



# STALLED

Do you ever feel stalled in your relationship with Christ? It just doesn't seem like you are making much progress, you are spiritually bored or frustrated, and perhaps you have even started to look for something else that might return the thrill, energy, excitement. You are not alone. In an extensive survey of over 1000 churches, 13 percent say they are stalled, and 92 percent of those surveyed report they have experienced being stalled at some point in their spiritual journey.

But being stalled is not inevitable or final. A primary characteristic of the stalled, as observed in this survey, is that *the stalled invest little effort in their faith*. They tend to make very little effort to communicate with God on a regular basis.

**The result:**

**little investment = little growth.**

"We all know the importance of persevering to reach a goal in any endeavor we undertake. So when my twelve-

year-old daughter declared, 'I want to quit!' after a particularly difficult piano lesson, I (Cally) wasn't all that surprised. Up to this point, she had loved playing the piano, but it had recently become a source of anxiety in her life, competing with other interests for her time and attention. She had stopped practicing regularly and had begun to grow angry and frustrated—with the piano, with her teacher, with my regular reminders to practice—but most of all, she was angry and disappointed with herself. She was stalled, and at the time it seemed easier for her to quit than to figure out how to get started again.

"To be honest, I was less concerned with whether she continued playing than with her motives for quitting. I didn't want her to simply give up from sheer frustration. So, in a stroke of brilliant parenting, I agreed on the spot that she could quit—on one condition. I asked her to spend twenty minutes every day during the next week practicing the piano. If she would commit to practicing for one additional week and still wanted to quit after that, I would support her decision.

"She agreed. And she didn't quit. In fact, she continued taking piano lessons until she went to college six years later. Sure, there were a few more bumps of frustration along the way, but whenever she buckled down and recommitted herself to the discipline of daily practice, she got herself back on track.

"Why did this work? Because she loved the music. Her love for the music led her to *persevere* and reengage with the practicing required to enjoy the music. Playing the piano tapped into a passion that was renewed by a daily discipline of practice." (*MOVE*, by Greg L. Hawkins & Cally Parkinson)

**Do you love Christ?**

Then recommit yourself to spend time with Him for a week - to "*Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!*" (Psalm 34:8). And to experience that "When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God of Heaven's Armies" (Jer. 15:16).

~ *Phil Powers, Senior Pastor*

## An Opportunity To Invest & Grow

### Pastor Phil Teaching a Capital Bible Seminary Class on the Gospels this Fall

There is a special opportunity for all of you who would like to delve deeper into God's Word. Pastor Phil will be teaching a Bible course on the Gospels for Capital Bible Seminary at nearby Peoples Community Baptist Church (31 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905). The class will meet on Wednesdays, 6:45 - 9:30 p.m., August 22 through mid-December. The course is a detailed exposition of Matthew, with a general introduction and overview of Mark, Luke, and John.

For more information about the class (and other seminary classes and programs), contact Mark Heazlit, mheazlit@bible.edu.



"And the serpent said unto the woman, 'Ye shall not surely die'" (Gen 3:5). One of Satan's deceptions is to convince the unbeliever that a loving God would never condemn anyone to hell. Though it may seem counter-intuitive, the soul winner's best approach in this situation is to ignore the denial of judgment to come and present the straightforward message of the gospel. During a recent hospital visit, a Forcey member met an individual so deceived.

As he conversed with a young asthmatic patient named Jamal, the Forcey member asked if he knew for certain that he would go to heaven some day. Jamal responded that he was confident that he would go to heaven, adding that he did not believe that there was such a place as hell. Just as the Forcey member started to defend the doctrine of eternal judgment, a nurse entered the room seeking to attend to the respiratory needs of the patient. Because the procedure would take awhile, the Forcey member volunteered to return later.

