



THE FORCEY FOCUS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FORCEY BIBLE CHURCH - DECEMBER 2017

From
The
Pastor's
Desk



A LIGHT HAS DAWNED

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2, NIV)

When the Son of God came to this dark world, He came with a glory that burns bright and can't be extinguished (John 1:5). It also can't be understood—at least by those blind in their own sin. With so much darkness in our nation, neighborhoods and world today, you might be tempted to lose hope

in God's light and retreat to some safe memory of how you think things used to be. But read this reminder from Dr. Howard Hendricks, and remember the overwhelming power of God's light because "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory" (John 1:14).

"Our Western world is turning out the lights, refusing officially to acknowledge that God rules the universe. A spiritually dark age seems to be descending over once-Christian North America, a peaceful and prosperous

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HOME GROUPS - JUST SAY YES!

We talk about them because it is the heartbeat of the church, the place where people learn how to trust Jesus, build deep and lasting friendships, and remain supported and connected in every type of life experience.

We believe in Home Groups because we love what Jesus shared in Acts about reaching out to our neighbors, sharing His truth and adding to the church daily. The people that love your church, love you. Therefore, when they open their homes to gather a small group, consider it as an invitation to grow with others striving to follow Jesus the best they know how. Somehow it just helps to take our next step when others are going with you.

This January our Home Group leaders are asking you to join them in their homes to look at God's Word and seek how to do it, to truly care for each other as we're shown in the New Testament, and how to begin loving our neighbors as Jesus commanded.

Just say YES and see what God does in you and through you!

~ Pastor Ron Jones



From The Pastor's Desk

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culture sinking in violence and deepening despair. While shadows deepen here, peace and hope rise across the globe. Travel with a missionary to a formerly pagan hideout deep in Asia's interior [*Under His Wings* by Jon Lewis (Brampton, ON: Partners International, 2008)].

"With eyes and hearts blinded by Satan, the tribe knew only ritual animism, the annual sacrifice of a young girl, sometimes a boy. For centuries a four- or five-year-old was dressed up, celebrated, and then placed on a stone altar. The witch doctor slit her throat and decapitated the child, poured oil over the head and set it afire—all in order to appease the spirits of their ancestors. Every year a young man in

the tribe watched with deep revulsion, and then the day came when the elders chose his own little girl for the "honor." Undercover he fled with his daughter six kilometers away to a larger village to hide her, and there some people told him about God's Son, the supreme sacrifice for sin. He trusted Jesus Christ, but his own tribe began experiencing terrible mishaps and decided it was because this rebel had disobeyed and escaped. They tracked him down and poisoned his food, but miraculously nothing happened. God protected him, and he became a god-like figure to the tribe. Through his testimony the light penetrated their darkness, and today an evangelical church exists where the Light of life is preached. With shadows of death lurking all around us, it is imperative that we profess with bold proclamation the saving gospel message of life in Christ."

~ Pastor Phil Powers



We Pray For.....

- God's wisdom and provision in our search for a new lead pastor.
- Forcey's finances - God's supply of needs and our wise stewardship.
- Gospel outreach to the many people who are served weekly through the ministries in our buildings.

FORCEY ON THE MOVE - ISI & BRIDGES INTERNATIONAL



"Does the turkey come with its head?"

What is a cranberry? Sweet potato?"



These were some of the questions asked at the Thanksgiving Dinner for international students sponsored by ISI and Bridges International. In addition to experiencing a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, the students heard the gospel. About 12 people from Forcey helped with the event and three others donated food. Friday, December 8, 6:30-9:00 we will again be part of the International Friends Club, providing food and help with their Christmas Dinner. For more information, contact Ann Hunt, ann-hunt@forcey.org.

FORCEY ON THE MOVE - MISSIONS MINISTRY UPDATE

Dear Forcey Family,

Our board and our missions team are saddened about the fact that we have had to cut back on our funding of missions, yet we do not lose heart because we all believe that this time of change has been orchestrated by God to ultimately strengthen our faith & draw us closer to His heart. We recognize the fact that some people still have questions such as, "What was the overall impact upon our missionaries?" or, "Why and how did the missions team make these decisions?" Therefore, I have written this letter in order to provide a reminder of why we had to reduce missions funding, a rationale for how the missions team applied the reduction, and a bottom line understanding of how our missionaries have been impacted by our cuts and reductions. Please read below to find out the answers to these questions.

Why Did We Have To Reduce Missions Funding?

