



THE FORCEY FOCUS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FORCEY BIBLE CHURCH - AUGUST 2015

Fear Is Gone

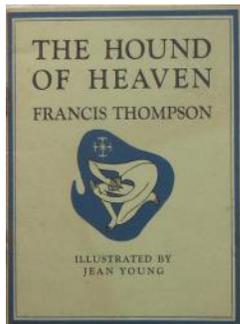
Today I was talking with someone who had very good reasons to fear. The diagnosis of cancer was confirmed, but the choices of what's next were still uncertain; and, of course, the outcome completely unknown. I asked if they were afraid. The answer came quick: "No, of course not. God is in control, and we trust Him!" I know these friends. That

was not a shallow, unreasoned answer—it was a firm conviction which gave peace.

"God has not shown us the reason for this, but we know He has a reason and that is enough." And I thought: why do we so often cry out to God to tell us the reason; to see some outline of the greater purpose? I think I know. If He

told us, we would have grounds to debate whether we thought the reason good enough or not. We could offer other solutions with better outcomes and higher purposes. But when His reason is left unrevealed, there is nothing to argue against. It would be like hitting smoke, or debating the size of the universe when we have no idea about what we are talking.

All the things we see as reasons for fear are really part of God's pursuit of us. Francis Thompson wrote his own testimony of this in a poem called, *The Hound of Heaven*. Here is part of his testimony:



I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways
Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears
I hid from him, and under running laughter.

.....Up vistaed hopes I sped
.....And shot precipitated
Adown Titanic glooms of chasmèd fears
...From those strong Feet that followed, followed af-
ter
.....But with unhurrying chase
.....And unperturbèd pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
.....They beat—and a Voice beat,
.....More instant than the Feet—
"All things betray thee who betrayest me."

Now of that long pursuit,
..... Comes at hand the bruit;
.....That Voice is round me like a bursting sea:
..... "And is thy earth so marred,

..... Shattered in shard on shard?
Lo, all things fly thee, for thou fliest Me!
.....Strange, piteous, futile thing!
Wherefore should any set thee love apart?
Seeing none but I makes much of naught" (He said),
"And human love needs human meriting:
.....How hast thou merited—
Of all man's clotted clay, the dingiest clot?
.....Alack, thou knowest not
How little worthy of any love thou art!
Whom wilt thou find to love ignoble thee,
.....Save Me, save only Me?
All which I took from thee, I did but take,
.....Not for thy harms,
But just that thou might'st seek it in My arms.
.....All which thy child's mistake,
Fancies as lost, I have stored for thee at home:
.....Rise, clasp My hand, and come."

..... Halts by me that footfall:
..... Is my gloom, after all,
.....Shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly?
....."Ah, fondest, blindest, weakest,
.....I am He Whom thou seekest!.....
Thou dravest love from thee who dravest Me."

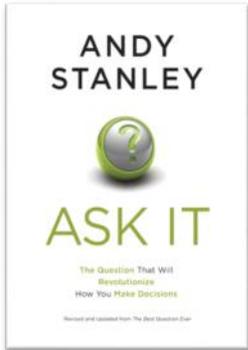
God always does have a reason, and it is always somehow part of His pursuit of us in love. We often turn that pursuit into a reason to run and fear. Yet He walks steadily on, step by step, straight at us, in His pursuit of love. When we accept that, then we can trust. Then we will have rest.

~ Pastor Phil Powers

Books, Books, Books

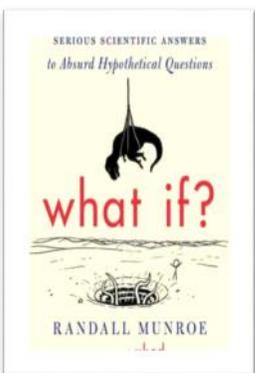
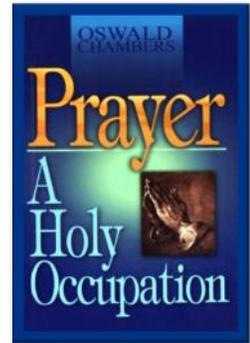
I've been asked to provide a column every now and then on books that might be of interest to Forcey people. Let me suggest a few of my recent favorites to you. The first book is something relatively new, the second is a genuine "Christian Classic", and the third is simply a fun book with no overt religious theme whatsoever.

~ Bob Wiltrout, Forcey Elder Board



1 Andy Stanley has a relatively short paperback out called "**ASK IT**". Nobody gives better practical advice for living as a follower of Jesus than Andy. In this book, he identifies the one question you should ask yourself every time a decision has to be made. The question is not "Is it right?" or "Is it sinful?" or "Who will it help/hurt?" It's much more important than that, and it will help you immensely at every stage of your life. For \$10, it's a great book to have, and to pass along to others in your life. (Available at Amazon and Christian Book Distributor)

2 **PRAYER: A HOLY OCCUPATION** is a compilation of all that Oswald Chambers wrote about prayer in his many books. When I asked Pastor Small for a book about prayer 20 years ago, he told me that this was the best thing ever done on the topic. It's a small book just loaded with great insights – the kind to keep on your night stand to read for a few minutes before sleeping. Which will probably lead to many minutes of prayer before sleeping. (Amazon has it in paperback, Christian Book Distributor only as an e-book.)