As he reflected on this encounter, the Forcey member realized that he had made a tactical error by trying to defend the biblical doctrine of judgment to come. Such an approach would surely end in failure. When he re-entered the room about 30 minutes later, he found Jamal sitting up and willing to continue their discussion. This time, however, the Forcey member began at "square one," presenting the gospel message as if their previous conversation had not even happened. Jamal listened intently and responded immediately to the invitation to receive Christ as his Savior. With evident sincerity Jamal called upon the Lord Jesus to save him, thus demonstrating that there is still power in the gospel message to bring the light of salvation to one blinded by Satan.

~ *Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team*

## representing biblical history

A prominent astrophysicist recently gave a talk on "The History of the Universe from the Beginning to the End" at an engineering society banquet held in Northern Virginia. The speaker is a well-known proponent of Big Bang cosmology—the view that the universe began from a giant explosion around 14 billion years ago. He has won several major honors for his work in seeking to find evidence for the Big Bang.

As a member of this engineering soci-

ety, Dr. John Doane was invited to attend the banquet. (You may recall that in the fall of 2011 he gave a series of lectures on "Genesis and the Authority of the Word of God" at Forcey.) John has been especially interested in refuting claims that the universe is billions of years old, since such thinking puts death before sin and undermines Biblical authority. These claims of billions of years are based in part on cosmic microwave background radiation (for the age of the universe) and radiometric dating (for the age of the earth). As

John has worked in the field of microwave radiation at Princeton and also at his current job, he is able to critically evaluate these key lines of evidence.

Shortly after John became a Christian, a medical doctor shared with John some scientific arguments for a young earth. John became intrigued and investigated the matter further. He eventually became convinced that a plain, literal reading of Genesis and other

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Join Crossroads in the tradition of Martin Luther of feeding the hungry after communion as a way to share the bread of life with others. We will be taking communion together on August 5th during first service and then making and bringing bagged lunches down to D.C. to hang out with the homeless/hungry at Union Station. We will be talking about interacting with people, to be equipped with God's Word and to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. We may also bring some guitars and singing



voices to bring the gift of music! Be prepared to take new steps in your faith, as Jesus charges us to clothe, feed, visit and care for those in need. This could be a great way to respond to Pastor Phil's sermon and charge to live with well-ordered hearts and look towards the needs of others before our own. If you want to donate money, food, or have any questions, feel free to e-mail Carol Walker at [csun723@gmail.com](mailto:csun723@gmail.com).

# God Always Provides

The Board of Camp Hemlock would like to gratefully thank Forcey Bible Church for the generous gift of \$6,000 without which we would have been unable to replace the Lodge roof. Through one of our board members, we were able to find a great roofer who gave us a good price and was able to complete the lodge roof before the campers arrived for the summer. The previous roof was the original and had served Camp well for well past its useful life. The new roof matches the dining hall's roof which was replaced 2 years ago. The place looks wonderful!



## Childcare Help is Needed!

MOPS is a ministry at Forcey where moms of infants through kindergarten age children come to find friendship, community, resources, support, and fellowship. During MOPS meetings, children are cared for in a program called MOPPETS. We need loving childcare helpers to help with children aged 6 months to Kindergarten, during September 2012 - May 2013. The Tuesday morning MOPS group meets from 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.

**Interested in serving for this ministry?**

Contact Lauren Powers at [lauren-powers@forcey.org](mailto:lauren-powers@forcey.org).

## Improving Memory

Have you ever gone into a room for something and forgot what you went for? Or forgot the name of someone you just met? It is true that some of us get more forgetful as we age, and it might take a longer time to learn new things, remember certain words or find your glasses or even have difficulty remembering names. Those changes are often signs of mild forgetfulness and you can do something about it.

