



## *Eagle Vision Partner Letter*

# *Forgiveness is Critical*

October 2005

Dear Partner,

I pray this letter finds you walking in the overflow of all that God has for you. The topic for this month is forgiveness. Forgiveness is critical in our lives. Satan has an advantage over us if we do not forgive. Let's look at **II Corinthian 2:7-11** <sup>7</sup>So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. <sup>8</sup>Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. <sup>9</sup>For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. <sup>10</sup>To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; <sup>11</sup>Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. It not only tells us to forgive someone that has wronged us and caused us grief, it also tells us to comfort, encourage and reinstate them. Who are we to stay offended? When we do this, we are operating in selfishness and not the love of God. If we do not respond the right way, we are allowing Satan to take advantage of us— through our unforgiveness.

Jesus tells us that in order **for us to receive forgiveness**, we **must first sow forgiveness** (**Matt 6:14-15**)(**Mark 11:25-26**)(**Luke 6:37**). I believe that our forgiveness and reconciliation towards others has a lot to do with the type of harvest that we receive in our lives. **Matthew 5:23-24** tells us not to offer our gifts to God without first working to reconcile any unforgiveness that we know is there. Also think about this, we want to receive a harvest that is pressed down, shaken together & running over; but first we should apply the scripture that comes immediately before that. It tells us to forgive. We cannot expect to receive the promise without first meeting the condition!

Forgiveness is not a feeling. We don't forgive because we feel like it or because the person deserves it. **We forgive because the Word instructs us to.** The very fact that Jesus tells us to do it should encourage us to know that **it can and should be done!** As a parent, I would not instruct my 6 year-old son to drive himself to school everyday. Not only does he not have the ability to drive himself to school, he doesn't have the authority or legal right to do so. Our Father would not instruct us to forgive, without giving us the ability to do it. That would be unjust. And not only has he given us the ability to forgive (**Romans 5:5**), He's given us the authority (**Luke 10:19**) to fight against everything thing that tries to keep us from forgiving.

I know you say, "But it's hard." Don't focus on that fact. Focus on the Truth which is **"It's possible!"** I don't know who has done what to you or who will do what to you; but I do know that we are required to forgive them.

I John 4:8,16 tells us that **God is Love**. (So we can write **God=Love**) Does God forgive? The answer is "Yes!" So that means **Love=Forgiveness**. Since we know that faith works by love, by using the above two examples, faith works by forgiveness. I believe there are many of you that have been wondering why your faith has not been working. It's because you are not working it by love. You've been holding unforgiveness in your heart, therefore you have not seen the harvest that you have been expecting to receive. **Haggai 1:5-7** tells us **to consider our ways when we have sown much, but bring in little. Today is your day of freedom! Today is your day of releasing the blessings in your life!** **IF YOU RECEIVE THIS WORD, HEARKEN UNTO IT (HEAR AND DO IT); YOU WILL SEE THE MANIFESTATION IN YOUR LIFE!** Aren't you tired of sowing and sowing and not reaping like you know you should? God cannot lie. We must check ourselves, and get rid of the unhealthy pride and allow ourselves to be corrected by the Word. Whether you think about the people that have offended you everyday or not much at all, be honest with yourself and the Lord. Have you really forgiven them?

In order to forgive, we absolutely cannot continue to think about the negative thing(s) that happened. We should pray regularly for those that have hurt or offended us. When we do what we "can" do, God will do what we "can't" do. We can't change the way people are, but we can make sure that we are responding in the situation in a Christ-like way. In order for you to receive all that God has for you, forgiveness is critical.

In His Righteousness,

Deirdre S. Council  
Co- Pastor

#### MINISTRY UPDATE

We'd like to wish Pastor Harold a Happy 36<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Thanks to all members and partners who sent cards and gifts! May God richly bless you for your seeds sown! As always, thank you for your faithfulness through your prayers and financial support. We truly appreciate it.

Pastors Harold & Deirdre were on WCLY AM 1550 several times last month ministering on various topics. The Women of Excellence had an AWESOME time at their last fellowship spending "An Evening in the King's Court". As always, lives are being transformed, people are being saved, healed and delivered during our weekly services as well as the Rest Home Ministry. Pastor Harold has been ministering periodically at the Men's Prison, but ECCI is about to become more active in the prison by starting the Prison Ministry at the beginning of next year.

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO SOW SEED

> Building Fund—*Any Amount*

✚ CD/Tape Player and Recorder---\$750

> Chairs for Sanctuary—\$4,000

✚ Purchase of a keyboard— \$700

*ECCI is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All gifts are tax-deductible.*