As a congregation, we ended our fiscal year with a large deficit that we could not sustain apart from a significant reduction to our expenses. Since the trustees had already reduced other expenses as much as possible over the last couple of years, those reductions had to come from Forcey's support/compensation for our staff and missionaries. Of course, as leaders, the board didn't want to make that kind of decision (especially in light of our faith in God and His ability to miraculously provide); however, after many seasons of prayer for divine guidance and direction, the board was convinced that this was exactly the path that God wanted us all to pursue. Not only did good stewardship demand that we significantly reduce our expenses, but faith, trust, and obedience demanded it as well. As a result, the missions team was given the difficult task of reducing our missions budget by more than \$100,000

What Rationale Did the Missions Team Use To Apply the Reduction and Cuts?

The question that our missions team had to answer was - how do we make such difficult decisions? Over the course of the last three years God has lead us to the conclusion that we need to ramp up our local evangelistic efforts, focus especially on reaching the nations who are right here in our own local area, and to lead our congregation to engage in missions in other ways than just giving to the weekly general fund. In addition to encouraging our congregation to give financially, we've been trying to lead our congregation to engage in missions through prayer, hospitality, going, and sending as well. This has been a slow process - especially with a missionary family of 50+ people, but we are gaining some traction little by little. However, the result is, that when our trustees and elders agreed that we needed to reduce our missions budget by more than \$100,000, our missions team concluded we had to make this reduction strategically - based on how God has been leading us these past few years. First of all (and of first priority), we considered our FOCUS - those who are ministering to Unreached People Groups (UPGs) - and especially refugees, students, and immigrants who are in our local area. Another important priority for us was the level of connection and cooperation each of our missionaries has had with our congregation over the years. We considered the amount of our current support of their ministry (some receive more or less based on their focus and need). We considered how long people have been a part of our missionary family, how close they were to retiring, how they were currently doing with their support goals, whether our reduction would force them to leave the field completely, or whether support -raising would cause them to have to leave another country to come back to the US. These were many of the factors that went into our decision making.

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What Is the Bottom Line Impact Upon Our Missionaries?

At the end of the day, most of our reductions and cuts amounted to about a 5% or less reduction to the missionary's total annual income. In some cases, our reductions and cuts amounted to a decrease of between 6-8% to the missionary's total annual income. In a few cases, the reductions were closer to the 12% decrease that the Forcey staff experienced.

5 Organizations were cut to zero:

Camp Dynamite, Good News Mission, Gospel Rescue Mission, Haven Fuel Fund, and Pokot Outreach Ministries. In all of these cases, we can raise funds at missions conferences to take care of special needs that come up for these organizations.

1 Missionary Cut to Zero (Retirement):

Larry & Gail Jaffrey. Larry is retired and no longer needs our support.

5 Other Missionaries Cut to Zero (According to the rationale above)

Paul & Sonja Gross, Greg & Brenda Fletcher, Sam & Nina Hanchett, Keith & Karen Thomas, and Wes & Elaine Willis. The impact on their total annual loss as a result of our cut amounts to between 6-12% of their total income.

1 Missionary Was Reduced 75% Of What We Were Giving (Retirement)

Charles & Pat Sillavan. Charlie has retired. Pat is continuing ministry on a more limited basis.

1 Missionary Was Reduced by 50 % (Coming Off The Field)

Tim & Joanna Hanlon are officially off the field and will conclude their ministry with Avant in April 2018.

1 Missionary Was Reduced By 40% of What We Were Giving

The ministry location has changed, and this decision was made about a year ago.

12 Missionaries Were Reduced Between 20-34% of What We Were Giving

14 Missionaries Were Reduced Between 10-19% of What We Were Giving

5 Missionaries Were Reduced Between 1-9% of What We Were Giving

The impact on their total annual income amounts to about 7% or less. (The annual income loss to these missionaries ranged from a few hundred dollars to \$4K).

10 Missionaries Were Completely Unaffected & Their Support Remains The Same

Our hope and prayer is that you will continue to reach out to and pray for our missionaries as they continue to serve God - especially in this season where many of them often find themselves under-supported. We know that work that is done in God's way will never lack God's supply.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Harris

Pastor of Outreach

Forcey Bible Church

EVANGELISM MINISTRY - SOUL WINNING

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jer 29:13). When an unsaved person is earnestly seeking to know God, the Lord will often direct one of His faithful co-laborers in the gospel to that individual. Recently a Forcey member was led by the Holy Spirit to talk to Ted, a young man who was very sincere in his pursuit of knowing God.

As the Forcey member entered a local hospital, she greeted the security guard (Ted) and handed him a gospel booklet. When she returned to the lobby a few minutes later, she saw that Ted was alone and reading the booklet that she had given to him. Sensing the prompting of the Holy Spirit, she returned to the guard desk to speak to him. As she talked with him, Ted related that he had been praying to God to reveal Himself to him. He felt that the gospel booklet was God's answer to his prayer. At this point the

Forcey member began to present the gospel message to Ted. He listened attentively to the message and then called upon the Lord Jesus to save him. After reviewing with Ted the assurance of salvation in Christ, the Forcey member left to commence her in-room visits for that day.

