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### North Main exists to:

*Develop completely  
committed followers  
of Christ who*

**KNOW** Christ intimately  
**GROW** in Christ continually  
**GO** for Christ daily

Our philosophy of ministry (*why* we do what we do) is centered on the process of discipleship in the New Testament where Jesus commands us to:

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”  
Matthew 28:19-20 NLT



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Mon-Thu 9am-4pm

September  
2021

# COST OF PEACE

Developing completely committed followers of Christ who: KNOW – GROW – GO

## “The Trap of Offense” By Brandon Lenhart

Forgiveness is the cost of peace. In the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament, Jesus is quoted as saying to His disciples, “If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him” (ESV, English Standard Version).

Most people within the Christian Church understand the importance of forgiveness. However, understanding and applying this truth is not always easy, especially depending on the extent and the content of the hurt/offense that has been incurred.

There is a philosophy that goes something like this: “Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me;” the idea being, if you do something to me more than once, and I don’t learn from it the first time, then I’m the one who’s to blame. However, how does this relate to offenses? Should I continue to forgive someone who sins against me?

In the ancient Jewish culture, it was required of a person to forgive a person who sins against you up to 3 times but not beyond. In the above verse from Jesus in Luke’s Gospel, Jesus doubles the requirement and adds another for good measure. It’s also important to note the significance of the number “7” in ancient Jewish culture. “7” was the number of completion or perfection. In essence, Jesus is saying that a follower of His should forgive completely no matter how many times an offense occurs.

So, what are Jesus’ disciples’ responses? “Lord, increase our faith!” They knew that it would be humanly difficult, if not impossible, to forgive like this. Jesus reminds them that it’s not just faith that they need, their faith

needs to be focused on Him, the great Faith Giver. Faith in anything or anyone else is not guaranteed, but faith in Christ is more powerful than any other faith known to mankind.

You may be asking, “But Brandon, should I continue to allow people to hurt me? Am I supposed to stay in harm’s way and continue to forgive my abuser?” To that, I would offer an absolute, “NO!” Forgiving someone of their offenses against me doesn’t require me to subject myself to perpetual, continual assault. However, forgiving does mean that we don’t hold those

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offenses against them anymore, even if they have been perpetual and continual. To not forgive someone is to allow yourself to be held in bondage to them through the hurt they have caused you. To not forgive someone of their sins against you is to cause internal damage to your

mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. To not forgive someone of their offenses, is to allow that person to continue to have control over you. And finally, to not forgive someone is to put yourself in a position to not be forgiven by GOD (Mt. 6:14-15).

So, what is the cost of peace? The cost of peace is forgiveness. The person who forgives completely is forgiven completely by the Father in Heaven. The person who forgives others of their offenses is the person who experiences true peace.

Is there anyone in your life that you haven’t forgiven for some wrong they have done against you? Why don’t you take it to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to help you forgive them the way that He has forgiven you.

# Fall Ministry Start-ups

## Young Adults

Meets Tuesdays at 6:30pm **Starts September 7th**

For Questions please email:

Angela Kupas: [AngelaK@northmaincog.org](mailto:AngelaK@northmaincog.org)

Pete Kupas: [p.kupas@gmail.com](mailto:p.kupas@gmail.com)

We're a community of young adults who are actively pursuing a deeper relationship with Jesus by living out God's purposes for our life. We have the opportunity to influence those around us by how we act, live and strive to be like Jesus daily. We serve, laugh, love, worship and support one another.

Want to be part of our Text Message System?

Just text **@d29ff2** to **81010** and answer the questions.

Instagram // [theone\\_youngadults](https://www.instagram.com/theone_youngadults)

## Bait of Satan Resources

It's not too late to Join a group! Visit our website:

[northmaincog.org/offense](http://northmaincog.org/offense)

to join a group and access our other resources like:

[messengerx.com](http://messengerx.com)

This is where you can access the videos, lessons, audio book and MORE online for free.

## MOPS & MOMSnext

Meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays **Starts September 1**

MOPS - 9:30am & MOMSnext 6:30pm.

[nmcog.mops@gmail.com](mailto:nmcog.mops@gmail.com)

This is a place for moms to meet those who share similar feelings, interests, and maybe even struggles just like you. You get to come in and have a break. Grab a cup of coffee or tea, some snacks, and relax! We have guest speakers, play games, make crafts, and well... just BE us. It's a place where you get to encourage and be encouraged by fellow moms, grow relationships with other moms and better yourself so you can be a well-rounded woman and mother.

