

Living with Purpose

This summer our Sunday worship and our weekly Home Groups will be thinking about "Being Radical." This new series draws on David Platt's book, *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*. This special focus is intended to start us thinking about the kinds of changes we need to make at FBC in order to bridge the gap between being learners and making disciples.

"A radical focus on Scripture will result in the church's moving out to fulfill its God-given mission on earth. So what is that mission? In Jesus' simple command to make disciples (see Matt. 28:18-20), He invited each of His followers to share the life of Christ with others through a sacrificial, intentional, global effort to spread the gospel.

"The church isn't meant to gather people together as much as it's meant to send people out into the world. **That means you. And me. And everyone else who is called a Christian.** The goal of the church is never for one person to be equipped and empowered to lead as many people as possible to Christ. The goal is always for all of God's people to be equipped and empowered to lead as many people as possible to Christ. Not just in here. But out there." (Platt, *Radical—Small-Group Study*, p. 81)

Wonderful things are happening in our ESL ministry. At a recent birthday party, one of our Forcey women met the mom of a classmate of her daughter. When she mentioned "Forcey," this mom's face lit up and she be-

gan to rave about how much she loves Forcey because of *her* mother's experience at Forcey ESL. They come from a Muslim country. Her mother loves Forcey ESL because it gives her a chance to learn English, even though she is 60-years-old. ESL students not only get to rub shoulders with people who *really have* a relationship with Jesus, they also get the chance to hear His story. Maybe you could use your life for a purpose like this!

But living with purpose doesn't require a program or classroom setting. "You're called to make disciples. So am I. But we must be intentional about doing so. Disciples aren't made by accident, but the process might be simpler than you realize. Think back to Jesus' example.

"Jesus commanded His followers to do with others what He had done with them. Jesus didn't sit in a classroom; He shared His life. He walked and talked and ate with them, and at every turn He taught them about the kingdom of God. You can do the same.

"Instead of seeing your ordinary activities as simply things to be done, follow Jesus' example and start seeing them as opportunities to make disciples. Don't just go to the grocery store by yourself; take someone with you and talk about stewardship of resources. Then don't just buy food for yourself; buy a little less so that you can buy some for someone else.

"When someone comes over to babysit your children, don't just give them a check and send them home. Engage them in conversation. Talk about their lives and their spiritual development. Begin to embrace the ordinary opportunities for the extraordinary act of making disciples." (*Radical—Small-Group Study*, p. 85)

~ **Pastor Phil Powers, Senior Pastor**



"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 7:21a). Even though a person may have a solid church background, the soul winner should never assume that the

prospect is already saved. During a recent outreach at a local hospital, a Forcey member talked to a patient who was religious, but did not understand how to get to heaven.

While visiting from room to room, the Forcey member met a middle-aged patient named Gloria. After a brief discussion of spiritual issues, the Forcey member concluded that Gloria, despite her church involvement, was unsaved. Proceeding on that premise, he began to present the gospel to her. She listened attentively to the message of salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. When he gave the invitation to receive the Lord Jesus by faith, she eagerly called upon Him to

save her. When the Forcey member reviewed with Gloria the assurance of her salvation in Christ, she commented that though she knew that Christ had died for our sins, she never understood (until now) how His death on the cross related to her.

This experience shows the importance of diagnosing accurately the prospect's spiritual need. This patient, though religious and somewhat familiar with the Bible, did not understand the purpose behind Christ's atoning death on the cross. A simple gospel presentation cleared up the matter for her, and she willingly received the Lord Jesus as her Savior.

~ **Ralph Zimmerman,**
Evangelism Team

Herald of Christ Recognition



Herald of Christ - a messenger of Jesus Christ. *For everyone who calls upon the name of The Lord will be saved. But how are men to call upon him they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a herald? ~ Romans 10:13-14.*

On June 13th, we will be presenting Peter Willis and Mark Shoger, from Battalion 555, with the Herald of Christ achievement. They have completed an extensive 9-month internship that culminates with CSB Ministries recognizing them as Heralds of Christ.

Come celebrate this milestone with us. We will start the night at 6 p.m. with our end-of-the-year banquet and culminate with the Herald of Christ presentation.

Bonsoir

暗安

Buenas tardes

안녕하세요

Добрый вечер

Xin chào



On any given Tuesday night, you might come to our church and expect to hear “Good Evening” in any of these languages as you step out onto the second floor! The excited and sometimes anxious faces of *this* United Nations move into their 5 classrooms where you’ll only hear English. You’ve have just arrived at Forcey’s ESL (English as a Second Language) Program.

A typical evening will consist of grammar, pronunciation practice, new vocabulary, devotions and lots of conversation! In my advanced class, we have tears when we struggle through irregular verbs forms and fits of laughter as we determinedly enunciate new words and try to grasp the meanings of some very strange idioms!

One evening we were practicing “Getting to Know You” question and answer conversations. The premise was to encourage students to move out of their comfort zone and make new American friends. I paired them up with someone who *did not* speak their native language and with some model scenarios sent them off to learn about each other. After a sufficient practice time, I called them back together to share about their new friend. Not wanting to end the time, they insisted on interviewing me!

