



THE FORCEY FOCUS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FORCEY BIBLE CHURCH - MARCH 2016

Intimacy with God

the
about it. We all
and still accepts us.

someone who trusts us with personal secrets. Intimacy fills our heart's deepest longing for closeness and acceptance. And our Father desires us, His children, to have that kind of intimacy with Him. The One who knows even the number of hairs on your head also promised a coming day when you "will know fully, even as [you are] fully known" (1 Cor 13:12). That's not just something for the future. Jesus said, "I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15). Your Father wants you to have that intimacy with Him now.

As we approach this Easter, I am asking you to do something that will strengthen your relationship with God.

Intimacy between two people results in really *knowing* other person. It has a "best friend" or "soul mate" quality want someone who knows us better than anyone else— And we want someone who holds nothing back from us,

Intimacy doesn't come automatically. It has to be **cultivated**. It grows as the two spend time together; really listen to each other—not just the facts, but to the emotions and passions; as both practice unconditional acceptance; and remember and focus on the things they share together. So I am asking you to cultivate intimacy with your Father as we approach Easter.

I want you to make a list of all that you have and are because of Him. Don't quickly rush through this. It's too easy to say, "I am forgiven, have new life, and will be resurrected too"—then move on to other things. Don't

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PALM
SUNDAY

March 20
9:15 & 11 a.m. Services



Good
Friday
Service

March 25
7 p.m. Service



Easter
Sunday

March 27
8, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Services

Easter Sunrise Service
Brookside Nature Center Amphitheater
Bonfire starts at 6:15 a.m., and service follows at 6:30 a.m.

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dismiss Him so easily. Think about how much He wants to spend time with you and what He did and does to make that happen. Then spend time with Him and really listen—even to the emotions. What is He saying about His relationship with you? What is He telling you about Himself? Who are you and what do you have because of Him?

Think about it from the backside too—what would you NOT have if He hadn't loved you and chosen you for this relationship? Maybe you'll think of some of the things that come to my mind. I belong to Him forever—this will NEVER end. And most others don't belong, and I could have easily been one of them. What would that have meant to my now and forever? I can actually hear Him speak to my spirit—He is here, right now, and telling me something, guiding, directing behind the scenes. What has happened in my life because of that? What if He wasn't with me? What if I was deaf to Him?

I hope I've primed your well of remembering. Spend that time together with Him. Really listen. Think about what it means to be completely accepted by Him—and accept Him, trust Him, no strings attached. Remember the things you share together because of Him. Make that list, and really think about it. Cultivate your relationship with the only One who *really* knows and accepts you.

~ Pastor Phil Powers

Soul Winning

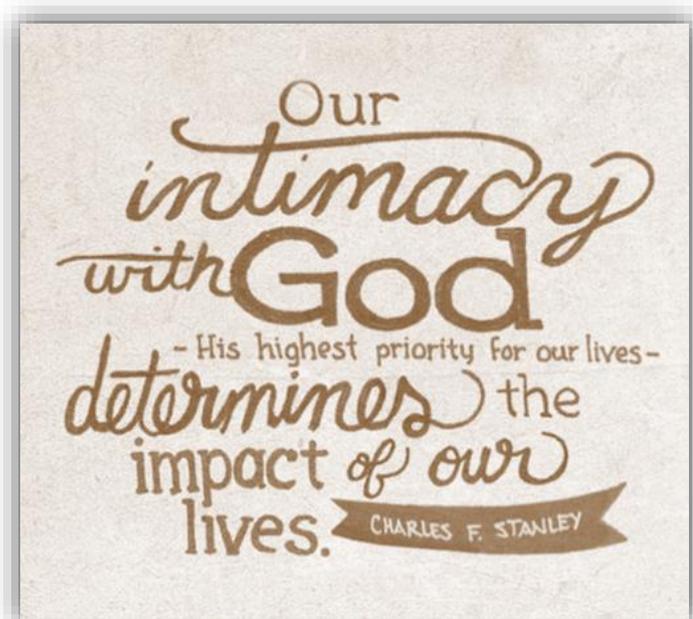
“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believe” (Rom 1:16). In presenting the gospel to others, the soul winner must remember the power that God has placed in the gospel message itself. During a recent visit to a local hospital, a Forcey member experienced this power first-hand.

When the Forcey member entered the room of a patient named Paul, the Super Bowl had just started. Although he thought he would have little chance of drawing the patient away from the game, he received permission from Paul to ask him a question or two. Paul's response to these questions revealed that he did not understand the way to Heaven. The Forcey member then began to present the gospel message to him from God's Word. As he explained to this

middle-aged patient the work of Christ in the sinner's behalf, Paul listened intently, maintaining eye contact throughout the conversation. When the soul winner gave the invitation to receive Christ, Paul openly called upon the Lord Jesus to forgive his sins and to save his soul.

This witnessing experience demonstrates the power of the gospel. The patient totally ignored the Super Bowl game for at least 15 minutes in order to listen to a simple gospel presentation. He not only gave the gospel message his undivided attention, but gladly received the Savior by faith. As the Forcey member was leaving the room, Paul thanked him for stopping by to talk with him about the Lord.

~ Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team





Over the course of the last year, our missions team has been consulting with Dave Shive & Joe Steinitz who have been helping us clarify a strategic vision for our missions program.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

In order to maximize our potential to make disciples of the many internationals (refugees, immigrants, and students) who come to this area – especially those from places with little to no viable Christian witness in their home country.

In order to be more strategic in how we partner with our missionary family – so that we can maximize our congregation's potential to make disciples alongside them & through them in the places where they are serving.

WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS?

We're in a process of discovery, which involves the following:

- Weekly meetings in which we're praying for God to show us if there is a God-ordained "niche," or focus in the world of missions that is uniquely suited for Forcey – some specific Kingdom-advancing work that He would have us prioritize as our top one or two missions endeavors.
- We're "test-driving" a variety of local missions opportunities that include outreach to refugees, immigrants, and international students.
- We're using international missions trips as a vehicle to explore possible locations, people groups, missionaries, and initiatives that God might want us to prioritize.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

If you're interested in hearing more about this Focusing process, or if you have input that you would like us to consider, please contact Lonnie Harris & Ann Hunt – (lonnie-harris@forcey.org, ann-hunt@forcey.org).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

Annual Missions Emphasis Week – April 16–24

The World Next Door, Reaching Your Neighbors Here and There

Upcoming Mission Trips

Romania

Todd & Sharon Beall
March 21-29

Staten Island

March 27 to April 2
(Contact: Jaelin Ballard -
jaelinballard@gmail.com)

Haiti

June 21 to July 6
(Contact: Nancy Parlette -
pnpardette@comcast.net)

Trips in the planning stages

Mission Possible 2016

For Teens
NC, DC/Balt. Metro Area, NYC,
Altoona, Ocean City
(Contact: Mike Maslin - [mike-
maslin@forcey.org](mailto:mike-maslin@forcey.org))

Middle East - 2016

(Contact: Kevin & Diane Bayly
kdbayly@aol.com)

Kenya - 2017

(Contact: Lonnie Harris [lonnie-
harris@forcey.org](mailto:lonnie-harris@forcey.org))

Nepal - 2018

(Contact: Lonnie Harris [lonnie-
harris@forcey.org](mailto:lonnie-harris@forcey.org))

NOTES FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

Though our ministry stretches far and wide, yet in the final analysis it is not the breadth of ministry but its depth that really matters. And it is not about reaching missions with our television or radio ministry outreach. Rather it is about leading to Christ one soul at a time. Thank you for making these things possible.

*In Christ,
Missionary serving in the Middle East*

We have a missionary team working in Southeast Asia – their goal is to train & equip local Christ-followers to go out into remote areas and make disciples among unreached people groups. They are working with the unreached people group we have been praying for in the past few years. Plan on coming to meet them during MISSIONS EMPHASIS WEEK and hear about what the Lord is doing in that area of the world. See their note of thanks, below...

"We are so thankful that YOU ALL are a vital part and Partners of our very large "Group". We would never survive out here as "Individuals". "Without Your prayers, none of this could happen."

*Love,
Missionaries serving in Southeast Asia*

The Geisses Send Off!

March 19

*Farewell Luncheon at Forcey for the Geisses,
who will be returning to their assignment in
Nepal
(12 p.m. to 2 p.m.)*

March 20

Prayer for the Geisses during morning services

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful” (2 Tim 3:16); but *some* Scripture is hard to understand. It may seem hard to understand, like a math textbook, or tedious, like a 2000-page owner’s manual. We sense there is important stuff in the Bible, but we don’t know how to get it into our heads, and ultimately into our hearts.

Many of us have made New Year’s Resolutions to read through the Bible in a year, but have stopped when we get to all those laws in Leviticus and Deuteronomy ... or that doom and gloom in 2 Chronicles and all of those minor prophets. So we let other people tell us the important parts. Or we tell ourselves it’s too hard, and we just give up. Don’t fall into that temptation!

You can read through the Bible in a year! It takes 10–15 minutes to read an average of three chapters a day. Forcey’s “Through the Bible in a Year” class offers one way to read through the entire Bible in a year – chronologically! We meet during the second service in Room 224. You can get outlines, historical context, and a chance to ask questions or get support from others who are training to develop a more intimate daily walk with God. If you are out of town or miss a week, you can even download copies of handouts and other materials from the class “cloud drive”.

YOU CAN DO IT!

CLASS TESTIMONY

“ Participating in the ‘ Through the Bible in a Year’ class has truly been a blessing. It has helped me immensely to get reconnected to the whole of scripture and to see how all of the portions of the Bible fit together. Reading the Bible daily in an organized way has provided me with the perfect start to a regular time of devotion and prayer to God. After taking the class, I am now in my second year of reading the Bible in a year, and I strongly encourage others who have struggled to read the Bible regularly to take this class.”

– Steve D.

Forcey Bible Church Leadership Development Study



Pastor Phil will be starting another Leadership Development study, meeting weekly from mid-March through May.

If you are interested, send a reply to his email address, phil-powers@forcey.org, answering these questions:

Why do I want to be a part of this group study?

What do I hope to realize after the completion of this study?

Deadline for a response of interest is March 6.



LADIES!!!! Come and see the movie, **WAR ROOM** at **FORCEY IN ROOM 150 ON SATURDAY, MARCH 19 @ 6 PM.** This movie is a compelling drama with humor and heart that explores the power that prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, friendships, and every other area of our lives. A #1 movie in theaters, **WAR ROOM** is filled with more of the authentic characters loved by millions in previous Kendrick Brothers' films and a vivid reminder that prayer is a powerful weapon.

What would a movie be without popcorn! Popcorn and beverages will be provided.

The movie will be followed by some sweet fellowship and stimulating discussion. No sign up needed: Just come! Direct any questions to Velda Milner at vpmluvsgod@gmail.com.

A SUCCESSFUL CLEANING DAY!!

Thanks to all the wonderful women who scrubbed, removed candle wax, vacuumed, and cleaned toys around the Forcey church building including the sanctuary cushions, some bathrooms and nursery areas on Saturday, February 27. We want our home to be welcoming and hospitable (and germ free!). We had a beautiful and delicious brunch by Bonnie Ballard. May God bless these ladies for serving with their whole heart for the Lord.

