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Foundations for Ministry  
A story of forgiveness

So I am a member of a 12-step group. Today I have 15 years and a couple of months clean. 10 years ago about 5 years into my recovery I was the overall chairperson for a group we met at 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. every morning Monday through Friday and on Saturday from 8:00 until 9:30 we rented and met in the basement of the church. I had the keys to the building and I was the overall chairperson like I said you stay had a different regular chair person I was a regular chairperson for Thursday but I was still the overall chairperson. Don't make any mistakes I was not in charge that's not how it goes but I was the person I was supposed to keep everybody in order including the chairperson on down to the secretary and to keep the tone of the meetings positive and going in a good direction. All groups are autonomous and have their own policy, even though I wasn't in charge it was my duty to make sure the group followed the policies that was set in place. There was a position in the group that was left vacant it was the GSR position. The GSR is the person that buys the literature for the group the pamphlets and the key chains that are giving at certain clean time achievements. We went two months without somebody taking that position, it's not a hard position but it does require you to go further down into the city and meet at the general board plus that's where you will buy your literature, so it's kind of going out of your way and most people don't want that position. So we also have a treasurer and the treasurer for this particular group had about 12 years at the time which was more time than most other people in that particular meeting. I think because I have a strong personality and a loud voice made the person doing the treasurer job not really like me because you told me at the most time he should be

The one calling the shots. He was holding the group's money so I suggested oh let me go back for a minute did GSR was given \$50 to buy literature but since there was no GSR holding that position at the time the treasurer held on to the money. That's when I suggested to him to give me the money and I would take the trip down and by the literature there was a lot of newcomers in our group and we needed meeting list books bad. So I asked him to give me the money for the literature and he said we would have to vote on it I said that's not true because at the business meeting the money was already allotted. So he didn't say well I spend my money and get it and he would reimburse me I said that's not how it works since we have meetings every day you can bring me the money tomorrow. The next day I saw him he ignored me I asked other people what's going on with him giving me the money and his reply was I was too aggressive to deal with, but in all reality he had spent the money and is waiting on his two-week paycheck to put it back. Anyway at our next business meeting he tried to recruit people that he thought didn't like me to vote me out. Some of the people that he thought didn't like me whether they like me or not they wasn't going to do me harm by going along with his suggestion so on the day the meeting you did have enough people to vote me out which is something that shouldn't have been done so I got mad I threw the keys at him. After throwing the keys he stood up at that point I knocked him out. When he woke up he went up the stairs from the basement saying he was going to get me I followed him up the stairs, not knowing when you meant he was going to get me that ment he was calling the police. So he called the police I was arrested for assault. Now here goes where the forgiveness came in about a year and a half later every time I saw him within that year and a half I was trying to figure out how I could get him to throw the first punch, or to be able to do him harm without getting in trouble I mean it physically frustrated me that I couldn't get him. I had to let it go because it was tearing me up every time I saw him I was getting so angry so at

one of my anniversaries which we do in the group for people who have accumulated another year clean time he was sitting in the audience and at the end of meeting when the celebrant speaks which was me I said hold on everyone I have to do something and I walked over and grabbed him in a hug and even though we only spoke maybe twice after that and then went back to not really speaking again it took the burden of that anger away from me every time I saw him don't get me wrong I still didn't feel too loving towards him after that but it stopped me from feeling the rage when I saw him. I apologize and forgave him because I had to I had to stop the pain and suffering I felt when I saw him.