

To start anew / Om nuut te kan begin''

To start anew – Part 1

And Jesus concluded, “That is how my Father in heaven will treat every one of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.” *Matthew 18:35*

The question is not whether you have killed someone – rather how many times have you neglected to make life a better and more beautiful place for others. *Johan Smit*

In this new series, we will see that there are three things that are not forgiveness, and then focus on the practical side. Prepare yourself for this as this subject is very topical – we are all subjected to some form of forgiveness on a daily basis and we can only forgive from our heart through the grace of God. Face the challenges at work boldly today and enjoy it!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 1

“So sal my Vader wat in die hemel is, ook met julle maak as julle nie elkeen sy broer van harte vergewe nie.” *Matteus 18:35*

Die vraag is nie of jy al 'n moord gepleeg het nie, maar hoeveel keer jy al nagelaat het om die lewe vir ander mense mooier en beter te maak. *Johan Smit*

In hierdie reeks gaan ons kyk na drie dinge wat vergifnis nie is nie, en dan na die praktiese sy van vergifnis. Stem jou daarvoor in, want hierdie onderwerp is baie aktueel – elkeen van ons kry amper daagliks daarmee te doen, en dis net deur die genade van ons liefdevolle Vader dat ons dit kan regkry om werklik te vergewe. Kyk die uitdagings van die werk vandag in die oë, en geniet dit!

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To start anew – Part 2

As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our sins from us. *Psalms 103:12*

He who cannot forgive destroys the bridge over which he himself has to walk; every person has a need for forgiveness. *Thomas Fuller*

Forgiveness is not necessarily to forgive **and** forget. Although there has been much debate concerning this point, it is only God that can really achieve this. There are many references to this in the Bible – we shall refer to a few of these. Be that as it may, it is important to focus on the end result of your

forgiveness – to be able to live in honesty and sincerity before God and your neighbour. Be committed at work today!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 2

So ver as die ooste van die weste af is, so ver verwyder Hy ons oortredinge van ons af. *Psalm 103:12*

Hy wat ander nie kan vergewe nie, breek die brug af waaroor hy self moet stap: Elke mens het behoefte aan vergifnis. *Thomas Fuller*

Vergifnis is nie noodwendig vergewe *en* vergeet nie. Hieroor is al vele debat gevoer, maar eintlik is dit net God wat dit kan regkry. Hiervoor is daar heelwat verwysings in die Bybel, en ons sal na van dit kyk. Hoe ook al, dis belangrik om die end resultaat van jou vergifnis in gedagte te hou – om eerlik en opreg voor God en jou medemens te kan leef. Werk met oorgawe vandag!

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To start anew – Part 3

Then Joseph said to them, “Please come closer.” They did, and he said, “I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt ...” *Genesis 45:4*

No matter how many times you aim to achieve victory over your passions, do not give up. Every effort weakens the power of passion and makes it easier to gain victory over it. *Leo Tolstoy*

Joseph did not forget the fact that his brothers sold him into slavery – instead, he reminded them and also confronted them about it! It is always difficult to reopen old wounds, but the aim should be to place things in perspective. How can one forgive if you cannot remember what for? Be honest in your conduct today – do not forget that you are precious in the eyes of the Lord and that He loves you!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 3

Maar hy het vir hulle gesê: “Kom na my toe!” en toe hulle nader kom, sê hy: “Ek is julle broer Josef. Julle het my verkoop, maar ek is Egipte toe gebring ...” *Genesis 45:4*

Dit maak nie saak hoeveel keer jy probeer om jou woede te beteuel nie; moet nie ophou daarmee nie. Elke probeerslag verminder die krag van woede en maak oorwinning daarvoor makliker. *Leo Tolstoy*

Josef skram nie weg van die feit dat sy broers hom jare gelede as slaaf verkoop het nie. Nee, hy herinner hulle daaraan en konfronteer hulle daarmee. Dit maak seer om die ou koeie weer uit die sloot te haal, maar die doel is

meestal om sake in perspektief te stel. Hoe kan mens vergewe as jy nie kan onthou waarvoor nie? Wees opreg in jou lewenswandel vandag, en onthou jy is kosbaar omdat Jesus jou lief het!

