

The Forcey Focus

Forcey Bible Church Newsletter

March 2014

Celebrate What God Has Done

March is the month for our annual Missions Conference. It is a very special time for the church to come together and hear "all that God had done through [our brothers and sisters] and how he had opened the door of faith to [so many people]" (Acts 14:27).

Here are just two stories to celebrate:

A Folopa elder in Papua New Guinea sat translators Neil and Carol Anderson down and said, "I have to tell you why you're here." Neil and Carol were very interested to know why, so they said, "Oh? Tell us."

The elder explained how an evangelist had once come to their area and shared the gospel with the people. They started a small church, but soon the evangelist had to go to another village. The people cried, "What will we do now? We don't know anything about God and Christianity!" He told them, "I want you to pray that God will send you a missionary." A few years later, the Andersons showed up to work on Bible translation, and everyone was very excited.

The elder told the missionaries, "You thought you came here all on your own, but you didn't. We'd been praying that you would come. God put His leash on your arm, and He pulled you here."

Walls shake, bombs blare, and fear instills itself in everyone. Yet, if you met Ruth you wouldn't know she was scared. She stands with her perfectly wrapped hijab, her lips freshly painted with gloss, and black dress covering her to the floor.

At only 21 years of age she is beaming with maturity. Her husband left her and her two young children back when they lived in Syria. She was forced to make the trek to a neighboring country by herself, with only her children as company.

Her beauty and divorce place a target on her for wandering men. She had grown accustomed to fending off men, so when our staff approached her, she was skeptical. Fearing they wanted to abuse her she shrugged them off. But when they explained that they were there to listen to her story and give her food and clothing, something changed.

Soon the staff had formed a relationship with Ruth, visiting her, praying for her, and showing her the love of Christ. Ruth's heart began to soften and she recognized something different in these men; for one, they did not look at her like an object to be won, instead, they saw her as a child of God.

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Months later Ruth began to pray with our staff and soon accepted Christ into her life. She now devotes most of her time to helping our staff visit other Syrian families in the area. Her ability to relate to their experiences and her gentleness have made her a wonderful asset in helping distribute food, clothing, and other items to Syrian refugees.

Ruth's story is a modern day resemblance of the woman at the well. She was cast out by her husband and left vulnerable to attacks by men. But when she met men who followed Jesus Christ, her heart changed, and she couldn't help but show others the love she has experienced. [shared by Andrew & Hannah Beach, GAIN]

Plan to come together as much as you can during the Missions Conference to hear and celebrate even more. We still live in a time of the "Repeated Acts of Jesus."

~ Dr. Phil Powers, Senior Pastor

2014 Forcey Missions Conference: "Watch, Pray, Do" Glorifying God

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus responds to Satan's first temptation in the wilderness, saying *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God* (Matt 4:4). If you are like me, sometimes that seems overwhelming ... I mean, "the Bible has a lot to say - does He really mean every word?" As a result, I often find myself wondering if God, through the Scriptures, has an overarching message, a "One-Thing" that pleases Him above all else? You might answer by saying, "to glorify God;" and that would be right. But that answer immediately begs another question ... How do I glorify God? Well let's turn to the Scriptures and see if they provide an answer.

An overview of the Bible would tell us that God has devoted the majority of His message to the subject of restoring mankind's lost relationship with Him. After creation and everything being declared "very good," mankind falls to sin in Gen 3:1-7. Yet in the midst of God's necessary punishment in vv. 14-19, Adam and Eve receive an amazing promise ... the very first gospel

proclamation in Gen 3:15. Think of that for a minute. How many of us think to provide reassurance in the midst of disciplining our children? This theme continues through the entire Old Testament, and concludes with the account of His Son's life, death, resurrection, and ascension in the four Gospels and Acts. So, how do we glorify God? Consider: By participating in His ministry of restoration, by proclaiming His gospel to the lost, in our homes, neighborhoods, and places of work, or maybe as Pastor Phil has been saying: by being disciples who make disciples. Said differently, let us *glorify GOD by considering how the life of Christ in us will be multiplied through us*.

As you commit yourself to this, **watch** how God will work. *Pray* for Him to work - in your families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and the world. And be ... *doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves* (James 1:22).