3 One of my Father's Day presents this year was a book entitled **SERIOUS SCIENTIFIC ANSWERS TO ABSURD HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS**, by Randall Munroe. This is a lot of fun. Munroe provides "scientific" answers to the questions we all ask every day, like "If I began slowly floating off the earth at the rate of one foot per minute, how would I die?" Very enjoyable, quite funny, and a lot of genuine science to be learned along the way. (Available everywhere)

So have at it! August is the right time for beaches and books, and you can't go wrong with any of these choices. I'd be happy to hear your reactions to whatever you read so send them to bob-wiltrout@forcey.org.

SOUL WINNING

"The Bible says "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us....." (Titus 3:5).

During Forcey's weekly program of visiting newcomers to the church, one of the teams recently encountered a relatively young couple that had been visiting Forcey for several weeks. When the Forcey team attempted to diagnose their spiritual needs, it was unclear whether they were believers or not. In this situation, it seemed best to proceed as if both were in need of salvation. As the lead Forcey member presented the plan of salvation for God's Word, both husband and wife listened carefully. When he completed the gospel presentation, he asked the wife if she had received the Lord Jesus by faith as her savior. She responded yes, that she had trusted Christ as her savior a number of years ago. Turning to the husband, the Forcey member repeated the same question. He responded that, according to what he had just heard this

evening, he had not received Christ as his savior. With great joy, the Forcey member then led this gentleman to call upon the Lord Jesus to save him.

This witnessing opportunity shows the importance to explaining thoroughly that salvation is not by "works of righteousness," but by faith alone in the Lord Jesus. Though this individual had a church background, he did not understand his lost condition or his need for the savior. During the follow-up session the next week, this new convert gave a clear testimony of his full assurance of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

~ Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team



Busy Ladies Bible Study

Are you a lady looking for a bible study with a group of ladies just like you "too busy"?

Then the Busy Ladies Bible Study may meet your needs. This group meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at a pre-determined host home. The evenings are a time of fellowship, Bible study and prayer.

September 10 will be our next meeting after Labor Day.

We will be using the study series:

Twelve Women of the Bible Study Guide: Life changing Stories for Women Today.

The cost will be \$9.00 to purchase a Study Guide.

Please contact Glenda Jones, jones.glenda0@gmail.com, or Metta Wagner, mettantony@comcast.net, for more information about the group or if you wish to order a Study Guide.

What exactly is Forcey membership about? ? ? ? ?

Some of you have been at this church for most of your adult lives. But the majority of us have had experience with a lot of different churches before we landed here. And since there are no specific biblical instructions on how church membership should be handled, there are many different policies represented by the variety of churches. Forcey hasn't had a very strict policy or many restrictions on non-members. But Forcey leadership really appreciates everyone who is willing to make the commitment of joining Forcey, formally acknowledging their relationship and identification with whatever ministries we may undertake as a body of believers.

The FBC Bylaws contain a section called the Membership Covenant. It's an explanation of what Forcey expects from its members. It lays out seven specific areas where we believe that our members are obligated to conduct themselves to a high standard. It says:

In dependence upon the Grace of God, which helps our infirmities, I therefore promise:

- *to contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered for the saints;*
- *to attend as diligently as possible the public worship of God in this church;*
- *to sanctify the Lord's Day;*
- *to strive in all things to honor my Lord and Savior by a lifestyle appropriate to the Gospel of Christ;*
- *to support and sustain the worship of God in this church in whatever work it may undertake, giving of my time and my treasure as God prospers me;*
- *to pray faithfully for those who have the rule over us and who speak the Word of God; and*
- *to preserve the good name of this church by a consistent walk, so that no reproach shall be brought upon the name of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Sounds pretty reasonable, doesn't it? Greatly simplified, it commits us to live a lifestyle which honors Jesus; to support Forcey with our attendance, our resources, and our prayers; and to be sure that our faith is in line with Holy Scripture – the “faith which was once delivered for the saints.”

So what does Forcey give in return to its members? Powerful and accurate teaching of the Word, worship services which exalt the Lord, opportunities to serve in the gifts that God gave you, and complete integrity in all of the ways we

conduct business and ministry.

If you're a member of Forcey, it's always good to review this relationship – both to ensure that you're meeting your obligations to the church, and that the church is meeting its obligations to you. If there are any areas in which this relationship is breaking down between us, we need to talk.

There are also many of you living out this relationship with Forcey, but have never actually joined the church. You're meeting all of the obligations, you're being blessed by the services provided, you're in agreement with our doctrinal statement, but you've never followed through with formalizing the relationship.

