



GOD'S GRACE HAD A HUMAN FACE

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 Chaplain's Source For

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What We Should Do
 According To The
 Scriptures

- * Believe
 John 6:29
- * Confess
 Matthew 10:32
- * Repent
 Acts 3:19
- * Be Baptized
 1 Peter 3:21
- * Walk In The Light
 1 John 1:7
- * Remain Faithful
 Revelation 2:10
- * Tell Others
 Matthew 28:19

FLORENCE DACE

"The Woman Who Had Forgiveness in Her Heart"

By Bob Green

**Former minister of South Side Christian Church
 Springfield, IL**

I received a call from St John's Hospital asking me to hurry to the emergency room. When I got there and saw the condition of Tom Dace, I just knew in my heart that he would never recover.

Tom was an elder at South Side and teacher of "The Bible Crusaders" Class. Tom was in his 70's and traveled all over the state as a full time independent carpenter. He would rush home after work each day, eat a quick meal, and then he and Florence would sometimes drive for hours to attend a Christian meeting.

Florence was quite a Christian lady. She taught VBS, and was always prepared to deliver devotions at church. She sang in the choir and was faithful in church attendance. She knew in whom she believed and spoke up for what she felt was right! She was dearly loved by the entire congregation. But tragedy was about to strike the Dace family.

Frank Sherry, a local drug addict, used a claw hammer to strike Tom and a fellow carpenter who were remodeling the house where Frank was living. Frank had mixed several mind-altering drugs the night before, and when the power saws came on he thought it was aliens attacking. After striking the two men Frank rushed out of the house and struck some of the other workers. Thank God, he was soon apprehended.

It was a horrific crime. Christians from all over the area came to the chapel at St. John's hospital each evening to pray for Tom and Florence and the family. But Tom didn't recover. Then, something amazing happened!

After Frank Sherry sobered up, Florence Dace went to the jail with Tom's Bible in her hand. Upon being properly screened, she met Sherry face to face. She said, "You have done a terrible thing, but God's holy word declares that if I want Him to forgive me, I must forgive others. Frank Sherry, I forgive you. But, you owe it to me, since you killed my husband, to take his Bible and read it. Especially, I want you to read the inside cover of his Bible where he has written how to become a Christian."

The whole community heard about her courageous witness and was amazed that she forgave the killer of her husband. Sometime later, Sherry invited her to visit him at the Maximum Security Prison in Marion, IL.

She asked me to accompany her. Privately we discussed what Frank might say to her. After going through the necessary security procedures we passed through one gate and then another, hearing that chilling clang as each steel door slammed shut behind us. We found Frank sitting at a small table in the visiting area with a Bible in his hands.

When he saw Florence he jumped up and shouted, "Florence, oh, Florence, I've been saved, I'm a new man!" They embraced each other, and all three of us wept. He kept asking Florence, "Do you really forgive me. Do you really forgive me?" We were overjoyed and anxious to hear all about his conversion.

He opened his Bible to Jeremiah 17:9 and read: "The heart is the most deceitful thing there is, and desperately wicked. No one can really know how bad it is! Only the Lord knows! He searches all hearts and examines deepest motives so he can give to each person his right reward, according to his deeds--how he has lived."

Then he openly confessed his sins. He told of his misspent life, the drugs, the degrading music, and the alcohol. He confessed that he had received a dishonorable discharge from the Navy because of his addictions. He was facing his sins head-on and genuine repentance is always preceded by a penitent heart. It was a time for rejoicing!

Florence wrote the Parole Board year after year requesting Frank's release. He was released from prison in 1988. Later, Frank founded a prison ministry in Tucker, AR. He has since passed into the fellowship of a God who specializes in "Amazing Grace". Florence preached a greater sermon with her life than all the sermons I have ever preached. God's grace had a human face...Florence Dace, "The Woman who had forgiveness in her Heart."

**Free 120-page Bible correspondence courses
 are available to those in jail/prison!**

Please contact:

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