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To start anew – Part 4

I do not understand what I do; for I don't do what I would like to do, but instead I do what I hate. *Romans 7:15*

The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven't yet come to the end of themselves. We're still trying to give orders to God, and interfering with God's work within us. *AW Tozer*

Isn't life strange? The harder you try to forget something, the clearer it becomes in your subconscious. The more you try to forgive someone on your own, the heavier the burden becomes. It is therefore essential that you commence today's work and the coming weekend knowing that Jesus wants to free you from your burden if you allow Him to do so. Then, and only then, will you enjoy His peace!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 4

Ek begryp self nie wat ek doen nie, want wat ek wil doen, dit doen ek nie, maar wat ek haat, juis dit doen ek. *Romeine 7:15*

Die rede hoekom so baie mense steeds probleme ondervind, steeds soekend is en steeds nie vorder nie is omdat hulle nog nie aan hulleself gesterf het nie. Ons probeer steeds aan God bevele gee, en so dwarsboom ons sy doel met ons lewe. *AW Tozer*

Dis eienaardig hoe die lewe is. Hoe harder mens probeer om iets te vergeet, hoe duideliker word dit in jou onderbewussyn ingeprent. Hoe harde jy probeer om iemand uit jou eie te vergewe, hoe swaarder word die las wat jy moet dra. Daarom is dit nodig dat jy vandag se werk en die komende naweek sal ingaan met die wete dat net Jesus jou kan vry maak van jou skuld gevoelens, as jy Hom sal toelaat. Gee vandag jou kwellings aan Hom, en geniet sy vrede!

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To start anew – Part 5

But if a person is put right with God through the Law, it means that Christ died for nothing! *Galatians 2:21*

All people love to find the wrong in others. It gives you a feeling of superiority.
William Feather

If it were that you **had** to forget the wrong someone did to you, then forgiveness becomes pointless. What would the point of forgiveness be if you could not remember it? No, it is only God that can forgive and forget – rather live without bearing a grudge against your neighbour, and do your best at work today!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 5

As 'n mens vrygespreek kon word op grond daarvan dat hy die wet onderhou, sou dit immers beteken dat Christus verniet gesterf het. *Galasiërs 2:21*

Alle mense is lief daarvoor om fout te vind. Dit gee 'n mens 'n gevoel van meerderwaardigheid. *William Feather*

As dit dan so is dat jy **moet** vergeet van iemand se oortreding, is vergifnis daarvan mos nie meer nodig nie. Wat sou die doel van vergewe dan wees as jy dit nie kan onthou nie? Nee, dis net God wat daartoe in staat is – leef eerder sonder 'n wrok in jou gemoed teenoor jou naaste, en doen jou bes by die werk vandag!

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To start anew – Part 6

They would not have been guilty of sin if I had not come and spoken to them; as it is, they no longer have any excuse for their sin. *John 15:22*

We excuse somebody if they are not to blame for an error, but forgive someone who can be held responsible for the wrongdoing. *Hendrik Claasen*

Secondly, forgiveness is not the same as a pardon. If it were, forgiveness would become a worthless act. Forgiveness always asks something of the person granting it, and perhaps that is the reason why we have so little success – we keep running away from reality! It calls for sincerity to forgive someone, and this does not come easily. Do not stand on the sideline today; forgive your neighbour from the bottom of your heart, and work in honesty!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 6

As Ek nie gekom en met hulle gepraat het nie, sou hulle nie skuldig gewees het nie; maar nou het hulle geen verskoning vir hulle sonde nie. *Johannes 15:22*

Ons verskoon iemand wanneer hulle nie vir 'n misstap blameer kan word nie, maar vergewe iemand wanneer ons hulle verantwoordelik kan hou. *Hendrik Claasen*

Tweedens is vergifnis nie om te verskoon nie. Anders sou vergifnis 'n goedkoop, nikswerd handeling gewees het. Vergifnis vra altyd iets van die persoon wat moet vergewe, en miskien is dit die rede hoekom ons so sukkel om dit opreg te doen – ons skram van hierdie realiteit af weg! Dit vra opregtheid van hart om iemand te vergewe, en dit kom nie net vanself nie. Nogtans het jy nie rede om vandag op die kantlyn te staan nie; vergewe jou naaste, en werk eerlik en opreg!

