? Come join us for a

Walk in the Park

at Franconia Park
Tuesday, April 12
6:30 pm

All are welcome; walk however long you like!



Mommy & Me

Tuesday,
April 19
11:00 am



A new 6-week

Ladies' Bible study

will be starting on
Tuesday evenings,
April 19-May 24

Topic TBD –
Stay tuned for
more details!



Save the Date:

Ladies' Spring Tea

Saturday, May 21
Speaker Deb Rotelle



Bunco Night & Succulent Craft



If you enjoyed the snack mix at Bunco night, here's the recipe! (Contributed by Carol Landis, originally from her daughter-in-law Melissa)

Bear Lake Trail Mix

- 1 (18.75 oz) Bag Chex Mix Traditional Snack Mix
- 2 ½ c. Bugles
- 1 ½ Pretzel M&M's
- 1 ½ c. Swedish Fish
- 2 ½ c. Chocolate Chip Teddy Grahams
- 1 c. Licorice Bits
- 1 ½ c. Goldfish Crackers

Combine in large bowl. Enjoy ☺
Yield: 24 "cups"



April 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Walk in the Park 6:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
He is Risen! Happy Easter!		Mommy & Me 11am Ladies Bible Study				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31		Ladies Bible Study				

CONTACT US: franconiawomen@gmail.com

Carol Landis | 215-723-2981 | caroldanlandis@gmail.com

Gail Reinford | 267-372-2168 | kgreinfeld@comcast.net

Janet Derstine | 215-723-7413 | bjderstine2@gmail.com

Jill Fallon | 610-287-3501 | bnjfallon@verizon.net

Julie Kratz | 717-525-3040 | jskratz@gmail.com

Julie Stitt | 610-287-7688 | sjstitt1@verizon.net



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