



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Living Forgiven

As a sinful person, I am sometimes concerned how the world and even my family sees me, but I know, by His grace, that God sees me as His forgiven child.

This week my 19-month-old grandson, Paxton Mark, became very ill with an infection. His little neck swelled to three times its size. He had fever spikes and was one very sick little boy. He was hospitalized, underwent surgery to drain the infected area, and had five days of IV antibiotic before being released.

I received a picture of Paxton, sitting in his car seat, ready for the ride home from the hospital. The picture is priceless to me. I shared that picture with a few friends by email and text message. Everyone replied, saying Paxton was cute; Paxton has beautiful dimples; Paxton is going to be a heartbreaker ... you know, the loving, fun compliments.

As I read those comments, and I did appreciate every comment, I realized that this grandma saw a different Paxton in the picture. I saw eyes that were sparkling, with no pain and no fear. I saw a smile that was overjoyed — a smile that said, “I’m free and healthy!”

As chosen children of God, our Lord sees us through the cross of His Son, Jesus Christ. He sees us free and forgiven. Forgiven to live for Him in everything we do and say. Forgiven to forgive others and to tell them they are forgiven. Forgiven to ask for forgiveness from those we have harmed.

Colossians 3:13 tells us: *[B]earing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

Ask for forgiveness from those you hurt, and speak the words of forgiveness to those who have hurt you. Only through the work of the Holy Spirit can we forgive and be forgiven. We need to remember that we are powerless but God is all-powerful. The results of forgiveness will become clear as we rely on God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — to help us make amends to those we have harmed or to those who have harmed us.

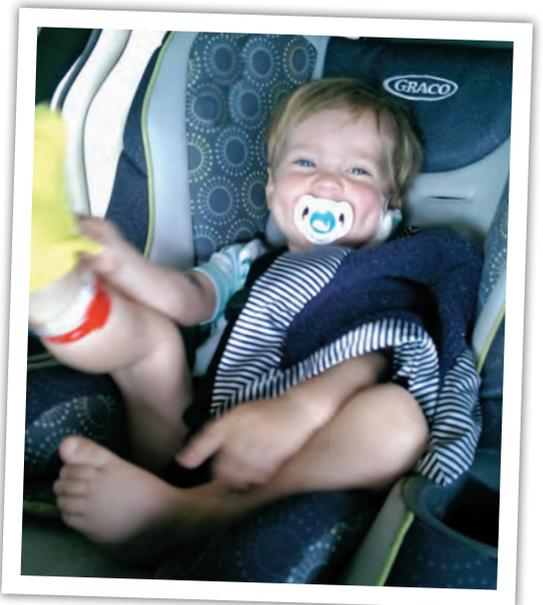
The Time is NOW to live out in our daily lives the forgiveness granted us through the cross of Jesus Christ.

The Time is NOW to speak the words of forgiveness to someone we have hurt or who has hurt us. Tell them, “I forgive you!” and be sincere.

The Time is NOW for the LWML to share this forgiveness with the world by supporting our missionaries through prayers, mite offerings, and personal relationships through letters, email, and Web get-togethers.

As little Paxton smiles as a baptized child of God, pain-free and going home, may we smile because we are forgiven children of God! Forgiven and free to serve Him, may you serve Him confidently!

Kay Kreklau, LWML President



Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Colossians 3:12-13 (ESV)