



The Forcey family has been talking about our journey of discipleship and what it takes to move closer to Christ. Each of us is probably at some point along the continuum of curious to convinced to committed to consumed. Hopefully you are not stalled along the way, because standing still soon becomes drifting away.

Moving closer to Jesus happens as I see more of who He is and how much He loves me, and I choose to keep trusting and obeying Him because I love Him and could never let Him go.

Yet persevering with trust and obedience comes with a cost. Mary is a good example of that kind of surrender.

“We all have hopes and dreams that percolate deep in our souls. But what happens when God’s will cuts against the grain of our aspirations?”

“This happened to Mary. Mary was a young woman preparing for the greatest day of her life - her wedding day! She was engaged to a good man she dearly loved. But then something unimaginable brought her plans to a screeching halt.

“Luke tells of when God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary with a special announcement (Luke 1:26). She would be pregnant with a son whom she was to call Jesus. I’m sure Mary was overwhelmed with this news because she had never been intimate with any man. So how could she possibly be pregnant?”

“Gabriel answered her honest question and explained that the child would be conceived by the Holy Spirit. Gabriel

also told Mary how her relative, Elizabeth, even in her old age would conceive a child. Both pregnancies were humanly impossible. But with God nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37).

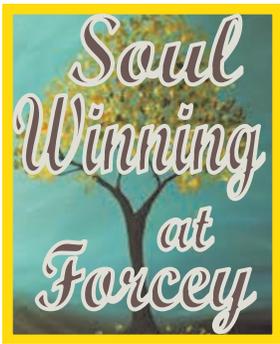
“Mary’s response is remarkable. ‘I am the Lord’s servant. . . . May it be to me as you have said’ (Luke 1:38). This young girl releases her plans and accepts a risky assignment. It could unravel her relationship with Joseph. Her reputation would be on the line. Even her life could hang in the balance. How could she not be upset?”

“The answer is profoundly simple. She trusted God more than her relationships, more than her reputation, more than her hopes and even more than her life. It was in her simple faith in the Lord where Mary knew that her hopes and dreams would be best fulfilled as she surrendered herself to His will.” [Dr. Scott Barfoot, Director, D.Min. Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary]

If you are struggling with your own hopes and dreams, don’t fight or flee - draw closer to Jesus. Persevering with trust and obedience may come with a cost - but Jesus is worth it.

Phil Powers, Senior Pastor





““ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal 6:9). This principle of sowing and reaping as given by the Apostle Paul encourages the soul winner to carry on even in the face of sparse results. Recently a Forcey member experienced this principle at work while witnessing at a local hospital.

After talking to numerous patients and visitors with little or no results, the Forcey member entered a room where a patient named Romeo was excited to see him. As they talked the Forcey member discovered that Romeo worked as a nurse in the children’s emergency room at that same hospital. He had developed chest pains while on duty the previous night, and thus had gone very quickly from caregiver to patient. This sudden heart problem caused Romeo to think seriously about the issues of life and death. It was obvious that the Lord had gotten his undivided attention through this episode.

As the Forcey member guided the conversation toward the gospel, Romeo was eager to hear God’s plan of salvation. He listened carefully and was able to follow the simple message concerning Christ’s redemptive work at the cross. With evident sincerity Romeo bowed his head and called upon the Lord Jesus to be his Savior. Further discussion concerning the assurance of his salvation in Christ confirmed that he understood fully the step of faith that he had just taken. As the Forcey member departed, he reflected on the irony that this most open witnessing opportunity came after many other attempts that day had met with rejection or indifference.



~ Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team

The Teens Retreat

Our 8th-12th grade student retreat was held November 30-December 2 at River Valley Ranch. We had 60 students and 15 staff attend. Here are a few lessons and observations I learned from the weekend:

- ✓ **We are called to be “unsafe.”** By this, we mean how the Gospel’s continuing work in our lives ought to be *producing* a risk-taking faith which embraces the likelihood of rejection, ridicule, difficulty and suffering in the midst of a world that increasingly rejects and ridicules our Lord.
- ✓ **The Word works.** Our guest speaker, BJ Walbert, spoke from the Word, especially Romans 5:1-11, 1 Peter 4, Isaiah 6, and Philippians 1. Invite you to examine those passages and see what we studied this weekend.
- ✓ **When we take time with God, He shows up for us.** On Saturday night, we all took extended time alone with God, going through passages in Philippians. We hear many good reports of how God really used this time in student’s lives.
- ✓ **Students are loads of fun.** From adventure games to moments of random hilarity in the cabins, athletic competitions, icebreakers, and an intriguing Spam-building



contest, it was a fun weekend for all. While staff may be a little sore and sleepy on Monday morning, I know they would agree it was worth it!

- ✓ **God is producing an adult faith in students.** One of the great misconceptions, I believe, is that students need to be babied into the faith, with little expected and therefore, little given to them in that regard. The length and depth of the messages, amount and style of worship, and the components of our schedule – extended time alone with God, sharing of testimonies, and intentional discussion groups – were key parts of the weekend. I am so encouraged to see honest and maturing faith on display. Our church should rejoice in our students, and pray for this faith to continually increase.

