



July 2025

Dear CWR/PTM Friend and Partner,

**O**f all the scenes I recall from *Forrest Gump* (one of the memorable movies I shall probably ever see), I will never forget the heartbreaking scene when Jenny, Forrest's long-time girlfriend and finally, for a short time before she dies, his wife, returns home. She and Forrest are walking down a country road toward the house where Jenny lived when she was a little girl. When Jenny sees her old house it unleashes a tidal wave of toxic memories—a raging river of agonizing flashbacks, including the sexual abuse to which her father subjected her.

Jenny is overcome with rage and begins picking up and throwing all the rocks she can find at the house. Finally, exhausted by the release of the never-fully-addressed-anger that lurked deep in her memories, Jenny fell to the ground. Forrest had watched it all, bewildered, but he did what he felt Jenny needed most. He sat down with Jenny, as his voice-over announced what he was thinking, *"Sometimes there just aren't enough rocks."*

Jenny had no resources to deal with her unreconciled, unresolved, excruciating, soul-destroying anger – she had no spiritual empowerment to either accept God's forgiveness or to pass it on to others. At that point she had lived an unrestrained, immoral life, seemingly self-medicating herself from the enormous pain and shame of the abuse she suffered. She had come home, dying of AIDS – she did not feel forgiven.

The movie was not based on following Christ, so Jenny's spiritual needs remained in large part unaddressed. But beginning with this scene, as Jenny and Forrest spent more and more time together, she "came home" to her childhood friend Forrest, an imperfect person who had his own special needs, but someone who was accepting and forgiving, merciful and loving... someone who did not hold her past against her. In that way, we might say Forrest played a Christlike role in Jenny's life, serving her with unconditional love.

After Jenny, the love of his life, died, the movie shows Forrest standing by her grave, which was under the old oak tree they had climbed as children. "Talking" to her, he tells her he bought the old house in which her father abused her as a child and had it bulldozed.

Apart from the love, mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation of God, the fictitious character of Jenny in *Forrest Gump* is everywoman and everyman. ***One cannot fully forgive until they experience and receive forgiveness, and then, one is empowered to forgive only to the degree that one knows and realizes they have been forgiven. One cannot pass on forgiveness to others unless one has first received it themselves.***

**Forgiveness is serious business.** Jesus commands that we love our neighbors as we do ourselves. This command does not merely direct us to love easy-to-get-along-with neighbors, but cantankerous, disagreeable and even disgusting ones, who become, for one reason or another, our enemies. The love of God does not discriminate on the basis of how we feel about those we feel deserve his love, and those who do not. God's love includes forgiveness—forgiveness is fundamental to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to the very nature of God, who is love.

You have no doubt heard the ironic wisdom of the observation, “Everyone thinks forgiveness is a great idea until they have something or someone to forgive.” We all love to receive forgiveness, when nothing is required on our part to admit that we need forgiveness (reconciliation). But giving forgiveness? Releasing another person from a debt we feel they owe us? That’s another matter. *Forgiveness, in its ultimate spiritual sense, is essentially impossible for a human being.*

The only way one might forgive as Jesus commands is to pass on the forgiveness God has already given. Having been forgiven by God, we are thankful for his love, mercy and forgiveness, and therefore we can do nothing other than to pass on his forgiveness to others, forgiving them as we have been forgiven.

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In spite of the rage and hatred that humanity poured out on Jesus, mocking, hating, torturing and then executing the sinless and unblemished Lamb of God, Jesus responded by saying “Father, forgive them.”

Jesus, the unblemished “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29) absorbed, ingested and soaked up all evil, in himself, bearing the terrible totality of all lust, immorality, hatred, perversion, corruption and depravity, forgiving the horrific contempt and bitter venom heaped on him, opening his arms, quite literally, on his cross, in a welcoming embrace of everyone. **Everyone.** Good for evil. The love of God responded to human hate.

At this moment in time, **all** in the past who had ever sinned (which means everyone... see Romans 3:23) **all** who had shed innocent blood, maliciously murdering and abusing others, seemingly without a second thought—were forgiven. **Everyone** in the past was forgiven.

**All** who took part in carrying out his betrayal, arrest, trial, scourging and beatings... **all** who mocked him and those who impaled him on his cross—**all** of those involved in all aspects of his crucifixion were forgiven. **All** humanity alive at that time—**everyone** was forgiven.

**All** the future evil to be visited on humans by humans—the warfare and bloodshed, the torture, the genocides, the slavery; rapists, murderers, perpetrators of sadistic debauchery, pedophiles who would ruin the lives of children... despots like Stalin, Lenin and Hitler who would bring about the deaths of tens of millions in the 20th century, with its two World Wars... **all** humans who would yet live, after the Cross of Christ, including you and me... **ALL FORGIVEN. Everyone.**

When Jesus said “Father, forgive them...” (Luke 23:34) we might be tempted to think that in his intense pain his emotions overcame him, and he didn’t really know what he was saying, because such a pronouncement seems improbable and impossible and perhaps neither just nor fair. **Everyone** forgiven? That seems impossible—and it is impossible, apart from God! God alone can truly forgive everyone. That’s why it is so vital to the gospel that we know it was God on the Cross—the Son of God, the God-man—the Creator of all that is, visible and invisible.