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To start anew – Part 7

For sin pays its wages – death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 6:23*

As long as we walk according to God's plan, He will assist us. When we walk along our own path, He punishes us through failure. *Theodore Cuyler*

For the reasons we discussed yesterday, it is impossible for God to pardon or merely excuse your wrongdoings. If He did that, then He would have, with all due respect, no integrity. No, excuses will not bring anyone of us anywhere, thus it is important to live and work today with integrity. Enjoy every moment thereof!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 7

Die loon wat die sonde gee, is die dood; die genadegawe wat God gee, is die ewige lewe in Christus Jesus ons Here. *Romeine 6:23*

Solank as ons volgens God se plan wandel, sal Hy ons bystaan. Wanneer ons egter ons eie pad volg, bestraf Hy ons met mislukking. *Theodore Cuyler*

Vir die redes wat ons gister bespreek het, kan God jou nie net eenvoudig verskoon nie. As Hy dit sou doen, sou Hy, met alle respek gesê, geen integriteit gehad het nie. Nee, verskonings gaan nie een van ons eendag iewers bring nie, dus is dit nodig om ook vandag met integriteit te werk en te leef. Geniet elke oomblik daarvan!

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To start anew – Part 8

Certainly not God, who did not even keep back his own Son, but offered him for us all! *Romans 8:32*

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour divine! *Ray Palmer*

God punishes sin. Always. The only difference is that we have a Saviour, being Jesus who carried our punishment for us. Now that is mercy! Because of what Jesus did on the cross for me, I will receive forgiveness. Have you made this Saviour your own yet? If not, remember that tomorrow may be too late, and God will not declare you innocent if you have not made peace with Jesus. Please do not delay! May you experience the peace and joy of Jesus in your life, and enjoy the work!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 8

Hy het sy eie Seun nie gespaar nie, maar Hom oorgelewer om ons almal te red. *Romeine 8:32*

Ek kyk op in geloof na U, geslagte Lam van Golgota, uitmuntende Verlosser!
Ray Palmer

God straf sonde. Altyd. Die enigste verskil is dat ons 'n Verlosser het, naamlik Jesus wat ons straf namens ons gedra het. Sjoë, dis absoluut genade! Net deur dit wat Jesus aan die kruis vir my gedoen het, kan ek vergifnis ontvang. Maak hierdie Verlosser jou eie vandag, want môre mag dalk te laat wees, en God sal jou nie onskuldig verklaar as jou saak met Jesus nie reg is nie. Moenie uitstel nie! Beleef dan ook nou Jesus se vrede in jou lewe, en geniet die werk!

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To start anew – Part 9

The king, however, gave orders that Absalom should not live in the palace. “I don’t want to see him,” the king said. So Absalom lived in his own house and did not appear before the king. *2 Samuel 14:24*

Self-adulation is the death-knell of the soul. It means that we have no desire to change, and then our soul dies. *William Barclay*

Thirdly, forgiveness seldom allows everything to continue as in the past. David forgave his son, Absalom, but kept him in check. Broken relationships are seldom completely healed – this is a direct consequence of the sinful nature of mankind. It is weekend after today’s hard work – may you experience your Saviour in this rest period!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 9

Maar die koning het beveel: “Laat hom na sy eie huis toe gaan. Vir my mag hy nie sien nie.” Daarom is Absalom huis toe sonder om die koning te sien. *2 Samuel 14:24*

Selfbewondering is die doodsklok vir die siel. Dit beteken dat ons geen begeerte het om te verander nie, en dan sterf ons siel. *William Barclay*

Derdens is vergifnis nie noodwendig om alles te hê soos dit in die verlede was nie. Dawid het sy seun Absalom vergewe, maar hom aan bande gelê. Gebroke verhoudinge word selde volmaak herstel, en dis die direkte gevolg van die mens se sondige natuur. Dis naweek na die harde werk vandag – beleef jou Verlosser ook in hierdie rustyd!

