



They See Your God

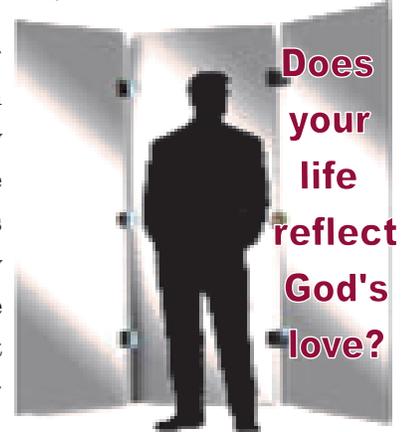
People around me know what is important to me by the things they hear me say and watch me do. They will know if I have any hobbies and what they are; they will discover my musical style, the importance I place on appearance, whether I value myself or others more, my politics and any sports obsessions. And they will know my God (god). Even if they or I don't call it "god" or think of it as a religion, they will form conclusions about what is most important to me—what I need to survive, what I pour most of my life into.

In an article titled "It Takes a Village," Joe Posnanski describes the religion of Steve Hirschtick. Steve "grew up in Chicago, the son and grandson of rabid Cubs fans. Throughout his career as an attorney and law professor in Los Angeles, the Cubs meant everything to him." Steve married a Thai woman, and after his retirement in the late 1990s they moved to her village about 50 miles from Chiang Rai. And that's where his religion became very obvious.

Hirschtick hired villagers to build a little Wrigley Field on his land. He gathered together some people from the village, showed them a picture of a baseball with a Cubs logo and paid them to build a 15-foot replica of a baseball with steel and concrete. He then hired villagers to build a little Wrigley Field on his land—complete with scoreboard, the Cubs' marquee, and a rooftop with a THIS BUD'S FOR YOU sign on it.

His baseball projects do some good; they support 20-25 villagers, half of them children. But there is an even stronger message taught to these dirt-poor villagers. He tried to explain baseball to the people,

but they do not understand it. He's given them Cubs shirts, which they wear happily. And the village people think this is his religion. "They think I'm praying to the god of the big red C." It seems that they understand more than he does. Steve says it is "a reason to keep on living. It's a virus, this Cubs thing. A virus. But for me, it's a virus of joy."



What do your friends, the people you work with and around, the parents of your kids' friends think about your religion? What would they say is your god, your joy? If they can't quickly answer, "John lives for Jesus the Messiah," or "Samantha worships the God of Scripture and loves Jesus more than almost anything else". If they don't say that about you, maybe you better change something starting this new year. Maybe you better start mentioning something about Jesus more often in your conversations—a way He answered prayer, something about His character or something He taught that meant a lot to you this week, or something that happened that reminded you how important



He is. And to include Him in a way that is just natural; where others see the "ordinary" fabric of your everyday life; and how that fabric is very much about your God. After all, this may be the year that Jesus returns and the world will know who is God.

~ Phil Powers, Senior Pastor



“**F**or whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom 10:13).

On a weekly basis, Forcey’s Evangelism Explosion (EE) team attempts to reach visitors to Forcey with the message of the gospel. Recently a Forcey team visited a young woman and her family in their home as part of this visitation program. She had visited the church with her children and had filled out a visitor’s card. After committing this prospect to the Lord in prayer, an EE team headed out in hopes of finding her at home.

Upon entering the residence, it seemed wise to the Forcey team to expedite the gospel presentation, since she had two small children and it was nearing their bedtime. After asking a couple of questions regarding her assurance of getting into Heaven, the Forcey team quickly discerned from her answers that she was trusting in her good

works, rather than the Lord Jesus, for her salvation. With her permission, the Forcey team then presented the plan of salvation from the Scriptures. As this mother of two listened attentively to the message of the gospel, it became evident that the Holy Spirit was at work in her heart. She seemed to grasp that Christ died as her substitute, paying the penalty for her sins through His shed blood at the cross. As the Forcey team extended the invitation for her to receive the free gift of eternal life, she openly called upon the Lord Jesus to be her Savior (Rom 6:23; 10:13).

The Forcey team then spent some time with her reviewing the assurance of her salvation in Christ. Upon leaving this home, they tentatively set an appointment for follow-up training. As they drove away that evening, the EE team rejoiced that this young visitor to Forcey was now secure in her salvation in Christ.

~ *Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team*

SOUL WINNING @ FORCEY

FCS NEWS

We are pleased to report that we raised more than \$2,500 from the Craft Show and Bake Sale in November. We are grateful for Metta Wagner’s leadership of this event, along with help from LeRachel Buffkins and the Parent Booster Club. Another fun event was when our children’s choir sang loudly and beautifully during the early service at church on Sunday, December 11. One of our board members, Sabia Schwarzer, shared in both services that week about some of the special features of our school, including our international flavor—we call it a little taste of heaven! If you or families you know are interested in learning about how children age 3 through 8th grade can get a top-notch Christian education, then please consider inviting them to our ***Open House on Tuesday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m.*** Mingle with teachers, enjoy some refreshments, and come find out what the FCS advantage can mean to your family. You may call the office at 301-622-2281 for more information. You may also email me at zeke-wharton@forceychristianschool.org.

Contact us right away to get placed on our waiting lists for the 2012-2013 school year. Priority registration for Forcey Church members ends February 8, and church members receive one free registration (a \$300 value). There will be a limited amount of financial aid available through a program administered by our tuition management company, FACTS.

