

Good morning!

Please join me in praying for the victims and their families from this horrific and senseless terrorist act that has taken the lives of at least 49 people and injured 50+ more. In my devotion today it was quite ironic (not really as God's timing is always perfect) that the devotion was titled: **Forgiveness: A national tragedy and radical love.**

It began with this:

Editor's Note: On June 17, 2015, at 9:05 p.m., a young man with a handgun opened fire on a prayer meeting at the Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Charleston, South Carolina, killing nine members of the congregation. The captured shooter, twenty-one-year-old Dylan Roof, a white supremacist, was charged with their murders. Two days after the shooting, while Roof's court hearing was held on video conference, some of the families of his nine victims, one by one, appeared on the screen—forgiving the killer. The "Emanuel Nine" set a profound example for their families, their city, their nation, and indeed the world.

Who could imagine that almost one year to the date later the worst mass shooting would take place in Orlando, FL.?

The devotion begins by describing the scene in the courtroom where the accused killer, Dylann Roof was facing his judgment. The journalist who was covering the story explains how he was touched by what he was about to hear. As a seasoned journalist who delves into public safety issues for Charleston's daily newspaper, Knapp has reported big stories before, but the words he was about to hear were shocking yet powerful — and for a moment unbelievable. Knapp checked himself to make sure that the words he was hearing were indeed being spoken. Family members of those who'd had their loved ones snatched from them just two days before spoke directly to Roof — who only heard their voices — as they said they forgave him for his alleged crime.

There is virtually no precedent in America for what transpired at that bond hearing. The forgiveness expressed by some of the family members astounded everyone who heard them speak. The hearing was broadcast live on television, and almost as soon as the brief hearing was over, the video went viral, and people all over the world heard the trembling voice of Ethel Lance's daughter, Nadine Collier, who was the first person to say,

"I forgive you."

She was followed by soft-spoken minister Anthony Thompson, whose wife, Myra, had led the Bible study two nights before. He also expressed forgiveness, suggesting that Roof repent, confess, and give his life to Christ so he could change.

Felicia Sanders, who witnessed the massacre and miraculously survived with her granddaughter, followed Thompson. The pain in her voice was raw, but she still ended her statement with the words, “May God have mercy on you.” In later statements she described the way she forgave immediately and said it was not a choice. “If you don’t [forgive] you’re letting evil into your heart. You’re the one suffering. You’re the one hating. You have to forgive. For you.”

Daniel Simmons’s granddaughter, Alana, spoke next; her voice was clear and filled with conviction when she said, “Hate won’t win.” Since then, she has turned this idea into a powerful movement called Hate Won’t Win.

DePayne Middleton-Doctor’s sister, Bethane Middleton Brown, spoke last. Her voice was trembling yet defiant when she admitted that she was angry, but that her sister had taught the family that love came first — so she forgave Roof and prayed for his soul. In keeping with her sister’s belief that theirs was a family that love built, she is now raising DePayne’s four beautiful daughters.

Nadine Collier’s sister, Sharon Risher, is “not there yet.” As a pastor, she acknowledges the need for forgiveness as a practice in our society, but she considers it a process with no time limit: “The God I believe in is patting me on the back, saying, ‘You take your time.’”

What did Jesus say about forgiveness, and what can that teach us about this extraordinary practice? In Matthew 18, Peter asks Jesus how often he should forgive if a member of the church sins against him. “‘As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times’ ” — Matthew 18:21–22 NRSV

The response is clearly not about how often one forgives, but the number itself is haunting since Roof fired exactly seventy-seven bullets in the Emanuel Church basement.

To read the complete devotional [click here:](#)

Verse of the Week:

Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. — Luke 23:34 KJV

Prayer Requests and Praises/Thanksgiving:

- Pray for our nurses in all spheres of influence that they may discern the relationship between physical health and unforgiveness in our hearts. As difficult as it is unforgiveness can lead to hate, bitterness, revenge, and years of wounds that never heal. Also many physical symptoms that lead to chronic illness and/or disability and even death.

- Pray for our police, EMT's, government workers, and so many others who are seeing scenes they will never be able to erase from their minds.
- Pray for our pastors as they shepherd their flocks during these very difficult and challenging times.
- Pray for our church body that we will follow Christ's example to care for the hurt, wounded, and suffering.
- Pray for our nation that we will turn to God, repent, and allow God to work in and through its people.
- Pray this prayer as we take a moment of silence to reflect on those who are suffering unimaginable pain and devastation. " Lord, many souls have been brought very low. They know sorrow that no one could ever imagine could be endured. They cry for help at all hours of the day and night. Let your mercy be with them, Lord, in their distress that they realize it is your word, your promises that give life. In their affliction and anguish, hear their cries. Comfort us with your love and mercy". (From [Psalms for Healing](#) by Gretchen Person).

