

## *Forgiving a Killer*

During the Korean War, a South Korean Christian civilian was arrested by the Communists and ordered shot.

But when the young Communist leader learned that the prisoner was in charge of an orphanage, caring for small children, he decided to spare him and kill the prisoner's son instead. So they took the 19-year-old son and shot him right there in front of the Christian man.



Later, the fortunes of war changed, and that same young Communist leader was captured by United Nations forces, tried and condemned to death. Before the sentence could be carried out, the Christian whose son had been killed came and pleaded for the life of the killer. He declared that this Communist was young, and that he really did not know what he was doing. The Christian added: "Give him to me and I will train him."

The UN forces granted the request, and the father took the murderer of his son into his own home and cared for him. Today, that young man, formerly a Communist, is a Christian pastor, serving Jesus Christ.

Such is the power of forgiving love that can only be described as superabundant.

We find that kind of love amazing, and few could do what that father who lost his son did.

Is there someone you need to forgive? In all likelihood, that would not be someone who has killed a member of your family. But perhaps there is someone who has committed a transgression against you who needs a touch of your grace.

And who knows? It could be life-changing – for that person, and for you.

– Beecher Hunter