~ *Zeke Wharton, FCS Administrator*

2012 ~ The Year of the Healthy Family

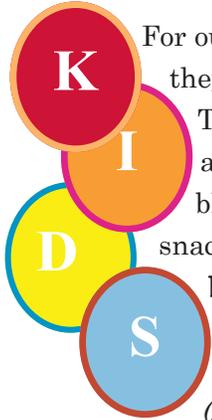
Nothing would please me more than seeing the Forcey church family overflowing with vibrant health. Our bodies are a tremendous gift from God and we are called to be good stewards of them so we can serve God to our fullest potential. We have several powerful tools to help us **prevent diabetes, cancer, heart disease and obesity**. These are not hard to do, yet we seldom make them a priority. Numerous studies show the power sleep, exercise and/or nutrition have on our health.



A As adults, there are several ways you can get support, education and/or exercise during the week right here at Forcey. Examples:

- ✱ Tuesday nights at 7:00, (starting 1/10) we will have the **Losing to Live** weight loss program. The board in the foyer has information and registration forms.
- ✱ Saturday mornings at 8:30 there is Body and Soul aerobics
- ✱ Sunday offers adult volleyball in the gym at 1:30.

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Caring for yourself will empower you to care for others and is a great way to make new friends.



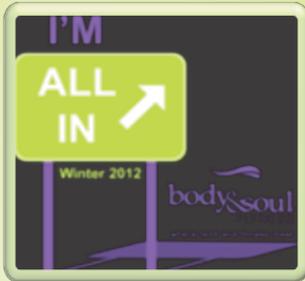
For our kid's health, **get them playing outside**. When they come back inside they are sure to be hungry. This is a perfect time to have healthy food available. Sneak in more vegetables by grating or blending them in sauces or casseroles. Serve snacks that are full of nutrition like **fruits, vegetable sticks, whole grains, nuts and seeds**. When buying snack bars **read the labels carefully** looking for low fat (*5 grams or less*), high fiber (*at least 3 grams*), low sugar (*12 grams or less*) and low salt (*125mg or less*). **Compare labels**. I like Z Bars, Odwalla Bars, Cliff Bars, TLC Bars, Luna Bars, etc. They are available at most grocery stores.

Romans 13:14 - "But clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for indulging the flesh to gratify its desires."

~ Nancy Parlette for the Health Ministry

Wholeheartedness

This is what God expects from us. He does not want us to live a lukewarm life. (Revelation 3:16). **Wholeheartedness** - this is what the winter 2012 session is all about!



Body & Soul Fitness winter session is called **"I'm All In"** and this is the answer God wants to hear from us when He calls on us to do something for Him. He wants us to be 'all in' at all times. It is a big order in our own power, but it is doable with God's help!

1 Kings 8:23 says: *"O, Lord God of Israel. There is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue **wholeheartedly** in your way."* This is a mighty truth - there is no one like our God. His love for us is overwhelming. He is 'all in' when it comes to loving us - and His heart's desire is for us to be wholeheartedly 'all in' when it comes to serving Him.

The songs during the workout will lead us to examine what our priorities are - to consider what we actually are 'all in' for, and why that matters. The lyrics will help us to focus on God who is always 'all in' for us. And the message will be focused on *the power of participation* - not sitting on the sidelines of life, but jumping in - all in, to make a difference. It will be another powerful session!

Ladies are invited to join us for the new session of **Body & Soul Fitness, I'm All In, a 75-minute workout which includes cardio, strength, flexibility, and Pilates training**. Classes meet Saturday mornings at 8:30 in the gym beginning January 7. Bring your weights, dyna-band, mat, and water bottle. For more information call Jennifer White, 301-483-4986 or email rjslwhite@msn.com.

Missions Moment



Dear Forcey Family,

On the eve of our "retirement" from active service with SIM, Marcia and I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your marvelous partnership throughout our long missionary journey. Your generous support of our young family

(just 3 pre-schoolers) began in 1979 when we left Maryland to study French in Quebec, and continued during twenty years in Ivory Coast, five years on home staff, two years in Benin, and these last four years shuttling between Korea and the US. During those years our family has grown to count five married children, their spouses, and ten delightful grandchildren.

Like most "retired" folks in this day and age our change of official status does not mark a cessation of all activity! I will be teaching part-time as adjunct faculty at a seminary here in Charlotte. Marcia is involved with many ladies at our local church, and will resume tutoring disadvantage schoolchildren after the holidays. SIM has asked me to travel to Niger Republic this summer to help the national church organize and preserve their archives, and we will return to teach in Korea as needed.

It has been a wonderful privilege to be part of Forcey's missions family. Thank you for your faithfulness to God's Word, for your prayers and many expressions of love and concern, and for your huge financial investment in our lives and ministries.

~ *Bob & Marcia Arnold, bob.arnold@sim.org*

" Cindy and I are so grateful for all of the love and generous support that the people of Forcey have given us over the years. We are awed by the goodness of God expressed to us through you all. Thank you so much for all of your gifts and prayers on our behalf. "

*God Bless,
John and Cindy Reese*

" Forcey is one of our favorite churches. I am grateful for what Forcey Bible Church has done through the years. It made a foundational difference in our ministry to Cuba and Latin America. "

*Thank you,
Michael and Sandy Giglio*

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