Later that evening, as she was exiting the hospital, the Forcey member found that Ted was still on duty and greatly rejoicing that he was now saved. Subsequent visits to this hospital have confirmed that Ted is indeed growing in Christ. Praise the Lord!

~ **Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team**

Soul Winning



Would you like to become better stewards of what God has entrusted to us?

At Forcey we will offer a life-changing class that will show you a smarter way of saving money and paying off debt called FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY (FPU) starting January 7 during first hour (9:15 a.m.) Sunday school.

FPU is a nine-week money management course that lays out simple steps that are designed to move participants toward healthy personal finances.

Class / Topic Schedule

- Sundays, 9:15 - 10:30 a.m.
- January 7 - March 4, 2018
- Coordinator: George Trageser

[Register Online!](#)

Lesson 1	Super Saving	January 7
Lesson 2	Relating With Money	January 14
Lesson 3	Cash Flow Planning	January 21
Lesson 4	Dumping Debt	January 28
Lesson 5	Buyer Beware	February 4
Lesson 6	The Role of Insurance	February 11
Lesson 7	Retirement & College Planning	February 18
Lesson 8	Real Estate & Mortgages	February 25
Lesson 9	The Great Misunderstanding	March 4

STUDENT MINISTRIES HIGHLIGHTS

THANK YOU to everyone who donated items for the Christmas bags for kids in Anacostia. Forcey Missionaries, Bob and Sharon Mathieu, have been working in that area for many years. Your donations will bless families at Christmas and throughout the year.



In November, the teen department was able to rake leaves for 10 families. Pray that the Lord would use this outreach to work mightily in these families.



FORCEY BIBLE
kids
ministry

Starting in January, Kids Church (3rd-5th graders) will be in the main service for the first half of the second service. More details to follow in the weekly bulletin and online.



43 teens and 15 staff members attended the Teen Retreat on November 17-19 at River Valley Ranch. The focus was on adoring God. Please continue to pray for the growth of our teens at Forcey!



TeamKID's Winter Session begins December 13!

TeamKID is our mid-week program for Pre-K through 6th graders that meets each Wednesday 6:30-8 p.m. If you were unable to join us for the fall session, the winter session is starting on December 13th. Drop by any Wednesday to check it out. More information can be found online at www.forcey.org/teamkid.

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Did you ever want to read through the entire Bible, and maybe started but never finished? To complete the entire Bible in a year, you need to read an average of about three chapters – something like 10-15

minutes – each day. That sounds doable, but if you're like many people, you started with Genesis and a New Year's resolution in January, and then got bogged down in February with Leviticus or Deuteronomy. This class can help you through those tough parts. When the Pharisees asked Jesus about the greatest commandments, Jesus quoted – you guessed it – Deuteronomy and Leviticus!

The Bible contains 66 books, grouped by type: history, poetry, prophets, gospels and more history, epistles, and prophecy. That order makes sense, but when the psalmist or the prophets are writing about historical events, and the reader reads these passages months after reading the historical books, the connections – and the message – can get lost. For this reason, many people that made it through Deuteronomy get bogged down in Chronicles or the Minor Prophets. Reading the Bible chronologically can make it easier to make those connections, understand the message in historical context, and complete the Bible in a year.

The first time through the Bible is always the hardest. Sometimes it's easier to do it with a friend. Are you training to order your daily walk around a time with God and His Word, and want to meet each week with others who are in training? Come to class and meet a new friend (or bring an old friend)! As D. T. Niles said, "Christianity is one beggar telling another beggar where he found bread." That's what this class is about. You can even use the class to help you "catch up" with the weekly readings!

Reading the Bible is not something you do once – it's a lifetime habit, part of an ongoing relationship with God. Sometimes a different translation, or reading the books in a different order, keeps the message fresh. You can read any chapter in the Bible ten times, and learn something new each time. "The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Heb 4:12)

When Jesus was tempted in the desert, Satan used human logic, and even misquoted scripture. But Jesus answered with verses from scripture. He didn't get formal training from the Sanhedrin – the Bible even contains examples where the religious leaders misunderstood and even misquoted scripture as well. "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Ti 2:15). When you read the Word daily, it lives in you, and it helps you in times of trial and temptation.

You may be curious about the Bible, but don't even know what's in it, and are looking for a way to start understanding it. You may be convinced that God loves you, and you just want to get to know Him better. Or you may be committed to reading the Bible cover to cover, but have struggled and want some help. Or maybe you are consumed with love for God and people, and want to help out in some way. The "Through the Bible in a Year" class is for everybody! We are re-starting in January with Genesis –during first hour (9:15–10:30) in Room 228 – but you can join us anytime. You can do this!

~ **David Hull, ABF Instructor**