Please check out our website: www.elimcare.org/fcn. Click on any number of links that will provide you with resources and a calendar of upcoming events. Our website is having a great new makeover and will be available early June. I will notify you when it's ready.

Updates/Events

- **Elim FCN Network Meeting**
 - Wednesday, June 22nd
 - 11:00 – 1:30 Salad greens will be available for lunch. If able bring things to serve with it.
 - Elim Care Corporate Office
 - Topic: Sharing our Resources Please bring some of your favorite resources to share with the group and any ideas you have for organizing them and accessing them quickly.

Resources:

- **Yammer ... A platform for FCN's to share ideas at the Church Health Center. Please follow the link below from Ali and check out ways to get information and helpful advice.**
 - Good morning everyone! We're very pleased to announce that with the help of Alison Futris, our Communications Coordinator here at the Church Health Center, we have added the opportunity for those not yet on the platform to [request an invitation](#) through the newly-designed Westberg Institute website. By completing this request form, their information will be sent directly to myself or Alan Swistak and they will receive an invitation and getting started materials within a few days of their request. Thank you, Ali!

- **Summer Bible study on line: [When God doesn't fix it.](#)**
 - Click on the link above and receive 5 free videos and downloads to get started. It is taught by Laura Story.
 - Participants will be studying the Scriptures and finding answers to these tough questions in our new online Bible study *When God Doesn't Fix It* with Laura Story starting the week of June 19! Sign up and join us this summer! It's going to be a great!
- **Lotsa Helping Hands: Create a caring community.**
 - <http://lotsahelpinghands.com/>
 - Easily organize meals and help for a needy family.
- **JUNE National Awareness Observances.**
 - [National Safety Month](#)
 - [National HIV Testing Day](#)

A Nurse's Story:

Please consider submitting a story to be printed in one of our weekly updates.

From the book, Parish Nursing , by Verna Carson and Harold Koenig
This story is written by Shirley Branch, a parish nurse in Houston, on the occasion of her receipt of the Woman of the Year award from Fifth Ward Missionary Baptist Church.

My steps have been ordered. You can see a drag in my step, but yet I march on. My life was in a valley and I felt I had no worth. How would I give back? The word faith kept coming up in my mind over and over. I found a new way to restore my joy by touching the lives of others once again.

I remember saying to my church congregation on my parish nurse dedication, " I didn't know there was an education program for a church nurse". But a faith community nurse is much more than being a church nurse. It is touching people – mind, body, and spirit—the whole person.

Faith nursing guides my path and with years of wisdom I am able to soar like an eagle. I have seen much from my rock. I now see with a new vision. I have always cared about helping people and I now have a different way of doing just that.

Faith nursing comes from your heart and very seldom is there any pay. It is listening and helping people to improve their lives. It is bringing education to your neighborhood in a way that your neighbors will listen and understand. It is looking at their needs and finding resources that they can use. It is organizing events to bring services and attention to their needs.

The faith community is our extended family and extends us all. For my mother, faith nursing is having Jannie Moore's Comfort Ministry. Her diaper ministry is dedicated especially to the seniors and disabled. It is going green to save green. It keeps them dry, while keeping their expenses low so that they have money at the end of the month for food and medicine. Our health team also recycles gently used clothes, walkers and wheelchairs. Faith nursing is just being there and daring to care.

There are so many parish nurse stories, the author of this book writes. But the stories recounted here clearly show that nurses who choose to work with faith communities do it to serve God and God's people. They are responding to a call from God to love, serve, and to make themselves available to His flock.

Health Tip of the Week:

WebMD Portion Size Guidelines:

- 1 cup = baseball
- ½ cup = lightbulb
- 1 oz. or 2 T = golf ball
- 1 T = poker chip
- 3 oz. chicken or meat = deck of cards
- 3 Oz. fish = checkbook
- 1 sub sandwich = about 6 inches
- 3 cups popcorn = 3 baseballs
- 1 cup carrots = about 12 baby carrots
- 4 oz. nachos = about 7 chips

Thought for the day:



