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One Service with slides

Palau Story

**(Slide 1)**

In 1986, we were missionaries in the Solomon Islands

**(slide 2—family)**

Transferred to Palau Small Island Nation

**(slide 3—map)**

Pioneer work—only one missionary family

Tell about house and setting

**(slide 4—house)**

**Praying, “God Whatever it Takes...”**

Lightning storm

No electricity, telephone, bars and alarm

One night we heard the dogs barking and noises outside

Darrell fights and we stay upstairs

Alarm

Men turned on Sherri

Abuse then I was removed from the house

Darrell story continues

Seabee camp

**(slide 5)**

Rescue (songs)

Hospital

Flight to Hawaii

Family stays behind

Miracle

Reunited in Hawaii

On to Akron

Return for trial

Leaving Missions

Family ministry today

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## Return to Palau

When we had left Palau we had feelings of defeat and fear. Going back was a step of faith as we confronted our fear.

We learned that God can take what appears to be your biggest failure or defeat and turn it into victory.

**(Slide 6) Theme scripture: 2 Thess 1:11-12 ...We constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.**

**We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

We had no idea what to expect. Our emotions were on the surface.

**(Slide 7)** We were surprised to be met by about 60 people holding banners of welcome and singing What a might God we serve.

**(Slide 8)** On Sunday morning we were blessed to find a beautiful building.

**(Slide 9)** Church service Sunday morning. Governor Vicki Kanai

**(Slide 10)** Sunday night, a night of miracles.

Monday night: prison service (March 26, 2007)

**(Slide 11)** Picture of Prison

**(Slide 12) “When my Son came into the world, I was very concerned about His physical comfort and safety, and what men did to Him broke my heart. But I was less concerned with His physical comfort and safety than I was the spiritual condition of a lost and dying world.**

**(Slide 13) What happened to you and your family in Palau was of great concern to me and what men did to you broke my heart, but I was less concerned with your physical comfort and safety than I was the spiritual condition of this lost and dying nation.”**

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**(Slide 14) Had I not withheld my hand 21 years ago the names of these twelve men would not be in the Lamb's Book of Life tonight. When your family's comfort and safety was on one side of the scales of time and the souls of these twelve men was on the other side, I withheld my hand and the scale tipped in their favor.**

**(Slide 15) But remember son, when your soul and the souls of your family was on one side of the scales of time and my Son's comfort and safety was on the other side, I withheld my hand and the scale tipped in your favor."**

**(Slide 16)** Wednesday: diplomatic dinner: Intent to honor leaders of country for way they had cared for us and a recent missionary tragedy. Vice Pres.

Thursday night, 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 nights of outdoor crusades.

Meeting of man who attacked us.

**(Slide 17, do not show this slide until after we mention meeting the man)**

**(Slide 18)** High chief welcomes us.

**(Slide 19)** three more deaf ears opened and many backs, head, arms knees and hips, 29 year headache. People in their cars were being healed listening to the radio.

**(Slide 20)** Friday Night

#### What we have learned

We want to take a few moments and share with you what we have learned through this experience. If you can learn from us it will save you years of struggle.

We live in an evil sinful world where people hurt people and hurt people hurt people. How many have been hurt by what others have said or done. How many have said or done things that have hurt others.

**(Slide 21 — Forgiveness)**

It is not if we are going to get hurt or offended but what are we going to do when it happens. We dare not allow what has happened to us to determine our future. Our response to what has happened will determine who we become. We will either become bitter or better.

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Our lives were affected by the wrong choices of others. We struggled to feel safe, we struggled to sleep. We kept reliving what took place. Over and over again we relived the events.

During the trial I struggled with the thoughts of killing the men who attacked us. Many times I envisioned myself taking the gun from the police officer and becoming judge and jury. I am thankful that I did not act on my feelings, but I acted upon what I knew to be right. I kept remembering the scripture in Phil. 1:27 whatever happens conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel. Then I was reminded from Romans 12:17-19 that vengeance was not up to me. Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.

We knew about forgiveness and its importance. We had both prayed and said that we forgave the men who had attacked us. But over and over again when the memories would come back, they would be accompanied by pain and anger. The enemy would say, see you did not forgive, then, I would say, I guess I didn't. I was agreeing with the devil and I was right back into the struggle.

When I read the scripture, the theme of forgiveness kept showing up. Jesus was on the cross, and he said, father forgive them, Stephen was being stoned and said, father, do not hold this sin against them. I knew there must be more to forgiveness than I understood.

(Slide 22) Here is what we have learned: **5 Keys to freedom through forgiveness**  
We must realize that we have an enemy that does not want us to walk in freedom. He desires to use unforgiveness to outwit us and take advantage of us. Remember, he comes to steal, kill and to destroy.

(Slide 23) **2 Cor. 2:10b-11 I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.**

Any time you are dealing with the attacks and lies of the enemy we need truth. For when we know the truth, the truth will set us free. And we all want to walk in freedom.

