

PROCLAMATION

FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF GLOBAL FORGIVENESS DAY: JULY 8, 2019

WHEREAS: Global Forgiveness Day began in 1994 in Victoria, British Columbia by Christian Embassy of Christ's Ambassadors (CECA) when people began to identify with the need to forgive and be forgiven; (1) and.....

WHEREAS: Mayo Clinic Staff report that forgiveness can lead to: healthier relationships, improved mental health, fewer symptoms of depression, a stronger immune system, and better self-esteem; (2) and.....

WHEREAS: a 2003 study published in the Journal of Behavioral Medicine found forgiveness to be associated with stress relief: a lower heart rate, lower blood pressure, and better sleep, which resulted in strengthening spirituality, and improved conflict management; (3) and....

WHEREAS: a study published in the Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin found that forgiveness not only restored positive thoughts, feelings, and behaviors toward the offending party, but the benefits of forgiveness brought positive behaviors toward others outside of the relationship and was associated with volunteerism, donations to charitable causes, and other altruistic behaviors; (4) and.....

WHEREAS: un-forgiveness leads to anti-social behavior and most recent data available reveals in the State of Ohio 654 homicides occurred in 2016, (5) and 39,306 divorces occurred in 2011; (6) and.....

WHEREAS: due to anti-social behavior, the United State has the highest number of lawyers per capita with one lawyer for every 300 people, (7) the United States has the fifth most number of lawsuits in the world per capita, (8) and locally, the first recorded court summons in Richland County history took place between two brothers when Justice of the Peace Andrew Cofinberry cited his own brother George for chopping wood on the Sabbath; (9) and.....

WHEREAS: the local faith community has historically promoted the message of forgiveness, most notably when a local church publicly forgave five young vandals after incurring \$50,000 worth of property damage, (10) and when leading clergy from 103 congregations throughout North Central Ohio made national news for sending an apology letter to the Israeli Prime Minister for the anti-Semitic position of the Federal government; (11) and.....

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Mansfield Mayor Timothy Theaker does proclaim July 8th 2019 as "Global Forgiveness Day"

REFERENCES:

- (1) http://www.ceca.cc/global_forgiveness_day/ , viewed on July 3, 2018.
- (2) "Forgiveness: Letting go of grudges and bitterness," by Mayo Clinic Staff, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/forgiveness/art-20047692> , Posted on November 4, 2017
- (3) Lawler KA, Younger JW, Piferi RL, Billington E, Jobe R, Edmondson K, Jones WH. A Change of Heart: Cardiovascular Correlates of Forgiveness in Response to Interpersonal Conflict. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, October 2003. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14593849>
- (4) Karremans JC, Van Lange PA, Holland RW. Forgiveness and Its Associations With Prosocial Thinking, Feeling, and Doing Beyond the Relationship With the Offender. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, October 2005 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16143664>
- (5) http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs_CrimeintheUS2016.pdf
- (6) Ohio Department of Health, 2011 state divorce totals, <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/healthStats/vitalstats/mrdvstat.aspx>
- (7) highest number of lawyers per capita: U.S. 1 lawyer for every 300 people <https://www.clements.com/resources/articles/The-Most-Litigious-Countries-in-the-World> U.S.:
- (8) Ibid. 74.5/1,000
- (9) "History of Richland County, Ohio: It's Past and Present," compiled by A.A. Graham, Mansfield Ohio: A.A. Graham & Co., Publishers 1807-1880.p. 453
- (10) "Open Bible Church finds forgiveness in wake of vandalism incident," Brittany Schock, Richland Source, July 26, 2014, http://www.richlandsource.com/news/open-bible-church-finds-forgiveness-in-wake-of-vandalism-incident/article_d622b372-136f-11e4-8ae4-0017a43b2370.htm
- (11) "103 clergy send apology letter to Israeli prime minister," Staff Report, USA Today, Feb. 10, 2017 <https://amp.usatoday.com/story/news/local/2017/02/10/103-clergy-send-apology-letter-israeli-prime-minister/97703006/>