



What the youth are saying...

by Sarah Koi

In my life, as well as many others'—we have been faced with the choice to forgive. Sometimes it may be easy to forgive, but many times it is not. There are levels of wounding, and levels of offense that have impacted us throughout our walk. There are both historic wounds and present day wounds that we are being faced with. There is a call (or challenge) set before us as a nation, to not only release forgiveness but to release a blessing that we might inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:9)

When I was growing up my mother always told me “If you want to be used by God, you must learn to forgive.” This was my desire since I was a little girl, so I forgave often. When I made a choice to forgive it opened the door for God to heal my heart. I feel that as young people, we also have a responsibility to release forgiveness at this time so that He will come and heal the broken-hearted. Our generation may have not been directly impacted by the past—but it is time to stand together as family, young and old, to release forgiveness, and cross over into freedom.

It took me a year to deal with a deep hurt and offense. I remember daily, I had to say “I forgive, I forgive,” and as time passed I eventually began to say “I forgive, and I bless”. I believe the “I bless” part was the fruit of healing that the Lord was doing in my heart. The layers of hurt were being peeled off. My heart was being softened. Healing is progressive; but when the Lord touches our heart He goes so deep. Deeper than our own desire for freedom, deeper than our own desire to forgive.

I believe the Lord is looking throughout Canada for a people whose hearts are willing: willing to release forgiveness, willing to face the pain that has so imprisoned us. And in this, He will be so pleased; He will bless us, and free us. This Journey of Freedom is not simply a response to an apology, it is establishing freedom for our children's children, it will change Canada, and it will change the nations. I pray this—let it start within my heart.