

WEEK FOUR  
DEVOTIONAL



# Forgiveness from God

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Is forgiveness of another person's offense towards us a one-time event or an ongoing process? A quick answer to this question is it depends.

If God is the one doing the forgiveness of our sins, then it is a one-time event. In Jeremiah 31:34, the Lord declares regarding the sins of the people of Israel, "For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." This promise is reiterated and applied to us people of the new covenant in Hebrews 8:12 and 10:17. God's forgiveness of our sins in Christ is once and for all, full and final.



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However, if it is us human beings who are doing the forgiving of others, then it is not as straightforward.

I remembered nursing a deep resentment against my father in my growing up years. When the Lord convicted me of my need to forgive him, I found that I could not do it. I had to ask the Lord for help at every instance of remembrance and even then, I could only muster up enough strength to choose to forgive him. However, when the hurtful memories returned, I felt myself fall back to square one in struggling to forgive.



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Were then my attempts to forgive in vain? Not at all. I discovered that each time I chose to obey the Lord's command to forgive, He was healing my heart step by step.

The hurt in me gradually subsided and I could view my father with eyes of love. I could even grow to keep him in prayer. Our relationship was gradually restored when my forgiveness was fully extended to him. (Of course, I had to repent of my sins of self-centredness as well in this.)



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Forgiveness for us is often an ongoing process. Sometimes, the hurt can be so deep that it is not easily resolved in an instant. It requires the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to gently and gradually lead us towards full forgiveness of others.

It is no wonder that the Apostle Paul writes to the Ephesian church, “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32)



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The word “forgiving” in the Greek is written in the present continuous tense. Paul is emphasizing that forgiveness of another is often an ongoing process until it is complete, just as God’s forgiveness of us is.

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## Reflection Questions

- Are you willing to forgive that someone who has hurt you whom the Lord has placed in your heart to forgive?

Remember our Lord's word to us that God will only forgive our sins if we forgive the sins of others (Matthew 6:14-15). Use this season of Lent to ask for the Spirit's help to obey him fully in this.



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- Are you discouraged that your efforts at forgiving someone seems to be going nowhere?

Don't give up as forgiveness is often an ongoing process. The Lord will help you through this and heal you step by step as you entrust yourself fully to his leading.



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- Are you finding it hard to forgive yourself for past sins?

Know that the same forgiveness you give to others must also be extended to yourself. As the Lord forgives you, so must you also forgive yourself. The Lord will also help you in this as you trust in him.



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## Prayer

Merciful Father,

Thank You for Your complete forgiveness through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Open our eyes to see the depth of Your love and grace that we may forgive as You have forgiven.

When past hurts resurface, remind us to release our hurt and bitterness to You. Strengthen those struggling to forgive, reminding them that healing is a journey and that You are with us. For those burdened by guilt, let them rest in Your mercy, knowing they are washed clean.

Fill our hearts with Your love, that we may extend the same love and forgiveness to those around us.



## WEEK FOUR FAITH IN ACTION

In this season of prayer, fasting, and sacrificial giving, our 'Faith in Action' series highlights key Diocesan ministries where you can make an impact.

This week, we focus on missions in our deaneries.

The Diocese of Singapore oversees mission work in seven countries beyond Singapore: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. This week, we highlight our work in the deaneries of Cambodia, Nepal and Vietnam.

We invite you to consider how you can pray and support those who go, serve, and share the Gospel.

For more information,  
please email [missions@anglican.org.sg](mailto:missions@anglican.org.sg)





## Deanery of Indonesia

In many of the rural regions of West Timor, there are shortages of high schools. They would have to travel to a nearby city to attend high school. Many underprivileged families do not have the financial means to send their children by public transportation.

These youths would end their education in middle school. As a result, social issues like teenage pregnancies and human trafficking beset the communities.

It is our prayer that both institutions would be a beacon of hope for the young Timorese citizens, as they receive better education and hence break the cycle of poverty within in their communities.





## Let us pray for

- St Andrew's Vocational High School of Health Sciences (Nursing) and College of Health Sciences (Nursing) in Kuantana, West Timor, Indonesia to be a beacon of hope for the young Timorese citizens by equipping them with better education and break the cycle of poverty within their communities.





## Deanery of Laos

In two months' time, seven million people across the nation of Lao will give thanks for their New Year. The festive season will be filled with several days of celebration, which include the gathering of family and friends to a time of food feasting. There would also be a 'water pouring' practice - which symbolizes the cleansing and blessing of life.

Throughout the year, Lao people seek the blessing and protection from something or someone greater than themselves.





Our Diocese has established across the nation of Lao - 4 vocational language campuses, 1 residential Skills campus and an international congregation. These are at the heartbeat of the work of the Diocese in Lao.

These initiatives are known as ARDA centres. On a weekly basis, more than 700 students and teachers are learning languages, skills and biblical truths about God who brings blessings and protection to life.





## Let us pray for

- 80 local staff and other international staff who labour in ARDA campuses.
- Centre Directors and chaplain working across the Luang Prabang, Pakse, Savannakhet and Vientiane campuses.
- 700 students who are undergoing lessons to equip themselves with new languages and life skills, and to learn more about God on a weekly basis.
- Canon Yee Ching Wah who carries the responsibility of being both the Dean of Laos and Thailand.
- Danny Longkhumer, COO of ARDA, who shoulders significant responsibilities with his leadership team in Laos.





## Deanery of Thailand

On 4 May 2025, Christ Church Bangkok (CCB) would celebrate her 120 years of worship at the current location at 11, Convent Road. Her witness and ministry go beyond the foreigners residing in Thailand, to the displaced people along the border and the unreached people of Thailand.

The beginning of a Thai congregation in 1991 at CCB has spawn off many church plants which forms the Anglican Church in Thailand (ACT).





Today, ACT has 14 congregations, 4 kindergartens, and community services outreach. These are led by five local clergy, one deaconess, 10 pastoral staff and five missionaries, serving together with lay leaders in the various congregations.

The new plants in Chiangmai and Lat Krabang have prepared two more foci of growth to prepare people for further kingdom advancement. Two more church plants in the Northeast and South of Thailand are in the pipeline.





## Let us pray for

- Raising of a new generation of leaders and workers for the harvest.
- Completion of Project Lat Krabang Phase 1B in October 2025.
- Launching of a new kindergarten in Lat Krabang in May 2026.
- A new Vicar for Christ Church Bangkok.
- Preparation of teams for two more new church plants.





## Deanery of Timor-Leste

Today, the work of this Deanery is located in 3 of the 13 districts of Timor Leste.

In Manatuto, Heartfriends Christian Centre annually equips about 50 young men and women with marketable skills to find jobs. This is done through an 8-month residential vocational training programme.

The Centre also reaches out to about 100 children and teenagers through the ministry of the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade. Some distance away from this Centre, Agape Church (Caunua) is a small but growing congregation in the farming community.





In Dili, Agape Church is a community of about 190 believers. A hostel in the Church premises houses up to 20 young people who come to the capital of Timor Leste to find work.

In Bobonaro, Encouragement House Youth Hostel, houses 80 youths (ages 12 to 18). This initiative is possible through the partnership of a local non-governmental organization.

The mission in Bobonaro is supported by medical teams from Singapore which regularly visit to bring healthcare and training to this district. This work is done in co-operation with Maliana General Hospital.





## Let us pray for

- God's favour to be upon this country as it works towards becoming a member of ASEAN.
- All efforts to disciple the Timorese, especially the young, for Christ, and for communities to be transformed by the power of the gospel.
- All Christians who serve Christ in this country (that they may be one in the Lord, united in purpose, joyful and effective in service).



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