



forcey
BIBLE CHURCH

Loving God and People, Like Jesus

focus

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The Season of Giving

Since we are approaching another Christmas, it would be natural for you to read this title and think of the holiday season. But that is not what I meant (though I do intend a play on words). I mean "season" as in salt—or some other spice that gives something its flavor. Certainly Christmas is a time of year that is much about gift buying and giving—the nation's annual economic report suggests it is as important to us as a tank of air to a scuba diver. But "God so

loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16) and Christmas was just the beginning of that gift. And to all those who put their full faith in Jesus as Savior and risen Lord, "the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 6:23). This is not a seasonal thing, but a seasoning to a new life—the very flavor and essence of our new identity. And just like Jesus Himself, it is a year-round characteristic of giving to those in need.

C.S. Lewis writes,

In the passage where the New Testament says that every one must work, it gives as a reason 'in order that he may have something to give to those in need' [Eph 4:28]. Charity—giving to the poor - is an essential part of Christian morality: in the frightening parable of the sheep and the goats it seems to be the point on which everything turns [Matt 25:31-46]. Some people nowadays say that charity ought to be unnecessary and that instead of giving to the poor we ought to be producing a society in which there were no poor to give to. They may be quite right in saying that we ought to produce this kind of society. But if anyone thinks that, as a consequence, you can stop giving in the meantime, then he has parted company with all Christian morality. I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charities expenditure excludes them. I am speaking now of 'charities' in the common way. Particular cases of distress among your own relatives, friends, neighbors or employees, which God, as it were, forces upon your notice, may demand much more: even to the crippling and endangering of your own position. For many of us the great obstacle to charity lies not in our luxurious living or desire for more money, but in our fear—fear of insecurity. This must often be recognized as a temptation. Sometimes our pride also hinders our charity; we are tempted to spend more than we ought on the showy forms of generosity (tipping, hospitality) and less than we ought on those who really need our help." [Mere Christianity (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996), pp. 82-83]



With Jesus, it was not a seasonal thing—it was His seasoning. It was not to gain recognition or a reciprocal gift; it was not out of duty. It was simply who He was. And we have His life.

- Phil Powers, Senior Pastor

Soul Winning at Forcey

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight" (Rom 3:20). As soul winners present the gospel to others, it is not uncommon to meet those who are trusting in their good works to get them to heaven. When confronting those who hold to this false hope, it is important to show them from the Bible that righteousness cannot be attained before God in this way because of sin. A recent experience at a local hospital by a member of Forcey illustrates this point.

As the Forcey member visited on a Sunday afternoon, he encountered two patients who were seeking to obtain eternal life by their good deeds. The first patient was a young man named Reginald, who believed that he would go to heaven because of the way he treated other people. As the Forcey member presented the gospel to Reginald, he emphasized from the Bible God's judgment against human sin. Reginald listened respectfully and was able to see the necessity of Christ's death to atone for his sins. With evident sincerity he called upon the Lord Jesus to save him. A few rooms later the Forcey member met a middle-aged patient named Ruth, who was also trusting in her good works to save her. The Forcey member emphasized to Ruth her lost condition as a result of her sins. Using the Scriptures, he showed her that God demands the death penalty for sin; that her good deeds could not remove even one sin from her record. Once she understood her lost condition before God, Ruth readily called upon the Lord Jesus to be her Savior, trusting in His shed blood at the cross as full and sufficient payment for her sins.

These two witnessing experiences demonstrate the power of the Word of God to bring conviction to those trusting in their own self-righteousness. Once these patients were led to see that they were relying on a false hope, they then gladly trusted in the Lord Jesus for their salvation.

- Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team

FORCEY'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SHOW DATES & TIMES

Friday, December 16 @ 7:30 p.m.,

Saturday, December 17 @ 3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.



"THE PROMISE" is an event developed by Carolyn Kennedy and Kevin Bayly, that encompasses the whole Christmas story - from Old Testament prophecy to the wonder of the risen Savior!

Continuing in Forcey's tradition of excellence - a drama, accompanied by Choir, Orchestra, Praise Band, and Dancers.

Your family and friends will celebrate a renewed Christmas spirit that will put the Messiah, Jesus—first.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE * SATURDAY EVENING @ 6 P.M.

Both services will have singing, special music, and a message celebrating the Birth of Christ. Come, worship at one or both of these services. Sunday School for children will be available only during the Christmas Day service.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE * SUNDAY MORNING @ 9:15 A.M.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT

Celebrate the New Year with *Grammy & Dove Award nominee, Bill & Karen Itzel*

featuring their new recording and kick-off of the
2012 "UP" TOUR!

Festivities begin @ 6:00 p.m. Bring the **WHOLE** family!!!

Thank You Forcey Family For Your Support!

Words of appreciation from recipients of the Christmas in October gift.

Thank you all so very much for your Christmas gift this year. May the Lord continue to meet your every need.

- **Bob Ewerth, Open Air Campaigners**

Thank you very much! It's wonderful to have a church like Forcey so involved in the work of missions and missionaries. God bless you all!

- **Suzanne Loucky, Global Outreach**

Thank you SO much...God is so good. I am most grateful to Forcey! A million thanks to all who gave.

- **Harriet Smith, CRU**

Thank you for the Christmas gift. I am always

amazed at the generosity of Forcey Bible Church Christians. Merry Christmas!

- **Carolyn King, Children's Bible Ministry of MD**

For the King!

