

Notice to Journalists contact:
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**Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier to present
The POWER of FORGIVENESS”
At VA Tech community to explore the role of forgiveness in healing
Q&A, open dialogue to follow screening of film**

Sunday, September 16, 3 p.m. at the Lyric Theater in Blacksburg, VA

Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier of Journey Films (BONHOEFFER, Final Blessing) has been invited to screen a new documentary, The POWER of FORGIVENESS for the community of Blacksburg, Virginia, the home of Virginia Tech, at an open event Sept. 16, 2007.



Doblmeier was invited by HERE: Honoring Experiences, Reflections and Expressions, a group created by community members in May to help students and local citizens process what happened and heal in the aftermath of the tragic shooting that took the lives of 33 students.

Following the screening, Doblmeier, from Alexandria, VA, will be joined for a question and answer session by Azim Khamisa. Khamisa is a San Diego man featured in the film who lost his son to a random act of violence and now speaks at schools across the country on the value of forgiveness.

The POWER of FORGIVENESS, which is being scheduled for broadcast on public television in early 2008, features Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, Buddhist master Thich Nhat Hanh, best selling authors Thomas Moore and Marianne Williamson, as well as features on the Amish, Ground Zero and Northern Ireland. It also shows what physical, mental and spiritual benefits can come with forgiveness.

In offering to present the film and participate in the conversation Doblmeier added, “As a Virginian I feel a natural connection to the school, so I am honored by the invitation. My hope is that the film and the conversation that follows can be of some help to a community that has been deeply hurt. I am going into the event to listen as much as to speak.”

Shannon Turner, Program Coordinator for HERE, added, “We as a group are disinclined to speak to how we think the event will be received by the attendees or about how family members and students are doing 4 months after the tragedy. This event, along with other gatherings, is consistent with our belief that coming together to share and listen to our community stories will help build the road toward a better future for us as individuals and as a community.”

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