

BE A BRINGER

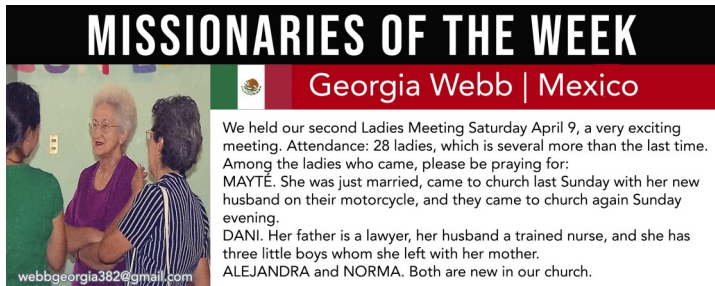
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK
Georgia Webb | Mexico

We held our second Ladies Meeting Saturday April 9, a very exciting meeting. Attendance: 28 ladies, which is several more than the last time. Among the ladies who came, please be praying for:
MAYTE. She was just married, came to church last Sunday with her new husband on their motorcycle, and they came to church again Sunday evening.
DANI. Her father is a lawyer, her husband a trained nurse, and she has three little boys whom she left with her mother.
ALEJANDRA and NORMA. Both are new in our church.

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Exchanging Grudges For Forgiveness

Much of our confusion and misery in life is due to our underestimating (or ignoring altogether) the enemy of our souls. Some of us rarely think of Satan and his demons, and if we do, we often downplay their power and influence. Surely, we could overestimate Satan (and many do), but in our day, especially in the West, it seems like he gets less attention and resistance than he deserves.

While the devil is already defeated and his end is sure, he is still “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31), and he still leads “the cosmic powers over this present darkness” and “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12). And he rules and corrupts through deception. “There is no truth in him,” Jesus warns. “When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44). So, the apostle Paul warns, we must be careful lest we “be outwitted by Satan” or be found “ignorant of his designs” (2 Corinthians 2:11).

What may surprise us is what, in particular, prevents us from being outwitted by Satan. Paul writes, “What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs” (2 Corinthians 2:10–11). Do you want to know what Satan’s schemes are? He wants you to hold a grudge. He wants you to believe vengeance is yours, and not God’s.. Forgiveness outwits Satan, and forgiveness subverts his wickedness.

Forgiveness may be the hardest thing many of us do in our lifetimes. I say may, because many suffer and wrestle in horrible ways. But even then, how much of our suffering is owing to someone else’s sins or failures? Because none of us is without sin, forgiveness is simply a given if we want to love and be loved in this life.

Forgiveness can be hard because it fights against all the impulses of our flesh: “Did you see how he hurt me? Why would I make myself vulnerable again?” “The pain still feels so fresh and deep — how could I possibly pretend to be okay with her?” “This is the dozenth time he has done this to me. Haven’t I forgiven him enough?” “I’ll never be able to trust her again — how could I possibly forgive her?” What voices keep you from forgiving?

And because forgiveness can be hard, God gives us great reasons to forgive. We forgive because he first forgave us. We forgive because God crushed his Son for our forgiveness. He canceled “the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross” (Colossians 2:14).

Source: “Forgiveness Is Spiritual Warfare” by Marshall Segal

KEY VERSE

II Corinthians 2:10 (NKJV)

“Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: II Corinthians 2:1-11; Matthew 18:21-22; Psalm 86:5

Introduction

1. According to the article on the cover, how does forgiveness impact our spiritual lives?
2. What makes bitterness and grudges an easy trap to fall into?

Tuesday: II Corinthians 2:4-8; Matthew 18:15; Proverbs 10:12

Forgive With Love

3. How are we to confront people who have sinned against us?
4. What does Proverbs 10:12 mean when it says “love covers all sins”?

Wednesday: II Corinthians 2:9; John 14:15; Ephesians 4:30-32

Forgive With Obedience

5. Why is forgiveness a difficult command to obey?
6. Describe a time when you forgave someone when it was difficult to do so.

Thursday: II Corinthians 2:10; Luke 23:34; Colossians 3:13

Forgive Through Christ

7. How did Jesus model forgiveness for us?
8. How does Jesus’ example help you to forgive others?
9. How does your relationship with Jesus help you to forgive others?

Friday: II Corinthians 2:11; Hebrews 12:15; Eph. 4:26-27

Forgive For Victory

10. How has bitterness impacted your life?
11. How do we “give place to the devil” when we don’t forgive people? How does this impact the lives of the unforgiving person?
12. How does not forgiving people impact our daily walk with God?