

## E-DEVOTION FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 16

For some reason, I have been thinking a lot about RECONCILIATION lately. Probably because so many folks have been at odds with one another and that is troubling.

They say sometimes you just 'have to draw a line in the sand.' In other words, this line is drawn, and one is on one side of the line... and the other on the opposite side. So, as 'reconcilers' how do we come to an agreement?

The problem, often, is that no one wants to 'give in' and be the first to step forward. So, the line just stays in place and the two simply cannot meet. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:32 that "*Instead, be kind and tender-hearted to one another and forgive one another as God has forgiven you through Christ.*"

Great words, but it still is going to take the action of that first person to be willing to step up to the line. And forgive. I think about this when I share stories with so many who still struggle with forgiveness. As a 'reconciler' I would just like to give those folks on either side of that line a big PUSH! Step up... be the first one. Then there may be that moment when reconciliation takes place, and the following steps can be down that line... in the same direction.

Sometimes I find myself on the other side of that line. I know how difficult that first move is. And you wonder? Will the other person meet me there? Or will I be rejected in my move for reconciliation?

I guess it takes faith. And forgiveness. And time. And then... just be courageous, move forward. Remember those words... "*forgive one another as God has forgiven you through Christ Jesus.*"

Keep on wearing your mask. Wash your hands, fold them, and bow your head. Ask God for courage to move on. And please get your vaccination whenever you can. Do it for all of us.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, so often I am so stubborn. I just cannot let go of the past and the wrongs I feel have been done to me. Help me to be strong and take the first step. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen."