

The Forcey Focus

Forcey Bible Church Newsletter

April 2014

Journey of My Faith

By LeRachel H. Buffkins

I have had obstacles that have challenged my faith with my Father, my Savior. I'm presented with obstacles every day, beginning with the moment I wake up and breathe good morning. First obstacle is getting up and spending time with Him in his Word. Do I have time or will I take the extra twenty minutes and reach for the snooze alarm? Other obstacles are thrown at me all day, such as different interactions I have with people I work with, talk to in the store, or answering the phone from an unsolicited caller. Or my car making an odd noise the same day my son Jakob reminds me that I have to buy something for school realizing that it's not in the budget for the week. Or maybe when someone deliberately does or says something to upset me.

What do I do next? My response describes my faith. My response tells exactly who I belong to. My response reminds me who I belong to. My response not only affects the other person directly involved but also any passerbys and witnesses. My response tells my Father how I truly feel about Him.

I cannot wake up and never have an obstacle. Even if I lived my life in a bubble I would still have challenges surviving in that bubble. Only when I am standing with my Lord in Heaven will I be without obstacles. Until then, I choose to face my challenges with Him. I choose to look to Him for an answer to a challenge instead of going on a whim or doing what sinfully may come to mind or what may have always been the "easier or less complicated" route to go. The enemy is incredibly busy and is ready to catch you off guard when you look the other way from Christ. Are you as familiar with this as I am?

I choose to read His Word DAILY to learn more about Him, about me, about life, about how I am to breathe. It is my playbook. It's a cheat sheet to the game of life and my life is with Him. I've heard the analogy many times over equating your love for someone, spending time with them and your love for Christ and spending time with Him in the Word. This is indeed 100% true. When I love someone, I want to know them and spend

time with them. I want to know what makes them happy because their happiness is important to me and in turn this will make us both happy. Relationships are difficult and have their challenges but sacrifices must be made if you want the relationship to work. Having a life with Christ is HARD! But having a life without Him is even more difficult and unsatisfying. Life with Christ takes sacrifices that you think you could never make or fathom. But the rewards of such sacrifices outweigh it all. He wants you to lean on Him when it gets too hard. He wants you to hold Him close when people want to push you away. He wants your mind, body, soul and everything in between. He wants your trust. He wants you to

God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

~ Acts 17:27

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

~ Romans 8:18

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

carry your faith in Him daily and show it in how you serve, how you interact with others, how you make decisions, and what decisions you make.

My life is for the Lord. I have declared it before, but I feel the need at this time in my life it should be done again out loud for myself, my family and my Lord. The first thing out of my mouth when I wake up, instead of grumbling about how early it is or about how much I have to do that day, is going to be, "MY LIFE IS FOR THE LORD." I will have challenges, obstacles and days where I am struggling where I cannot breathe. I truly despise those days. But I will not allow those times of being down to take me down. I will reach out to my Father and allow Him to show me the POWERHOUSE that He is and have faith in Him to lead me out of the dark places. Where it takes me, I HAVE NO IDEA! But I know that He will carry me through just as He has promised time and time again.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." ~ Hebrews 12:1-2.

Soul Winning at Forcey

“**I** being in the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master’s brethren” (Gen 24:27).

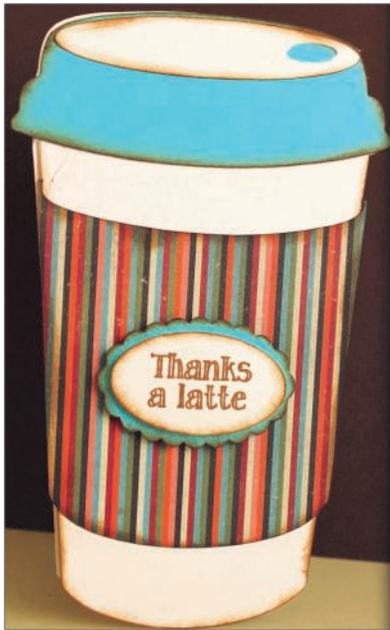
When soul winners are active in seeking the lost, God sometimes will bring a “ripe” prospect across their path unexpectedly. While witnessing at a local hospital, a Forcey member experienced such a divine appointment.

When the Forcey member had completed his visitation on a recent Sunday, he rejoiced that five men had called upon the Lord Jesus for salvation, with the last one being an exceptionally earnest young man. Since it was now late at night and snowing outside, he was eager to head home. When he arrived at the first floor, he went straight to the chapel to retrieve his overcoat before departing via the after-hours exit. As he entered the darkened chapel, he was startled to find a

security guard sitting on a pew in the corner. The security guard invited him to sit down. Sensing that this young man would have to get back to work soon, the Forcey member immediately inquired if he was sure he was going to go to Heaven. He responded “yes” but gave a “works” reason. The Forcey member then proceeded to present the gospel of Christ to him. He listened attentively to the gospel message and gladly called upon the Lord Jesus to save him. As he left the chapel to return to his guard post, this new convert rejoiced in his salvation.

Reflecting later on this encounter, the Forcey member thought that, like Abraham’s servant, he was guided directly by God to this seeking young man.

~ Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team



Kid's Church will be hosting an open house on Sunday, April 6th, in the gym from 11:00 – 12:15 p.m., to say a heartfelt thank you and good-bye to Mrs. Mary Millison. For over 30 years, Mrs. Millison has been teaching in children's Sunday school here at Forcey and we love her so much! Feel free to stop by and have a cup of coffee with her and take a moment to express your love and gratitude for the countless ways she has shared the love of Jesus with you and your family over the years. She and Keith will be moving to Indiana in April and will be living near their daughter and her family. Thanks a "latte" Mrs. Millison for being such a godly and faithful teacher! Godspeed to you and Keith and *come back to visit your Forcey family often!*

Bridges Seminar

Sharing the hope of Jesus Christ
with Muslims

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE
IS APRIL 5TH!**

**Saturday, April 12
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

You are invited to attend a one-day seminar that focuses on equipping believers to share the gospel with Muslims. The speaker will be Yvette Moy, Metro D.C. Area Field Coordinator of the Crescent Project.

The Bridges Seminar is a one-of-a-kind presentation because you can learn how to take similar concepts in Christianity and Islam, and then build a bridge in order to share your faith with your Muslim neighbors and friends. Christianity and Islam are not the same, but there are some similarities that can be used to plant gospel seeds.

About 1.5 billion Muslims have little chance of hearing the gospel. Nearly 7 million of them call North America home. We are living in urgent times. Millions of Muslims around the world, and across the street from you, are searching for the true peace that can only be found in Jesus. Muslims are coming to our borders, they are in our neighborhoods and our workplaces. God is opening the door to reach them right here.

The Bridges Seminar meets you where you are. The teaching is biblical and practical. It is easy to understand, even if you don't have much prior knowledge of Islam. The Bridges Seminar allows you to gain biblical insight into Islamic history and beliefs, while providing useful next steps and stories that help you put the teaching into practice.

Registration costs \$10 (inclusive of lunch). **Register online at www.forcey.org by April 5.** Please contact Ifelayo Ojo (202-460-5791), Mark Heazlit (301-372-8715), or Jide Iwarere (240-899-2676) for more information.

BODY & SOUL FITNESS (LADIES ONLY)



The “word” of this upcoming spring session is GOOD. The songs speak of God’s goodness and encourage us to be thankful. The message urges us to BE the GOOD, reflecting God’s goodness, being

his hands and feet. It reminds us to remember the GOOD times and to trust our GOOD God even when life doesn’t feel so “GOOD” at the moment. Above all, this session we will be reminded that God has placed us here to share the GOOD news—He has saved us! The news does not get better than that!

Ladies are invited to join us for the spring session of Body & Soul Fitness, *The Good Things*. Body & Soul offers energizing and fun workouts that will leave you with the physical strength and spiritual energy you need to face the everyday challenges of life. Our classes are a place where ladies can find fun workouts, personal connection, and spiritual encouragement. The 75-minute workout includes cardio conditioning, strength training, flexibility, and Pilates which is choreographed to Christian contemporary music that motivates us to move and encourages us spiritually.

Classes meet in the gym Saturday mornings at 8:30 beginning April 12. Bring your mat, water bottle, weights and elastic resistance. For more information call Jennifer White, 301-483-4986 or email rjsslwhite@msn.com.

****Bring a friend and you each get 1/2 off tuition!****

GOOD will take on a whole new meaning as we embrace this new session together.

“Taste and see that the Lord is GOOD!” ~ Psalm 34:8



where faith and fitness meet

MISSION POSSIBLE 2014

**Mission Possible is a summer mission exposure program
for high school students at Forcey.**

Watch: This summer, our local team will do six weeks of ministry – three here in our own backyard in D.C., Baltimore, our own VBS, and Langley Park, and three weeks away at Altoona, PA and Ocean City, MD. They will be led by Zane Dempsie and Joan Fountain. We will also have a two week national trip to the Colorado Springs area to assist Open Air Campaigners as they begin a branch of ministry there. Paul and Carmina Adams will lead the national team.

Pray: For the preparations for the trip, the growth of all students involved, effective leadership, and fundraising.

Do: You can donate your TIME in prayer, and/or your MONEY for the fundraising efforts (letters will be mailed out in May). Then, be proactive about asking questions of students that you know who are going, following update reports during the summer. Also, you can come to one (or both!) of our planned car washes – May 10 and 31 – to see the team in action and get your car washed.



DOING GOD'S WORK
with our hands

NEW ORLEANS SUMMER MINISTRY TRIP

During the week of July 20-26, Forcey will be taking a trip to New Orleans to serve with our Forcey missionary, Mark Lewis, of Reach Global. Reach Global partners with local churches for disaster relief work. Ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina support local church plants in difficult-to-reach sections of New Orleans. This week-long trip will focus on meeting various construction and cleanup needs, relational evangelism with affected folks, and prayer walking. **More details of the trip will be coming out in the bulletin and through Forcey Teens.** Please be in prayer for this opportunity, for wisdom in our first steps in launching and recruiting a team, for success in the ministry, and growth for all involved.

Good Friday – Worship Night

april 18

7:00 p.m.

On Friday night, April 18th (Good Friday), we will gather together as a church family to reflect on the Cross & to worship our Lord for His magnificent sacrifice.

Please join us at 7 p.m. in the Forcey Sanctuary for this meaningful time of worship through song, prayer, communion, and the reading & proclamation of the God's Word.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

~ 1 Peter 2:24

Easter Sunrise Service



He is risen! Join us Easter Sunday April 20th at the Brookside Nature Center Amphitheater (not gardens) for a special time of reflection, praise, and fellowship. This annual celebration features worship, singing, and meditation, a special message, and communion, as we watch the sunrise just as our Savior rose and still lives today!

Opportunity for fellowship with hot chocolate and donuts will follow.

Bonfire starts at 6:00 a.m., and service follows at 6:15 a.m.