Please pray for all the students that were able to attend, that the lessons learned would be assimilated back to their families, neighborhoods, schools and here at Forcey, so that God may be more and more glorified by the expression of an “unsafe” faith.

~ Mike Maslin, Interim Youth Director

The Season of Giving

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This year you can invite your friends and neighbors to a SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE. That's right, on **Sunday Morning, December 16**. The Choir and Orchestra along with our Dance

Troupes and Banners will present **"And On Earth, Peace"** a brand new musical to tell the story of Jesus. As always you can anticipate both exciting and beautiful music that will turn your heart upward in worship and praise. The accompaniment narration, dance and banners will make the message of Jesus crystal clear. Pick up some advertising flyers at the welcome desk – YOU are our best way to invite others.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

The 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candle-light Service will both reflect on the Christmas Story and allow us to openly worship our Savior through song. This is a one hour service for the entire family.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BILL & KAREN ITZEL HOMECOMING

This concert has become an exciting Forcey Tradition! Start your New Year Celebration at Church with a brand new concert featuring Maryland's Premiere Independent Christian Artists, Bill and Karen Itzel.

Opening the concert this year is
**Forcey's Vocal Ensemble,
"Glory Bound"!**

The fun begins @ 6:00 p.m. allowing you to move on to your other plans.

Let's fill the sanctuary again this **New Year's Eve** as they kick off their 2013 **"I AM A CHRISTIAN"**

Tour. This is definitely a message every child, teen and adult should hear. Be sure to bring guests with you. A Love Offering will be received and recordings will be available including the brand new "I am A Christian."

Excerpts from emails from Forcey missionaries serving around the world saying thank you for the gift from the Christmas in October offering:

Thank you for the extra support that was sent to us in November. We are always thankful for those extras that folks send to help us stay here serving at Black Forest Academy. This past year has been a year of a large amount of cutbacks by various folks. So far we have been able to meet our financial obligations. We are so thankful for how the Lord does provide.

With Joy in the Journey,
Joe and Susie

Thanks. I so appreciate Forcey. See you sometime in 2013.
Linda

Thanks to the church for your generous support. We appreciate your efforts to bless us in special ways also.
With our love,
Kevin and Lucy

Thank you so much - you are so kind to us with these yearly Christmas gifts. A happy encouragement for us to receive this note today.
Love,
Ruth and Ray

Forcey Bible Church is so good to their missionaries. Thank you so much! It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. God bless you all and give you abundant fruit for you labor. So thankful for you all,
Mabel

Thank you for your extended continued kindness and love to us! A blessed Christmas Season to you and all our Forcey family! God bless.
Brent and Diane

Wonderful. Thank you and the Forcey Family very much!!
Brian and Shirley

Thanks so much for the extra gift from Forcey. We appreciate it very much and are thankful for your extra encouragement in this way! What a blessing Forcey has been and continues to be to us.
Bless you all!
Carey and Sharon

Keep Forcey's leadership, ministries and programs in your prayers.

PASTORAL STAFF

Phil Powers
 Jerry Schneider
 Ron Jones
 Lonnie Harris
 Chris Marchand
 Mike Maslin, Interim
 John Itzel
 Art Kennedy

TRUSTEES

Chris Carlson, Chair
 Scott Keen
 Devin Stover
 Ken Wesche
 Rick White

ELDERS

Bob Moore, Chair
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 Kevin Calloway
 Josh Haftel
 Jae Lee
 Stephen Marchetti
 Bob Palmer

PIONEER GIRLS

MOTHERS DAY

CROSSROADS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

HEALTH

ESL

FORCEY 360

EVANGELISM

AV TEAM

DAY CAMP

MERGE

MISSIONS

FORCEY CHRISTIAN

THE BRIDGE

BAND OF BROTHERS

TEENS

STOCKADE

KARATE

BATTALION

MUSIC & WORSHIP

SISITERS IN

SENIOR

CHALLENGERS

LOSING TO LIVE

TREECLIMBERS

ORPHANS

MISSION POSSIBLE

BODY & SOUL

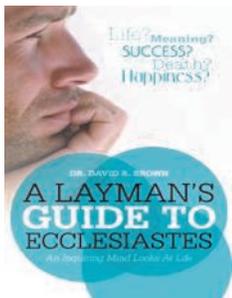
MOTHERS OF

BUSY LADIES

ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

WELCOME CENTER

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
 HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



Forcey member, David Brown's book, "A Layman's Guide To Ecclesiastes", has been published by WestBow Press in the form of an e-book. It is a verse-by-verse commentary and study guide on Ecclesiastes, and is suitable for personal study or small group study. The book can be accessed by doing a search on the title, using the Google, Barnes and Noble, or Amazon search engines. Download it as a PDF file, to a reader such as Kindle or directly through www.DrDavidRBrown.com