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To start anew – Part 10

Some friendships do not last ... *Proverbs 18:24*

Enmity with your neighbour is like a cataract between you and God. *Jan du Rand*

One would like to see that the friends you gather around you become closer to you than your family, but unfortunately it is inevitable that someone can be hurt in a broken relationship. A friend who lets you down or even stabs you in the back, does not ultimately remain a friend. Devotion amongst friends changes as the circumstances change in the process. Work with eagerness today and remain faithful to your Master!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 10

Maats kan jou breek ... *Spreuke 18:24*

Kwaaivriendskap met jou naaste is soos 'n katarak tussen jou en God. *Jan du Rand*

Mens wil hê dat die vriende wat jy vir jouself bymekaarmaak nader aan jou sal wees as familie, maar soms is dit onafwendbaar dat iemand in 'n gebroke verhouding seerkry. 'n Vriend wat jou erg in die steek laat, of moontlik in die rug steek, bly dus nie noodwendig 'n vriend nie. Die toegeneentheid tussen vriende verander mos, want in die proses verander die omstandighede. Werk ywerig en opreg in jou dagtaak vandag, en wees getrou aan die Meester!

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To start anew – Part 11

The Lord says, "Now, let's settle the matter. You are stained red with sin, but I will wash you as clean as snow. Although your stains are deep red, you will be as white as wool. *Isaiah 1:18*

There is no point in burying the hatchet if you are going to put a marker on the place. *Sydney Harris*

We have looked at three things that are not forgiveness. But what forgiveness definitely is, is to start anew. Forgiveness between two people always brings conflict, but if you want to defuse a situation you have to do what it takes. Are you prepared to unburden your heart to the one you need to forgive? Then the following few messages will assist you with this. Just remember that Jesus forgives you daily – forgiveness becomes your responsibility, even there where you have to be honest in your daily tasks!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 11

Kom tog, laat ons die saak met mekaar uitmaak, sê die Here: Al was julle skarlakenrooi van sonde, julle sal wit word soos sneeu. Al was julle purperrooi, julle sal wit word soos wol. *Jesaja 1:18*

Daar is geen sin daarin om die strydbyl te begrawe indien jy 'n merker op die plek gaan plaas nie. *Sydney Harris*

Ons het na drie dinge gekyk wat vergifnis nie is nie. Maar wat vergifnis wel is, is om van voor af te begin. Vergifnis tussen twee mense bring altyd konflik, maar as jy 'n saak wil oplos moet jy bereid wees om te doen wat dit vra. Is jy bereid om die saak met die persoon wat jy moet vergewe uit te praat? Die volgende paar dagstukkies sal jou hiermee kan help. Onthou egter dat Jesus jou daagliks vergewe – dus is vergifnis jou verantwoordelikheid, ook daar waar jy vandag getrou moet wees in jou dagtaak!

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To start anew – Part 12

Come back and quietly rest in me. Then you will be strong and secure. *Isaiah 30:15*

We should all have a special cemetery where we can bury the wrong of our friends. *Anonymous*

The first suggestion to accomplish forgiveness is to take your time. Far too many mistakes were made in the past just because the process was not fully considered. So, if you are quick to anger, just become quiet for a moment, sit down, implore Jesus to give you wisdom and experience how His power works through you. Set the example in everything you do today and be bold in your work!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 12

... As julle julle bekeer en tot rus kom, sal julle gered word. Julle krag lê in stil wees en vertrouê hê. *Jesaja 30:15*

Elkeen van ons behoort 'n spesiale begraafplaas te hê waar ons die foute van ons vriende kan begrawe. *Anoniem*

Die eerste wenk om vergifnis te bewerkstellig is om jou tyd te neem. Te veel foute is al in die verlede gemaak bloot omdat die proses nie deurdink is nie. As jy geneig is om op jou perdjie te spring, gaan sit net eers 'n bietjie, vra Jesus om jou wysheid te gee, en ervaar hoe sy krag deur jou werk. Stel vandag die voorbeeld in alles wat jy doen, en staan sterk in jou werk!