~ Steve Smith, Director of Missions

[Click here for the Missions Week Schedule of Events](#)

Annual Missions Conference, March 16-23, *Watch, Pray, Do.*

Schedule of Events

- Saturday, March 15, 8:00 a.m. – (pre-conference) *Men's Breakfast* w/Patrick Hall
- Sunday afternoon March 16, 1:00 p.m. - *Ladies Luncheon*
- Sunday evening March 16, 6:00 p.m. - *Prayer with Missionaries.* Come join others for an evening of prayer with and for our missionaries, followed by dessert and fellowship. Please bring a dessert to share. Children's Conference ages 4 through 5th grade. Nursery for infant through age 3.
- Wednesday evening March 19, 7:00 p.m. – *Focus on Europe: Austria, Germany, Poland, Switzerland.* Children's Conference ages 4 through 5th grade. Nursery for infant through age 3.
- Thursday, March 20, 7:00 p.m. – *Focus on Asia: India, Malaysia.* Nursery for infant through age 3.
- Saturday evening March 22, 6:00 p.m. - *Church-wide Potluck Dinner.* The evening includes Bob and Bobbie Mathieu. Following the meal, Children's Conference ages 4 through 5th grade. Nursery for infant through age 3.
- Sunday, March 23 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. – *The Family Gathers* services
- **Children's Conference** ages 4 through 5th grade, Sunday, Wednesday, and Saturday evenings; Nursery for infant through age 3.

2014 Missions Conference Projects

- **Featured Projects**
 - (1) ministry equipment in **Indonesia** and (2) boats for two fishermen in **Philippines**
- **Equipping Nationals** - Pastor/Leadership Training, Teaching Materials in **France and Asia**
- **Scholarship & Outreach** – conferences, camps, community centers – International students, Europe and Asia
- **Missionary Care** –medical expenses, unexpected needs, encouragement/travel, moving expenses, etc.
- **Children's Project** – collect hats and gloves for children in India.

Soul Winning at Forcey

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (I Tim 1:15). Occasionally a soul winner will meet those who feel that they are beyond redemption due to the magnitude of their sins. Such individuals need to be dealt with compassionately if they are to be won to Christ. A recent encounter by a Forcey member during a hospital visit illustrates this point vividly.

As he talked with an older female patient named Marsie, the Forcey member asked if she was certain of going to heaven one day. She responded that she was going to hell when she died, because she was too great a sinner to go to heaven. Taken back somewhat by the bluntness of her comment, the Forcey member quickly decided to alter his gospel presentation to deal with her misconception of the grace of God. Starting with the verse given above, he shared with her the Apostle Paul’s testimony

concerning the sufficiency of God’s grace to save any sinner who puts their trust in the Lord Jesus. Being encouraged by this passage along with other verses, Marsie then allowed the Forcey member to explain to her from the Bible how to get to heaven. As he spoke of God’s provision for her sins through Christ’s atoning death on the cross, Marsie showed deep interest. When he gave the invitation to receive Christ as her Savior, she openly called upon the Lord Jesus for salvation.

Though Marsie’s sins abounded, God’s grace abounded much more (Rom 5:20).

~ *Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team*

Being Disciples Who Make Disciples

...WATCH
PRAY
DO....

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Bridges Seminar

Sharing the hope of Jesus Christ
with Muslims

Saturday, April 12, 2014 / 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You are invited to attend a one-day seminar that focuses on equipping believers to share the gospel with Muslims. The speaker will be Yvette Moy, Metro D.C. Area Field Coordinator of the Crescent Project.

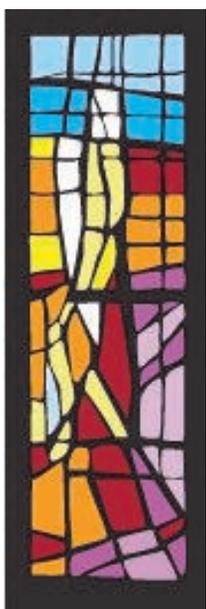
The Bridges Seminar is a one-of-a-kind presentation because you can learn how to take similar concepts in Christianity and Islam, and then build a bridge in order to share your faith with your Muslim neighbors and friends. Christianity and Islam are not the same, but there are some similarities that can be used to plant gospel seeds.

About 1.5 billion Muslims have little chance of hearing the gospel. Nearly 7 million of them call North America home. We are living in urgent times. Millions of Muslims around the world, and across the street from you, are searching for the true peace that can only be found in Jesus. Muslims are coming to our borders, they are in our neighborhoods and our workplaces. God is opening the door to reach them right here.

The Bridges Seminar meets you where you are. The teaching is biblical and practical. It is easy to understand, even if you don't have much prior knowledge of Islam. The Bridges Seminar allows you to gain biblical insight into Islamic history and beliefs, while providing useful next steps and stories that help you put the teaching into practice.

Registration will cost \$10 (inclusive of lunch) and will begin in March. You may register online at www.forcey.org, or at the Welcome Center between services from March 16 to April 5. Please contact Ifelayo Ojo (202-460-5791), Mark Heazlit (301-372-8715), or Jide Iwarere (240-899-2676) for more information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be. - Matthew 6:21



If you give to Forcey...

First, thank you very much.

Secondly, please use a Forcey account number. If you have an account number, please write it on the offering envelope when you make your gift; or be sure that it is part of your **eGive** profile if you give online.

The only way we can be sure to give you an accurate year-end record of your giving is if you use your account on all donations to the church.

If you don't have an account number and would like one, write the church at forcey@forcey.org, or call the office at 301-622-2200.

Thank you.