Jesus was dealing with the ugliness and brutality of sin. He was offering forgiveness and reconciliation because no one else could. No human had the power or authority to deal with **all** sin, *past, present and future*. But God did... and God forgave and reconciled **all** sin and all sinners—**all of it and all of them.**

All are forgiven, *but not all receive and accept his forgiveness*. Jesus, God in the flesh, first forgave us on his Cross. All are forgiven at that moment. But not all are reconciled into a vibrant, Christ-centered life because *not all desire or accept his forgiveness*.

It is difficult to admit that one needs forgiveness. In order for anyone to reach out to the forgiving hand of Jesus and accept the embrace of his outstretched arms on his cross, God must grant us the gift of repentance. **Who wants to admit they need forgiveness?**

God initiates a process, moving in our rebellious and recalcitrant hearts, offering us his gift of repentance. Then, when we admit our need and accept the gift of forgiveness he holds in his hands, we are reconciled to God. He does not force forgiveness and reconciliation on us—he offers it freely by his grace.

The entire process of forgiveness and reconciliation is wrapped up in God's love, surrounded and encompassed by his grace. Forgiveness and reconciliation begin with God, continues being empowered by God, and ends with God. *Nothing about ultimate, meaningful, forgiveness and reconciliation is possible apart from God.*

*Having been forgiven, as forgiven Christ-followers we can do nothing else but forgive others.* To refuse to forgive others (this is not to say that our humanity may battle with Christ in us and make forgiveness of others a longer drawn-out process—sometimes one that takes many decades) means that Jesus does not dwell in us, and that therefore, we have never truly grasped the ultimate significance and meaning of forgiveness nor experienced it. Forgiveness is fundamental to the Jesus Way—forgiveness is a sign that Jesus lives in us and we in him.

Christ-followers 1) are forgiven by the grace of God and 2) forgive others by the grace of God. To refuse to forgive and ultimately be reconciled is to refuse to be loved by God and pass on that love to others.

This is not to say that forgiveness is a “walk in the park” or a “day at the beach” for Christ-followers, because we still live in this body of flesh, and this body of flesh is all about revenge, pay-back and retaliation. But as we live in him and he in us, the grace, mercy and love of God will eventually have its way with us and forgiveness will characterize our lives rather than revenge and punishment.

Forgiven by his grace, your brother in Christ,



Greg Albrecht  
President, Plain Truth Ministries

## CWR/PTM Prayer List—July 2025

These requests for prayer represent just a few of the thousands we receive and pray for. We invite you to join us in praying for these and the others that space does not permit us to include here. Thanks for joining with us as a CWR/PTM Prayer Partner.

*Please pray for my cousin who lost her home due to the floods from hurricane Helene. Now she lives with her mom and they were evacuated due to wildfires. Lord have mercy!—Nevada*

*Please pray for my wife as she is suffering with heart problems. Thank you!—Oklahoma*

*I recently had my 81st birthday and will soon be having surgery for an aortic valve replacement. Please keep me in your prayers. I look forward to the monthly letters from your ministry. May God bless all of you!—Kentucky*

*Please pray for me. My wallet, including everything in it, was stolen. I would appreciate your prayers for my health and mental state, as well. Thanks in advance for your prayers.—Colorado*

*Please pray for our family, as we grieve together after the death of our mother. Thank you so much for all the hope and comfort you brought to her through many years of your letters and magazines.—New York*

*Thank you to everyone for praying for those who are hurting. We appreciate it.—Michigan*

*Thanks so much for all you do to help us study the Bible and learn more about God. We pray that PTM will be blessed and be able to continue to help so many.—Puerto Rico*

*Please pray for my husband as he is suffering from depression and several serious health challenges. Please pray that he can keep his job while still being able to go to doctor visits. We also recently had a serious financial scam, which is adding to our overall stress.—North Carolina*

*Please pray for our daughter, grand-daughter and sister-in-law who are all dealing with serious medical issues. Thank you for the opportunity to request prayers and pray for other PTM Partners on the list.—Oregon*

*Thank you all for your prayers. Please continue to pray for me concerning the nerve pain in my feet and legs. The pain is so bad that I can't sleep or do things I need to do. Thank you all so much. I pray for God's blessings on everyone involved with CWR/PTM.—Louisiana*

*Please pray for my struggle with glaucoma in my left eye and pray for relief from the pain and trouble I'm having with arthritis in my right knee and hip.—Saskatchewan, Canada*

*Please pray for God's blessings on me and my financial situation so that I will be able to give more and help out others.—West Virginia*

*Thanks to everyone for your prayers for my niece (age 20) and her recent surgery to remove part of her thyroid. The surgery went well and she is continuing to heal and recover.—North Dakota*

*Please pray for our son who got his MBA from a prestigious University and still hasn't been able to find a job since his graduation over a year ago.—Minnesota*

*I was fired from my job of 35 years (a completely unjust termination) and I need to be able to heal from the hurt I have felt over this. I started a coaching business and God has blessed me incredibly with new clients.—Kentucky*

Our Father in Heaven: We thank you for your grace, mercy and love. You love each of these individuals, and we thank you in advance for the answers you will provide for each request. With thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our suffering servant who heals us, in whose name we pray—Amen.