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To start anew – Part 13

Joseph was no longer able to control his feelings in front of his servants, so he ordered them all to leave the room. No one else was with him when Joseph told his brothers who he was. He cried with such loud sobs that the Egyptians heard it, and the news was taken to the king's palace. *Genesis 45:1 – 2*

The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become – because He made us. He invented all the different people that you and I were intended to be. *CS Lewis*

When discussing a situation with someone who has done an injustice to you, it is important to be honest in your feelings. It serves no purpose to be dishonest with yourself – rather bring the true facts to the table, as it will assist you in breaking free. And, by the way, men are also allowed to cry! Be honest in whatever you do today as you are actually working for Jesus!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 13

Josef kon homself nie langer bewing voor die mense wat hom bedien het nie. Hy het hulle almal beveel om van hom af weg te gaan, en daar was van dié wat hom gedien het, nie een by hom toe hy hom aan sy broers bekend gemaak het nie. Hy het so hard gehuil dat die Egiptenaars en die mense in die farao se paleis dit gehoor het. *Genesis 45:1 – 2*

Hoe meer ons God toelaat om beheer te neem, hoe meer word ons opreg, omdat Hy ons gemaak het. Hy het ons almal verskillend gemaak omdat ons verskillend moet wees. *CS Lewis*

Wanneer jy die saak moet uitpraat teenoor iemand wat jou verontreg het, moet jy opreg wees in jou gevoelens. Dit help nie as jy oneerlik gaan wees teenoor jouself nie – stel eerder die ware feite aan die kaak, en dit sal jou help om vry te kom daarvan. En terloops – mans mag ook maar huil! Net so opreg moet jy vandag ook in jou werk wees, want jy werk mos eintlik net vir Jesus!

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To start anew – Part 14

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But when his brothers heard this, they were so terrified that they could not answer. Then Joseph said to them, “Please come closer.” They did, and he said, “I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.” *Genesis 45:3 – 4*

It is right that you should start every day anew. There is no better way of growing spiritually and never think that you have done enough. *Francis de Sales*

Right now, just before the weekend commences, it may be worth the effort to take the initiative and be the first to address the problem. Do not wait for the other party to react – you most probably will retire before something happens! No, take the first step to forgiveness. This will make a better person of you and you will be able to enjoy the rest period over the weekend even more!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 14

Toe sê Josef vir sy broers: “Ek is Josef. Leef Pa werklik nog?” Sy broers kon hom nie antwoord nie, hulle was te bang vir hom. Maar hy het vir hulle gesê: “Kom na my toe!” en toe hulle nader kom, sê hy: “Ek is julle broer Josef. Julle het my verkoop, maar ek is Egipte toe gebring.” *Genesis 45:3 – 4*

Dit is reg dat jy elke dag wéér sal begin. Daar is geen beter manier om geestelik te groei nie, en moenie dink jy het genoeg gedoen nie. *Francis de Sales*

Net hier voor die naweek is dit miskien ideaal om sommer vandag die inisiatief te neem en eerste die probleem aan te spreek. Moenie wag totdat iemand iets gaan doen nie – jy sal moontlik moet wag tot na jou aftrede om dit te sien! Nee, neem die eerste stap tot vergifnis. Dit sal van jou ’n beter mens maak, en jy sal die ruskans in die naweek net soveel meer kan geniet!