(Slide 24) **Eph. 4:26-27 In your anger do not sin, Do not let the Sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.**

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**(Slide 25) Forgiveness is: a command and not an option.**

It is important that we don't become so familiar with what the scripture says that we gloss over what it is saying.

**(Slide 26) Mt. 6:14-15 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.**

These words of Jesus spoke very clearly to my heart.

**(Slide 27) Forgiveness is: A choice and not a feeling.**

I never felt like forgiving the men who attacked us and changed our lives forever. Feelings will never motivate you to forgive. You must allow what you know to be right and true to motivate you to action. Forgiveness is an obedience issue. Jesus said, pray this way, father forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors, in reality this means, forgive me, as I have forgiven others, He also said, forgive as you have been forgiven and freely you have received freely give.

I was reading in Mt. 18 one day and found some more interesting truth. This is the story of the unmerciful servant that was forgiven a debt that he could never pay. This debt represents our sin. After being forgiven, he went out and found someone that owed him a small amount and had him thrown into prison.

**(Slide 28) Mt. 18:32 Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.**

**(Slide 29) Mt. 18:33-34 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.**

This is an interesting parable. Parables are stories that Jesus used to describe the kingdom of heaven. What concerned me was verse 35.

**(Slide 30) Jesus said, "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."**

This man chose not to extend the very forgiveness that had been extended to him and it cost him dearly.

**(Slide 31) Forgiveness is: for your benefit, not the benefit of the offender.**

The enemy wants us to believe that if we forgive people, we will lose our power over them to cause them pain. This is why people say, I will never forgive them for

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what they did, they ruined my life. For many years my understanding was that my forgiveness benefited the offender. This was more caught than taught. This misunderstanding is the reason so many people struggle to forgive. They have been badly hurt and they want the offender to suffer for what they did. We think if we don't forgive we will finally have the upper hand. We will be in control. The truth is we have no power to cause people pain. Unforgiveness only gives the enemy power over us to use the circumstance to cause us pain. Forgiveness is for our benefit, it is a gift that we can give to our selves. It closes the doorway the enemy uses to continue to steal, kill and destroy. When we understand the truth that forgiveness is for our benefit and that it brings freedom, and that it does not let the offender off of God's hook, but they are no longer attached to us, forgiveness becomes a step we can take.

Forgiveness is for your benefit. Understanding this truth is a key to helping people begin their journey of forgiveness.

We have learned is that un-forgiveness keeps you attached to the offender or the circumstance. And forgiveness breaks that attachment and brings freedom.

**(Slide 32) Forgiveness: must be specific and not general.**

We cannot simply say, God I choose to forgive everyone who has ever said or done anything that has hurt me. That would be great if it would work, but it doesn't.

**(Slide 33) Mt. 5:23-24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."**

This includes people who have something against us and people we have something against. We are to deal with it so God will receive our gift of praise, and so we can be forgiven.

The men who hurt us in Palau that were strangers to us but, there are people in our lives that we know well that often continue to hurt us and cause us pain.

(Things stack up and build a wall of protection)

**(Slide 34) Mark 11:25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.**

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(Slide 35) In the process of our healing we learned that, **forgiveness is a process or journey and not an event**. When this truth hit home, things began to change. I would choose to forgive, when the memory came back and if there was pain and the enemy would say you didn't forgive, that was a lie, I learned to say, yes I did, and I choose to continue to forgive until my journey is complete. When you can remember the event or situation without pain you know the process is complete. Choose to continue to forgive and stay in your journey until the memory comes and there is no pain.

You are going to live with the consequences of what happened either in the bitterness of un-forgiveness or in the freedom of forgiveness.

Unforgiveness causes your whole world to be colored by bitterness. Even though the event may be long past and the people long out of your life, unforgiveness allows the enemy to continue to steal your life and peace. Forgiveness closes the doorway the enemy uses to control your thoughts and your life bringing peace.

(Slide 36) Lewis B. Smedes said: To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover the prisoner was me.

(Slide 37) Summary: Keys to freedom through forgiveness:

1. Forgiveness is a command not an option.
2. Forgiveness is choice and not a feeling.
3. Forgiveness is for your benefit, not the benefit of the offender.
4. Forgiveness must be specific and not general.
5. Forgiveness is a process or journey and not an event.

(Slide 38)

Pray:

Dear Jesus, in obedience to your word, I choose to enter this journey of forgiveness. Please forgive me for the times I have hurt others and for my unwillingness to forgive those who have hurt me. I choose now to forgive **so and so, for and we name what it is, because it made me feel this way**. Finally, I bring the finished work of Jesus Christ between me and what was said or done to me closing the doorway of unforgiveness forever. Thank you, Jesus, for freedom and for peace. Amen.

(Slide 39) Darkness at Dawn & Website: [www.2b4giving.com](http://www.2b4giving.com)