“After break”, I told them, “you can ask me anything you want.” What was I thinking???! So after some obligatory “do you have children?” “why are you retired so young?” (God bless them!) questions, one thoughtful student asked, “When we have our devotion time you talk about your personal relationship with Jesus- what does that mean?” So right there in the middle of class I was privileged to share my testimony and we got to the real reason we are fortunate to have ESL at Forcey- building relationships and allowing our international students to see Jesus!

One evening before Easter, Paul Adams (our missionary from Open Air Campaigners) spoke to our classes and reminded us that God’s kingdom includes people from every nation. I sat and looked around feeling extremely honored to be a part of this unique ministry where God is at work!

~ Deborah Scesa

(languages above in this order: French, Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Russian, Urdu and Vietnamese)



Praying For The Special Needs Community

What do Thomas Jefferson, Jane Austen, Walt Whitman, John F. Kennedy, Barbara Walters, Jamie Foxx, and Eva Longoria all have in common? They all had (or have) siblings with intellectual disabilities. As many of you know, my brother, Stephen, also has an intellectual disability - Down syndrome. Sadly, in America and in most countries in Europe, the abortion rate for babies with Down syndrome is somewhere between 50 and 90%. While this rate is extremely high, it will soon go even higher due to recent advances in prenatal genetic testing.

Previously, a completely accurate prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome was only possible through amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling—both of which are invasive procedures that pose a risk of miscarriage. Now, a virtually risk-free test has been developed by researchers in Hong Kong and at Stanford. They have found a way to capture and examine fetal DNA that floats in the mother's bloodstream. A test for Down syndrome based on this method hit the market over a year ago. Because it is 100% accurate, poses no risk of miscarriage, and can be performed in the first trimester (when abortions are easier), many people on both sides of the abortion debate believe that the abortion rate for people with Down syndrome will increase. Denmark, for example, has said that it aims to be "Down syndrome-free" by 2030.

The researchers at Stanford who developed this prenatal test for Down syndrome have since developed a way to measure the entire genome of a baby in the womb. As a result, they claim that they may soon be able to diagnose all genetic diseases prenatally—everything from Down syndrome to various forms of cancer. This means that the same abortion regime that currently exists for people with Down syndrome may soon be extended to people with other "undesirable" diseases and conditions. Imagine, for example, that a pregnant woman receives a report that her unborn child has a 70% chance of developing some form of cancer later in life. Should she take the risk and have the child? Or should she abort and try again? This sounds like science fiction, but it isn't. In fact, the Affordable Care Act, which provides for free genetic testing for all pregnant women, may make this sort of choice all too common.

What Can I Do?!?!

FIRST

I would like to urge you to take this matter seriously. What I've said isn't some form of right-wing paranoia; the *New York Times* and other major media outlets have spent considerable time covering these developments.

SECOND

I would urge you to pray for doctors, bioethicists, and genetic counselors to come to faith in Christ or at least to see that this new genetic testing regime will lead to terrible discrimination. Research has shown that the people with the dimmest view of the quality of life of people with Down syndrome are members of the medical community. Their views bear considerable weight in this matter.

THIRD

Please consider donating time or money to Christian ministries that serve the disability community. Organizations such as Joni and Friends in California and Jill's House at McLean Bible Church in Northern Virginia not only help people with special needs but also act as high-profile cultural gatekeepers for the right to life of all people. Fourth, consider taking some time to educate yourself about the lives of people with disabilities and their families. For example, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards is a novel about a girl with Down syndrome; it sold over 4 million copies. There are also many online videos, articles, and blogs about families with special needs children. *Noah's Dad* is a blog written by a Christian couple who have a son with Down syndrome. I am sure that you would find these and similar stories to be both inspiring and encouraging. Most of all, I hope that you and I can come to identify with people with special needs and realize that they have the same God-given right to life that all humans have.

~ Mark Zimmerman
markazimmerman1@gmail.com

ALL
HANDS
IN!

Opportunities to
volunteer, lead,
donate, support,
collaborate and of
course, pray.

Mission Possible Yard Sale

Doing a little Spring Cleaning?

Wondering what to do with furniture, toys, and
other items you no longer need?

Want to help raise funds to help our teens share
the gospel through the Mission Possible program?

We are having a Yard Sale at Forcey on
Saturday, June 8.

We need your participation!

What items are we looking for?

Anything but clothes, exercise equipment, or computer
equipment will be much appreciated.

Drop off your items

Friday, June 7 from 3:30 – 8:00 p.m.

OR Saturday, June 8 from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.
at the back door by the Nursery Area.



Vacation Bible School '13

is June 17-21 from
8:40-11:30 a.m.

Cost is \$5 per child.

Ages: Entering Kindergarten
in the fall (born before 9/1/08)
through completing 5th grade.

Online registration is available until
June 9th. Click [here!](#)

audio *visual* Ministry



A few people willing to be trained as:

**Soundboard Operators, Video Directors or
Remote Camera Operators**

Training provided. Volunteers work either first
or second hour, two Sundays a month. Flexible
schedules. Opportunity to continue into the
Fall.



Interested? Questions?

Contact **David Hull** (davidhull.verizon.net)