## Driven Youth

Meets Thursdays at 6:47pm **Starts September 2**

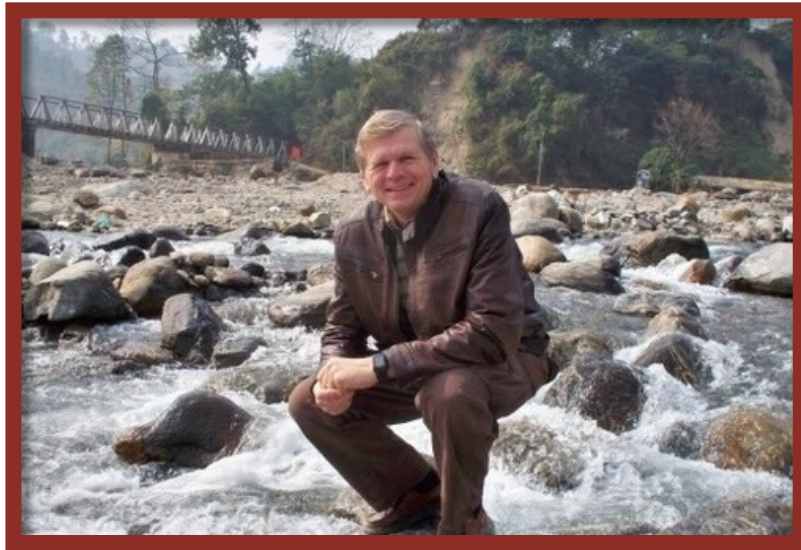
[BJH@northmaincog.org](mailto:BJH@northmaincog.org)

Each Thursday night is designed to create an environment in which 6th-12th grade students can engage in healthy community while also being loved by Jesus. We have a staff of leaders that love Jesus and teens! We are excited to build relationships with every student that walks through the door. Through the night, a student can expect to have opportunities to play unique games, have meaningful conversations, and be presented with the Gospel of Jesus in a way that spurs them on towards doing the good work of His kingdom.

# **Global Connections Meet & Greet**

## **Missionary Partnership for Haiti & India**

Richard Fields



Join us on Sunday, September 19th at 6PM at North Main for a meet and greet with Richard Fields as he shares updates on his ministries in Haiti and India.

You've heard of all the turmoil in Haiti, and India is one of the hardest places in the world to share the Gospel. PLEASE JOIN US as we get the inside scoop on just how it really is in Haiti and India for our brothers and sisters in Christ, and the children at the House of Blessings orphanage.

Hear how you can pray for and help with the needs in these believers lives. There will be a time for questions and answers and we will finish promptly at 7:30. A selection of both healthy and not so healthy finger foods will be available for the meeting.

**For questions,**  
**text or call Laura Link at: 724-282-7561**  
**or call the Church Office 724-285-4214**



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## Connection Luncheon

Our next Luncheon  
will be on:

**October 10th**

Following the Sunday  
Morning Service

Over the course of the next 6-weeks, we will be exploring the "Cost of Peace," as we work through author John Bevere's study called, "The Bait of Satan." The Bait of Satan, deals with Satan's greatest trap; the trap of *offense*. Have you ever been offended before? Have you ever been hurt, and unable to let go of what someone has done to you? Join us as we learn to forgive others the way that GOD through Christ has forgiven us. We will examine the following themes:

- **Sept. 5:** Sermon Title—*Massive Offense*; Scripture—Luke 17:1-10; Key Point—"Being offended steals peace like no other thing in the world. It's the enemy's greatest tool against us."
- **Sept. 12:** Sermon Title—*How Could this Happen to Me?*; Scripture—Genesis 37-50; Key Point—"Great offense is an opportunity for great forgiveness, and forgiveness leads to great peace."
- **Sept. 19:** Sermon Title—*My Father, My Father!*; Scripture—1 Samuel 24 and 26; Key Point—"Honor, not vengeance, opens the door for GOD to move powerfully."
- **Sept. 26:** Sermon Title—*How to Handle Unfair Treatment*; Scripture—Romans 12:9-13:7, 1 Peter 2:13-25; Key Point—"Honoring authority is a means by which we honor GOD."
- **Oct. 3:** Sermon Title—*Escaping the Trap*; Scripture—Matthew 18:21-35; Key Point—"Sin is sin, and it *all* requires forgiveness."
- **Oct. 10:** Sermon Title—*Reconciliation*; Scripture—2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Key Point—"Being reconciled to GOD and others the is key to experiencing eternal peace."



# COST OF PEACE

**September 2021**  
**Bait of Satan book study**