The Power of Forgiveness

Even on death row, one can choose happiness.
Sunny Jacobs has been there, and made that choice.

CATHERINE YANG

At age 28, Sunny Jacobs was sentenced to death for a crime she didn't commit and spent five of her 17 years on death row in solitary confinement. Her life was completely upended, her children were put into the foster care system, and it would take nearly two decades to appeal her wrongly convicted case. Yet somehow, she managed to unlock the key to healing and forgiveness, and found joy even while she was in solitary.

When other exonerees look at Jacobs, who now lives a contented life with her husband Peter Pringle and their pets in the idyllic Ireland countryside, it sparks a kind of hope.

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In these times beset by anger, fear, and confusion, many people may be looking for someone to blame. And yet, forgiveness is probably what the world needs most today, according to Jacobs.

"Forgiveness is a selfish act you do for yourself because no one else can do it for you. They can't free you from what's inside yourself." In fact, forgiveness is probably what most of us in the world need today, Jacobs said, as the pandemic has turned the world on its head and people are filled with anger, fear, confusion, and want someone to blame.

Sunny's Story

Jacobs was a peace-loving mother of two young children who rescued and cared for animals, and didn't know how anyone could imagine she could be capable of violent crime. Yet she found herself convicted of killing two police officers, and was put in a women's maximum-security prison. Her husband was likewise sentenced to death, and unlike Jacobs, his sentence never changed; he was executed in 1990. Their daughter was so young that she had no idea Jacobs was her mother, beyond being shown photos of her by her grandparents.

Yet Jacobs began her journey to forgiveness perhaps surprisingly early during her sentence, when she realized her life belonged to her.

"I got sick of myself. I was never an angry, fearful, confused person until I was stuck in a concrete rock, and I thought, 'This is going to be the end of my life,' she said. Then she thought, 'I don't have to let them make me miserable.'"

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The Harlem Hellfighters: The Incredible Story Behind the Most Decorated US Regiment in WWI

LAWRENCE W. REED

In his commencement address at Washington, D.C.’s Howard University in June 1924, almost six years after World War I ended, President Calvin Coolidge paid tribute to African Americans who had fought in it:

"The colored people have repeatedly proved their devotion to the high ideals of our country. They gave their services in the war with the same patriotism and readiness that other citizens did. The records

Continued on Page 2
The Harlem Hellfighters: The Incredible Story Behind the Most Decorated Us...
S

of the time, he requires a wheelchair. De-

fellow veterans.

faster, if not impossible

weekly, to serve.

veterans’ issues, and being able to help

able to swim the American Le-

veterans who are struggling with the pandemic,

self as a long-term plunger, and became an activist against the death

to let go of all the other stuff, the anger, the

with God it really pays off by far.

average day, he would begin his run, and by

in God had dwindled upon her sentencing

of the prison, where she was the happiest

in her trial, and realized people anywhere and
everyone could have in prison and it would be

in you or just didn't stay in touch with you

Convicted and sentenced to death before being

would create a foundation, and after that they

That's a chance to experience uncon-

understood.

weeks to come. He tells them, "I don't have any

in the prison, where she was the happiest

by_sentence":

achieve that which society

where the large majority has an identity, and

and Pringle with an exoneree who, though

the jailers as a whole, which is such a big
to do with the people in prison, you can't

be the same person you used to be, and you

to do with the people in prison, you can't

for God is loving and forgiving, and

"That's a chance to experience uncon-

up with and unphony, you can actually be-

The Power of Forgiveness

that is ongoing, especially when someone

the people in the system who

that's the worst thing you can do. You

for people to unblend themselves,'" she said.

having a nice day. And I don't even

don't have to hide," she said. "They just start

day, he would begin his run, and by

you're not a monster," she said. "That's the

better still, because you have to forgive

means it's OK, that what they did was OK,

she consciously chose hope. Her belief in

the prison, that was their jour-

one thing to see eye-to-eye with

the first thing to ask yourself.

that they would be ashamed or whatever, it

when they first get out, you don't have any

by showing them the techniques that

by Sentence Foundation. Over the years, many

1

the people in prison, you can't

away. Every once in a while something

and hope over hopelessness.

A supporter of the couple’s work suggested

they are usually not good decisions," she said.

is going to have a nice day. And I don't even

you are going to have a nice day." The second

somehow, and have chosen forgiveness over victim-

that the end goal may be the same, the

things don't always work out the way you

We've never had anybody who didn't change."}
Dear June,

I have concerns about the COVID-19 vaccines. I need trusted—truly trusted—guidance. My work wants to make mandatory tests as fast as legally possible.