We'd like to add you to the roster – as one of the people who have taken this step of commitment. If you've been thinking about it for a while, or if you never thought about it until you read this article, we'd like to invite you to consider joining us. A 6-week membership class will begin right after Labor Day, and we'd like to have you be a part of it. Details will be in the bulletin as the time draws near.

Give it some thought. Give it some prayer. We'd love to have you.

~ **Bob Wiltrout, Forcey Elder Board**



MISSION IN ACTION

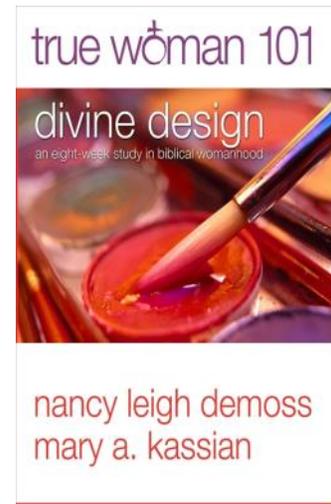
Update from Brazil from Joel and Cindy Rast

Joel and Cindy Rast serve the Lord in Brazil. For several years Cindy has been using the book *True Woman 101: Divine Design* with small groups of women. In addition to getting the book translated into Portuguese, the Rasts brought in two speakers for a week of special events to introduce the women to the Portuguese translation of TW 101.

Here are several excerpts from a recent newsletter from the Rasts sharing how the Lord is using their ministry to impact women. To read more be sure to click on the link <http://www.kimberlywagner.org/?p=4722> to a blog post Kimberly Wagner wrote about her visit which also gives a glimpse into Cindy's ministry.

"Kimberly Wagner (Revive Our Hearts Ministry) spoke to the women at several churches and to the women/Mom's at PACA. Her messages focused on the themes from the book, True Woman 101: Divine Design. The responses from the women were overwhelming as they heard about the purpose of womanhood based on scripture. (It was also overwhelming for Cindy as she listened to this message that had had such a profound impact on her own life, being communicated in Portuguese for the first time.) One church, with a women's ministry of over 500, is anxiously awaiting the release of the book and will be doing the study in their small groups.

In December of 2013, Cindy knew that the Lord was asking her to pursue getting this book, True Woman 101: Divine Design, translated and published into Portuguese. What seemed like a crazy idea just over a year ago has become a reality! Only God! The accompanying DVD's should be available within the month. Our prayer is that the Lord will use this book to transform individuals, marriages, and churches around the world wherever Portuguese is spoken. Thank you to those of you who prayed and gave in order to make this a reality!"



Summer Mission Fellowship Luncheon

Mark Your Calendar!

Our Forcey family has been on a mission over the summer. God has been using us to share His good news with people in various places in the US and overseas as well.

On August 30th, right after the 2nd service, we'll have the opportunity to enjoy fellowship over a meal as we hear back from many of our summer missionaries & ministry workers who we've been supporting & praying for throughout the summer.

Mark your calendars, and plan to join us for this time of fellowship & testimony. Keep your eyes open for more details to follow through email, Facebook, and the Sunday bulletin.

August Events Calendar

For a complete list of calendar events at Forcey,
[visit the Forcey website.](#)

August 1	SIS Saturday Prayer Group (7 a.m.)
August 4	SAM Summer Bible Study (10 a.m.) MOPS Summer Bible Study (10 a.m.)
August 5	Wednesday Prayer Group (7:30 p.m.)
August 7	Karate (7 p.m.)
August 8	SIS Saturday Prayer Group (7 a.m.)
August 11	SAM Summer Bible Study (10 a.m.) MOPS Summer Bible Study (10 a.m.)
August 12	Wednesday Prayer Group (7:30 p.m.)
August 14	Karate (7 p.m.)
August 15	SIS Saturday Prayer Group (7 a.m.)
August 18	SAM Summer Bible Study (10 a.m.) MOPS Summer Bible Study (10 a.m.) ESL Summer Session (7 p.m.)
August 19	Wednesday Prayer Group (7:30 p.m.)
August 20	Teens Hershey Park Trip (7:30 a.m.)
August 21	Karate (7 p.m.)
August 22	SIS Saturday Prayer Group (7 a.m.) Women's Work Day (8 a.m.)
August 25	SAM Summer Bible Study (10 a.m.)
August 26	FCS Middle School Parent Orientation (7 p.m.) Wednesday Prayer Group (7:30 p.m.)
August 27	FCS Elem School Parent Orientation (6:30 p.m.)
August 28	Karate (7 p.m.)
August 29	SIS Saturday Prayer Group (7 a.m.)
August 31	FCS First Day of School



Pioneer Girls Club Leaders Needed

We need committed women who are willing to help with one of the girls small groups on a weekly basis. The club meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Wednesday night except during school holiday weeks. The first meeting is Sept 23rd and runs through May 18th. Registration for enrolling children will begin August 30th. Interested? Contact Bonnie Sutton, bonniesutton7@gmail.com or (304) 826-6587.

**For more volunteer opportunities at
Forcey, check out our listing!**



[Check out the Forcey YouTube Channel to view Sunday worship services and more!](#)