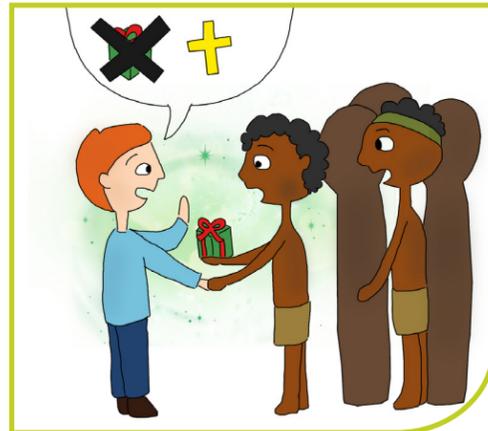
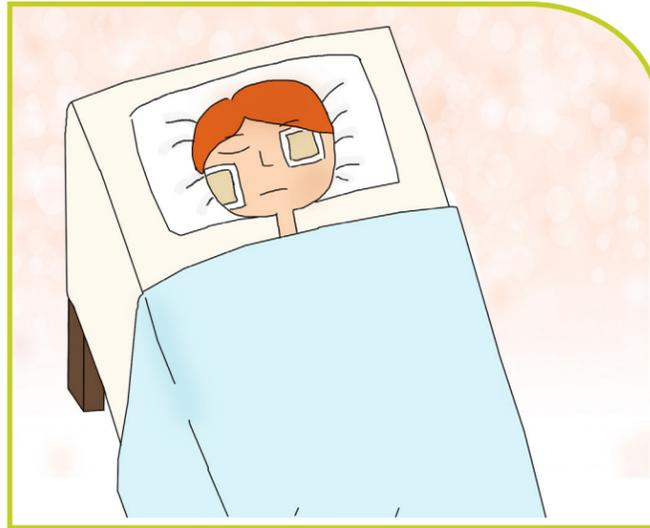


# The Gift that Forgiveness brings



## Let's read the Bible

Psalm 42:1-11  
72:1-19  
91:1-16

## We consider together

Can we do favors to those who are not friendly to us? Forgiveness is to give them a second chance.



Has there ever been a time when you were forgiven for doing something wrong? When your heart is beating out of your chest, and cold sweat falls down your back because of your wrongdoing, the voice saying, "It's alright, sometimes you make mistakes." makes you ever so grateful. It is hard to be forgiven amongst your friends, but once forgiven, you become closer and your love for each other grows. Forgiveness may just be the greatest power. Have you ever thought about the forgiveness of God? God's forgiveness makes all wrong things become new. In places where people are translating Bibles, a lot of fights have stopped, and wars have ended because of God's forgiveness.

Papua New Guinea still has a lot of people who believe that they become sick and get into accidents because of magic. In a village in the Mangab-Umbula tribe, a girl was eaten by alligators while canoeing. The girl's family believed that one of the Bible translation team members had placed a curse on her, and beat him up. Goodness gracious! The man who did not know why he was being hit was suddenly in great risk. Doctors said that he would not get better, and could not live a normal life anymore. But through God's grace he was fully healed. It was when he was working with the Bible translation team again, translating the Book of Psalms. He faced a challenge while reading chapter 130, verse four. "But you offer forgiveness, that we may learn to fear you." (NLT) He was almost beaten to death for something he had not done, but he felt God's heart when he read that passage. He decided not to dislike them any longer, and to forgive them instead. He also did not accept the present that an attacker in the village traditionally gave to the victim.

"I personally won't take any of these compensations. Because God has forgiven me. I forgive you. I won't take anything because I want you to know I forgive you out of my heart, not because of what you have given my family and me. From now on when you meet me on the path, don't avert your eyes. I want you to look at me and know that I have forgiven you." (pg. 55, The Power of the Word, compiled and edited by Luci Tumas and Patrick Wilson)

In Cameroon's Bambalang Village in the year 2011, there was a time when they were under the enemy's attack for four days. 300 houses were set on fire, and 3000 people had to move to another place. Do you know what happened to the upset and angry hearts of those who had lost their home and a place to stay? The Book of Luke, translated into their own language, was the key to putting out the fire in their angered hearts. As they read the Book of Luke, the hatred that had filled their hearts was instead full of love and forgiveness. The ceremony celebrating the finished translation of the Book of Luke was a little late, but the people were able to fully experience how magnificent the gift of the forgiveness of God is.

"Hating your enemy cannot solve the problem. But loving your enemy will disarm your enemy and make him powerless." (See more at: <http://vimeo.com/3863555>)

What a fascinating work of God! What happens when the heart of God's forgiveness comes into our hearts? We cannot forgive those who have hurt us, all on our own. Let us pray that we, as well as for the missionaries who are working all over the world, would receive the gift of forgiveness from God.

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