Concerned Hospital Worker

I think that understanding how some traditional ideas—moral principles and beliefs—apply to the issue of vaccine mandates will help us to bridge the gap between both sides of this very polarizing issue.

The following is my best attempt to present a line of thought that I hope will help to guide your quest for understanding.

The ancient Chinese thought that plagues were a prelude to change and that natural disasters came when morality in society had declined.

Ancient Understanding of Disease

For most human history, a belief in divine forces guided the thoughts and actions of people and nations.

However, this didn’t preclude the use of physical treatments for diseases. For example, in his treatise on epilepsy, Hippocrates, who is considered as the father of modern medicine, argued against the idea that the disease was due to evil spirits. Instead, he maintained that the cause of these seizures was a disturbance of the natural order of the universe, and that the forces of nature shaped the course of events. He also argued that divine order was the ultimate source of law and justice, and that moral behavior was essential for the protection of the individual.

Moralities of Mandates

The case for vaccine mandates rests largely on utilitarian argument: that the right course of action is that which results in the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

If you look back in history, this is not to say that the forces of nature shaped the course of events. In fact, it is precisely because we understand the importance of these events in the lives of other people that we believe that they are divine. For example, we believe that the Sun is a source of order and coordination, while the winds are chaotic and ever-changing.

Sun, and the winds, which are ever-changing and are never at rest. And the disease called the Sacred Pestilence come from God partly as a prelude to change and an opportunity to renew faith.

The ancient Chinese believed that divine causes of illness, and it was maintained that the cause of these diseases was a disturbance of the natural order of the universe, and that the forces of nature shaped the course of events.

The case for vaccine mandates rests largely on utilitarian argument: that the right course of action is that which results in the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

When you talk to your employer, I would suggest you outline the ways in which the benefits of having you vaccinated, from their perspective, compare to the risks of the unvaccinated you.

For example, your workplace will still have to follow the same precautions whether you are vaccinated or not. First, it isn’t known whether vaccinating persons can still spread the virus; second, we don’t yet have herd immunity; and third, it isn’t known how long your vaccine immunity will last. Reinfecion with COVID-19 has been reported, according to the CDC. Vaccines generally don’t confer stronger immunity than natural immunity. Complications also tend to have high mutation rates, some mutations appear to be causing reinfection and might also evade vaccine protection, and we might require different or updated vaccines at a later time.

The risks you include a bit of unreason: Both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines (the only ones available in the United States at the time of writing) employ new vaccine technology and only have emergency use authorization at this time, so there is no long-term safety data.

Sincerely,
June

Do you have a family or relationship question for our advice columnist, June Kellum? Please contact EpochTimes.com or email June@EpochTimes.com, 220 W. 44th St., New York, NY 10036.

June is a married mother of two andlicenses Epoch Times journalist family relationships, and health topics.
**Photographs by” What’s Up,” 1972.**

other books were available on Audiblebooks and CS.

The day before this disappointing excursion, it occurred the following email quoted by another friend I’d written about books. Here is part of what my correspondent had to say:

> “I was a public school librarian for 28 years. I believe myself to be a strong advocate of the American Library Association for throwing away the old books. We were taught in library school that we should keep all our books collected and no younger than 10 years of the subject. Apparently she threw out the old books and replaced them with new ones. I have no cats, only a cat, and new dogs are reading. First-quarter of the 1980s: 23rd century to you and all the heavens! We didn’t burn them, we just threw them away because the standards told us to.”

> “I think the meaning of only the first four letters of that 11-letter alphabet word. I went to reason that this word could be found in many books others like it, and that our children may enjoy other books that were translated in different ways. My library was a social club, a club, a club, and a club. We play them, we turn them away because the standards told us to.”

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Original artworks, canvas wraps, art posters, and framed prints of Award-winning oil paintings now available for purchase at InspiredOriginal.Org

Unmoved

Oil on canvas
Size: 29 1/2 x 39 1/2 in

The Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) coverup of the novel coronavirus led to a pandemic that now threatens the lives of people around the globe. Call out the deception and take a stand against the ideology that has hurt and killed so many.

Let’s reject communism. Let’s condemn the CCP.

SIGN THE PETITION TODAY
RejectCCP.com