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To start anew – Part 15

Then Joseph said to them, “Please come closer.” They did, and he said, “I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Now do not be upset or blame yourselves because you sold me here. It was really God who sent me ahead of you to save people’s lives...” *Genesis 45:4 – 5*

Freedom of communication, also in a Christian society, not only requires integrity, but also love. *Jack Dominian*

Joseph does not beat about the bush – he addresses the problem directly. It does help if one speaks frankly regarding one’s problem in order to get it off your chest. Well, it is Monday today. Do not allow this week to slip from underneath you before you have forgiven others, and remember to smile!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 15

Maar hy het vir hulle gesê: “Kom na my toe!” en toe hulle nader kom, sê hy: “Ek is julle broer Josef. Julle het my verkoop, maar ek is Egipte toe gebring. Maar julle moet nou nie sleg voel of bang wees omdat julle my verkoop het nie, want God het my voor julle uit gestuur om lewens te red ...” *Genesis 45:4 – 5*

Die vryheid om te kommunikeer, ook binne 'n Christelike samelewing, vereis nie net integriteit nie, maar ook liefde. *Jack Dominionian*

Josef draai nie doekies om nie – hy spreek die probleem direk aan. Dit help as mens direk oor die eintlike probleem kan praat, want dan kry jy dit van jou gemoed af. Nou toe, dis Maandag. Moenie dat hierdie week ook onder jou uitgly voordat jy ander mense vergewe nie, en onthou om te glimlag!

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To start anew – Part 16

I will stay here in Ephesus until the day of Pentecost. There is a real opportunity here for great and worthwhile work, even though there are many opponents. *1 Corinthians 16:8 – 9*

The world will only become a safe place where peace is provided when people accept the principles of Jesus Christ and apply them righteously. *William Pierson Merrill*

When the problem comes to light in honest discussion, you both have the opportunity to think about the road ahead. If the other party does not wish to become involved, it is off your conscience. Remember to always ask for guidance in prayer – in this way the power of God is released through the Holy Spirit, and the will of the father will be triumphant. Is it not wonderful to be free of the burden that bound you for so long? Thank Jesus for His mercy, and work hard today!

Om nuut te kan begin – Deel 16

Ek sal egter tot pinkster in Efese bly, want hier staan 'n groot en belangrike deur vir my oop, maar hier is ook baie teenstanders. *1 Korintiërs 16:8 – 9*

Die wêreld sal slegs 'n veilige en geborge plek van vrede word wanneer mense die beginsels van Jesus Christus aanvaar en dit regverdig toepas. *William Pierson Merrill*

As die saak uitgekóm het in eerlike gesprek, kan julle saam besin oor die pad vorentoe. As die ander party nie daaraan wil deelneem nie, is dit egter van jou gemoed af, en kan jy self hieroor besin. Onthou om altyd eers leiding te vra in gebed – op daardie manier word die krag van God deur die Heilige Gees

vrygestel, en sal die wil van ons Vader deur jou werk. Is dit nie wonderlik om vry te wees van die las wat jou so lank vasgehou het nie? Dank Jesus vir sy genade, en werk hard vandag!

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To start anew – Conclusion

Jesus saw her weeping, and he saw how the people who were with her were weeping; his heart was touched, and he was deeply moved. *John 11:33*

You cannot dissociate your relationship with God from your relationship with your neighbour! *Hendrik Claasen*

Being grateful that you could share forgiveness with someone who did you an injustice is an expression of true emotion. So, if you wish to shout for joy, cry, scream, tremble – whatever, do so; place the past behind you and start afresh. Start today to live anew, and share it with those around you! Also talk to us about this – feedback will be appreciated.

Om nuut te kan begin – Afsluiting

Toe Jesus sien dat Maria huil en dat die Jode wat saam met haar gekom het, ook huil, het sy gemoed vol geskiet en was Hy aangedaan. *Johannes 11:33*

Jy kan nie jou verhouding met God losmaak van jou verhoudings met jou medemense nie! *Hendrik Claasen*

Uit dankbaarheid dat jy vergifnis met iemand kon deel, kom die uitdrukking van ware gevoel altyd na vore. As jy wil juig, huil, skreeu, bewe – wat ook al, doen dit, sit die verlede agter jou en begin van nuuts af. Begin vandag om weer van voor af te leef, en deel dit met die mense rondom jou! Gesels ook met ons hieroor – terugvoering sal opreg waardeer word.

END / EINDE,