- **Michael and Cheryl Gayle, Assoc. of Baptists for World Evangelism**

Thank you for your support during these difficult times. I understand that the amount had to be lowered some but I still appreciate what you have given and what you are still able to give. May God continue to supply all of your needs.

- **Chaplin Russ Isler, Good News Jail & Prison Ministry**

Christian

Forcey School
Invites You
to an
OPEN HOUSE!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

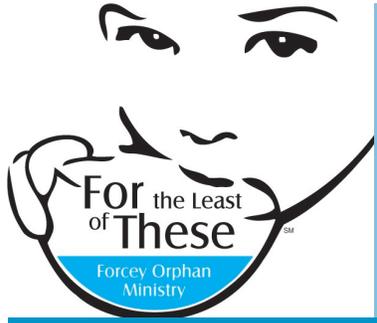
Thursday, December 8, 2011 OR
Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Both open houses begin at 7:30 pm.

For Families of Prospective New Students

The staff of Forcey Christian School cordially invites you to attend one of our open houses. Come discover what the Forcey Christian School advantage can mean to your family. Interact with staff members over light refreshments, listen to testimonies from students, and get your questions answered.

Visit the website or call the
school office for
information updates
www.forceychristianschool.org
(301) 622-2281



Thank you to everyone for your interest and support for Orphan Sunday 2011 and the ministry of Safe Families for Children. While some of you have expressed your interest in becoming a Safe Families host family for children whose parents are experiencing a temporary crisis, others have volunteered to support host families by providing material goods, services, or respite care. Many of you also came to support Forcey's "SAFE FAMILIES DAY" at Chick-fil-A on November 9th, resulting in an amazing "church picnic" in financial support of Safe Families. If you would like information and to be a part of a Forcey Safe Families' network, contact Melissa Mazeski of Safe Families at 410-872-1050/ext. 117, or mmazeski@baptistfamily.org.

While God may not have called many of us to adopt, He may be gently prodding you to take a step to investigate your adoption options. If so, the following announcement is for you:

ONE-DAY ADOPTION EDUCATION SEMINAR

Saturday, January 21, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. @ Forcey Bible Church, Silver Spring, MD

Come Hear Adoption Professionals Discuss & Answer Questions on:

- *International Adoption*
- *Domestic - Agency Adoption*
- *Domestic - Private Attorney Adoption*
- *Foster Care to Adoption (MD/VA)*
- *Hard issues on adoption*
- *How to finance an adoption with adoptive families*

Pay at the door: \$15 per person or \$25 per couple and lunch is provided. Reservations required. Send reservations and inquiries to orphanministry@forcey.org, with "adoption options" in the subject line.

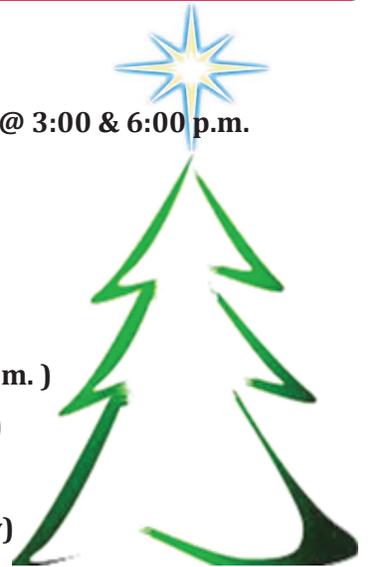


Next spring Forcey will be hosting Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, the discipleship and educational ministry of the US Center for World Mission. Perspectives has influenced the lives of over 100,000 alumni worldwide; now is your chance to become one of them! The course has 15 inspirational lessons, taught by a different instructor expert in cross cultural ministry each week. As you are exposed to powerful insights and biblical principles you will be in awe of the magnitude of God's work around the world. The weekly readings and assignments will help you dive deeply into the unfolding story of God's purpose for His people.

Perspectives will meet every Tuesday evening at Forcey from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The cost is \$290 for certificate, and \$575 for credit. There are discounts available for early registration and couples. For more details about Perspectives, or to register online, go to the website www.perspectives.org. If you have any questions please contact the class coordinator Mark Heazlit at markheazlit@gmail.com.

December Calendar Highlights

Genesis & the Authority of the Word of God	❖ Dec. 4 @ 7:00 p.m.
Teens Ministry - Middle School Outing	❖ Dec. 4 @ TBA
"The Promise" - Christmas Program	❖ Dec. 16 @ 7:30 p.m. & Dec. 17 @ 3:00 & 6:00 p.m.
Teen's Special Event - Christmas "Dinner"	❖ Dec. 18 @ 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service	❖ Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Service	❖ Dec. 25 @ 9:15 a.m.
New Year's Eve Concert	❖ Dec 31 @ 6:00 p.m.
SAM Bible Study	❖ (1st & 3rd Tuesday @ 10:00 a.m.)
ESL	❖ Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. (weekly)
Weekly Prayer Group	❖ Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
SIS Prayer	❖ Saturday @ 7:00 a.m. (weekly)



HAPPY HOLIDAYS From
The Forcey Family!!

FORCEY BIBLE CHURCH PASTORAL STAFF

Philip Powers, Senior Pastor

Gerard Schneider, Associate Pastor for Counseling & Family Ministries

Ronald Jones, Associate Pastor for Christian Education

Lonnie Harris, Associate Pastor of Singles Ministries

Chris Marchand, Associate Pastor for Teens

John Itzel, Minister of Music and Worship

Art Kennedy, Minister of Arts and Worship