Some degree of memory problems, as well as a modest decline in our thinking skill is a fairly common part of aging, and people, as they get older sometimes worry about being forgetful and think that they might be having signs of Alzheimer's Disease, a serious and irreversible brain illness. According to the National Institute on Aging (NIH) quite a bit of research has been done in the past few years on memory and aging. It is not age or the passing of time that necessarily causes memory loss, but when the brain use ceases or diminishes, atro-

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passages in the Bible related to creation pointed to the universe and the Earth being only thousands of years old. As a graduate of Yale and MIT, John is fully capable of understanding the evidence both for and against a young earth. Even though he and others have found much scientific evidence to support a young earth, the overriding factor in his belief in a young earth is his conviction that the Bible is the inerrant and inspired Word of God and that Genesis was meant to be taken literally, just as Jesus himself took it in the Gospels (see Matthew 5:18; 19:4-5; 24:37-39; Mark 10:6-8; Luke 11:51; 17:26-32; John 8:56; 10:35).

In an effort to promote the Bible's account of the history of the universe, John asked the banquet organizers for permission to sponsor a table on behalf of [Answers in Genesis](#), the organization that publishes the materials used in Forcey's recent VBS programs. God granted favor, and John was allowed to set up a resource table. John and his wife Daryl also invited Brett and Mona McCammon and me to attend the banquet with them.

We set up the Answers in Genesis table in the atrium of the hotel where people mingled for an hour before the banquet. No one said anything negative about our table; in fact, a few dozen of the 120 or so attendees stopped by and took over 100 copies of papers, tracts, and other resources. It is true that we may never know what kind of impact we had at the banquet, but, as John wrote to his colleagues at Answers in Genesis, "We were very thankful for this opportunity to lift up the Word of God."

~ Mark Zimmerman

representing biblical history

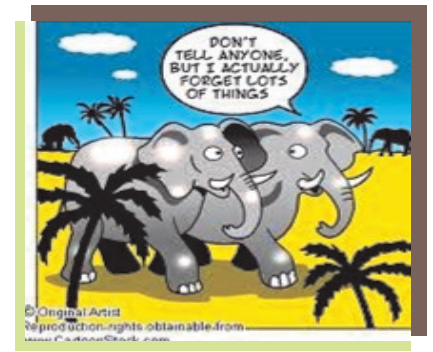
phy develops and subsequently memory loss.

If your memory problems are not related to treatable health conditions such as vitamin B12 deficiency, chronic alcoholism, thyroid disease, depression or other mental disorder, or infection or tumors of the brain of medication side effects, or dementia, then you can do something about it . Here are some things you **can** do to keep your memory sharp:

- Stay mentally active; read a lot if you have problem remembering words; study bible verses
- Take alternate routes when driving; learn to play a musical instrument, learn a new language
- Exercise daily
- Eat well; include fruits, vegetables and whole grains in your daily food intake, and drink ade-

quate amount of water.

- Socialize regularly; get together with loved ones or friends especially if you live alone.
- Get organized; have "to-do" lists and calendars.
- Keep important, frequently used belongings (eg. eyeglasses) in the same place.
- Connect what you need to remember with some other familiar character, person or thing.
- Keep your brain active with memory games and puzzles such as Sudoku, chess, scrabble.
- Explore brain training sites like Luminosity. There are many internet sites available (some free) to have fun with while improving your memory; for example, wwwGetBrainGame.com



- If you enjoy video games, try playing one that was developed to challenge the mind, and keep the brain cells active.

**"I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago."**

**Psalm 77:11**

**~ Joy Wright, Health Ministry**

## and more from our health ministry.....

MedStar Health  
Blood Donor  
Services

MedStar Health is taking a poll of interested blood donors in order to schedule a Forcey on-site blood drive. The drive would take place between the hours of 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. To accommodate this timeframe, at least 30 appointments are necessary prior to the selected blood

drive date. Would you be willing to participate? If so, what time frame is best for you? Once this poll is complete, an official blood drive date will be released for appointments. Send your responses to Carmella Wright, [wlcwright@verizon.net](mailto:wlcwright@verizon.net).

For more information visit:  
[www.donatebloodmedstar.org](http://www.donatebloodmedstar.org)

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good  
to give

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