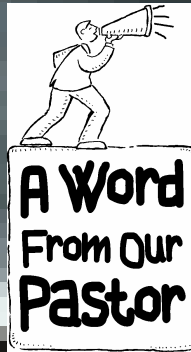
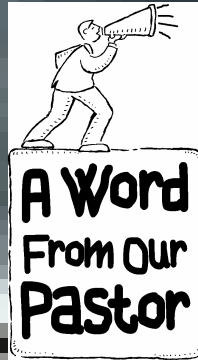


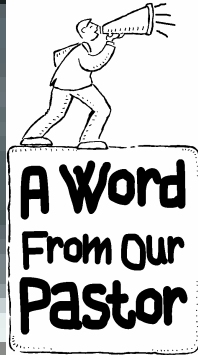
Matthew 6:15 says, “But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins”. Corrie Ten Boom was born in Amsterdam and raised in the Dutch Reformed Church. When the Nazis came to power in the late 1930’s, Corrie and her family hid Jews behind a false wall in Corrie’s bedroom. In 1944 Corrie’s family was arrested and sent to Ravensbruck, a concentration camp. Her entire family died there and Corrie was



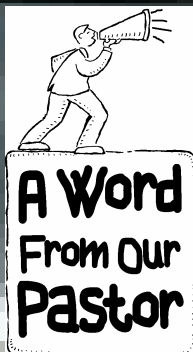
scheduled for execution but was released due to a clerical error. Corrie believed she was saved by God for a purpose and she committed her life to preaching about Jesus, speaking in churches, tent meetings and open-air rallies. At one meeting in Germany in 1947 she taught on God's forgiveness. After the meeting a man came up to her and introduced himself as a former Ravenbruck guard.



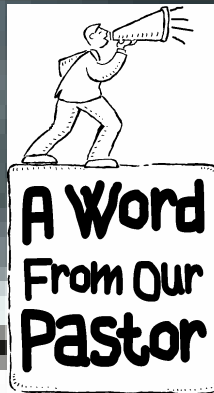
Corrie needed no introduction-she remembered him well. He had been one of the worst guards in the prison-notorious for his cruelty. He told her that while he had become a Christian since the war and knew that God had forgiven him, he needed to hear Corrie's forgiveness. He stuck out his hand and asked for her to forgive him. Corrie stood a long time unable to think about anything but the terrible



things this man had done not only to her but to all who in that concentration camp. Then she remembered the words of Jesus that required her to forgive any sin. She silently prayed, "Jesus, help me!", then she took the man's hand and said, "I forgive you, brother!" She later recalled that she had never known God's love so intensely as she did then. I read about a church sign that said "Holding a grudge is letting someone live rent free in your head".



What happens when we choose not to forgive is allowing that other person to hold us hostage. Most of the time they are not even aware of our feelings and yet we are letting them continue to have power over our thoughts and feelings. Sometimes their power is so great we become physically and emotionally ill- all our time and energy is spent with conversations in our head about what they have done to us, and we are consumed by



those memories. If we want to be used in a great way by God, we must be willing to forgive those who may be a great source of pain in our lives. My brothers and sisters, we are persons in whom Christ dwells. Is there someone who needs your forgiveness today?

In Jesus' love and forgiveness,

*Pastor Nancy*