



February 2016

Welcome to the TFC newsletter! I hope these updates and recommendations help you in your ministry to prisoners...

### Bible studies

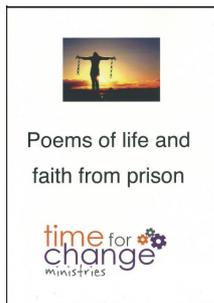


14 series of Bible studies are available from [www.tfcministries.org.uk](http://www.tfcministries.org.uk) including studies for Lent and on Jesus' 'I am'

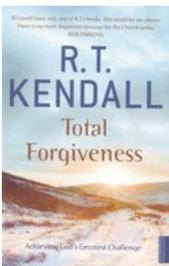
sayings, Luke and Thessalonians.

### Poems of life and faith from prison

2 prisoners have been busy writing poems that reflect their journeys of faith in prison. Some of these have been published in this booklet, with the aim of encouraging other prisoners to find out more about Jesus. If you would like copies for your chaplaincy, for 22p each in B&W, please contact me.



### Book review



Total Forgiveness isn't just the title of this book, it's the whole concept that Kendall is seeking to communicate. Total forgiveness is forgiveness that holds nothing back, holds no grudges,

doesn't bring that thing up again, and basically, is a bit of a risk. This is God's pattern of forgiveness, and he wants us to

follow it in our lives and dealings with people.

Kendall's catchphrase about forgiveness is 'letting them off the hook'. When we forgive someone, we let them off the hook, we stop trying to punish them (subconsciously or deliberately) for what they did. And we let go of the anger we have been holding onto, the grudges and the bitterness. Often, we are the ones who get hurt the most when we don't forgive someone, often we are the one who benefits most from forgiving.

He uses God's forgiveness for us as the gold standard example of how we should forgive others - 'I therefore ask, how has the Lord forgiven me? Answer: my sins, which are many, will never be held against me and nobody will know what I have done.' (2001, p17), but Kendall is a realist, stating that 'Totally forgiving somebody doesn't necessarily mean we will want to go on holiday with them'.

He also explains clearly what total forgiveness is not - it is not approval of what they did, excusing what they did, justifying what they did, pardoning what they did, denying what they did, blindness to what happened, forgetting what happened, refusing to take the wrong seriously or pretending we are not hurt. Neither is it reconciliation, although it can lead to this.

There's a lot to think about here. It's a great book, that really helped me write the Guilt and Forgiveness course, but more importantly, really changed me. Read it! (And when you're done, move on to 'How to Forgive Ourselves - Totally'!)

[www.tfcministries.org.uk](http://www.tfcministries.org.uk)



Time For Change Ministries

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