



Being a
Reason for
Thank

Usually at Thanksgiving, we are encouraged to think of the blessings we have received and to give thanks. That is good - but here is a different way to think about Thanksgiving. In fact, this may be more like how Jesus would approach Thanksgiving: *do the things that give others the reasons for giving thanks!*

This is even closer to the heart of Jesus - making it all about being the giver rather than the receiver. Paul models his encouragement to give a love offering to needy believers in Jerusalem off the same motivation of Christ's indescribable gift to us: *be the reason others give thanks!* "And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God" (2 Cor. 9:11-12).

Here is an example of what that might look like - the thanksgiving given by a wife because her husband has committed himself to be the reason for thanks.

My husband consistently expresses his servant's heart for our family in many ways. He loves to take care of the 'little things' like making a call or searching the internet to help others, preparing special meals he knows will please us, going the extra mile and doing an errand to save time for someone else in the family. He doesn't say a lot about his prayer life (he's a quiet man) but when he prays, we all know he's spent time with God.

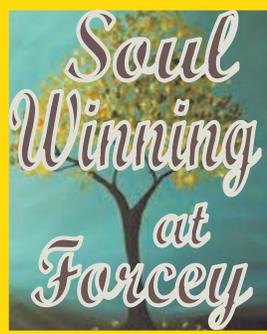
"His 92 year old dad loves baseball. He grew up around Comiskey Park in Chicago and the Chicago White Sox have always been his favorite team. So my husband contacted the White Sox and requested that his dad be recognized as "A Hero of the Game", a program that recognizes individuals who served in the US military.

After providing sufficient documentation, the White Sox office agreed; so this summer he flew to Chicago and witnessed his father being honored on the field after the third inning. He honored his Dad in a way that spoke to his "honoring his father" through his respect and love.

"I recently planned an international trip. One evening before I left, 2 long and heavy boxes were delivered. My husband told me to ignore them—but my curiosity would not allow that. My husband had planned to surprise me with a complete closet remodel while I was gone - something we had talked about but I thought could never happen. He was disappointed that the surprise was ruined. But when I returned a week later, he had repainted the closet and the closet organizer was installed. AND all of my clothes were hung in their color-coordinated order! He's a keeper!"

Maybe this will spark some ideas for you. Start turning things around - be the reason others give thanks!
~ Phil Powers, Senior Pastor

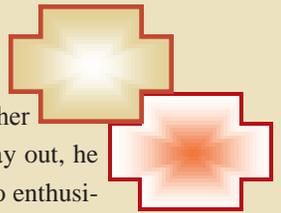
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“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven...” (Matt 7:21). The soul winner should never assume upon initial contact that a person is saved, even if that person speaks enthusiastically about the Lord and His Word. One must carefully probe the prospect to determine whether or not they understand the gospel message. A recent encounter by a Forcey member while witnessing at a local hospital shows the potential danger of pre-judging a person’s spiritual condition.

When the Forcey member entered the room of an elderly patient, he also met Rita, a staff worker at the hospital, who got excited as he offered the “Word” to her patient. Since the patient was not receptive to the gospel, the Forcey member decided to leave. On his way out, he offered the staff worker a little Scripture booklet, thinking that she must be a Christian to have responded so enthusiastically to his visit. The Forcey member then asked Rita about her assurance of going to Heaven, expecting to hear a testimony concerning her faith in Christ. To his surprise, she talked of her good works and upbringing in church. Realizing that his original diagnosis of Rita’s salvation was wrong, the Forcey member proceeded to explain to her the gospel. She listened intently to the message concerning God’s plan of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. When asked if she would like to receive the Lord Jesus right then as her Savior, she eagerly responded in the affirmative; and, with evident sincerity, she called upon Him to save her soul. The Forcey member then reviewed with Rita the assurance of her salvation in Christ. As he started to leave (for the second time), this beaming new convert thanked him profusely for leading her to Christ, not knowing that their conversation almost didn’t take place.

~ Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team



More Than Just Tea Time

One of my mottos now, having lived to see numerous societal, cultural and generational changes is – “Expect the unexpected!” We can always expect and receive from God His love, justice and the assurance to be “kept by His grace - forever. We know with certainty that as King, He anoints those of His kingdom as princes and princesses.



ground exposure, these ladies were all on one accord. As daughters of the King, our conduct and example are dictated by God’s Word and accounts of godly women in the Bible.



What a blessing and delightful surprise for me to experience this godly royalty of love in action displayed with grace, hospitality and beauty. Sunday, October 7th, the ladies of SIS presented with excellence delicious tidbits and exotic teas an Afternoon Ladies Tea.



I watched a diverse and cross-generational assembly of women and girls of all ages and interests genuinely showering love, respect, heartfelt attention and affirmation to each other. Tea and crumpets were never so tasty, filling our palates and revealing how Christ expects us to be with each in the company of strangers and fellow sisters.

We learned about the history of teas, high teas, proper decorum associated with giving a tea. Women and girls of all ages and backgrounds attended this event. While generational differences and opinions on what defines “proper dress, conduct etc.” may exist between women due to cultural or back-



Much appreciation and gratitude to SIS, participants and attendees who brought glory to God and blessings to His daughters.

♥ Mary Earley

October was an exciting month at Forcey Christian School.

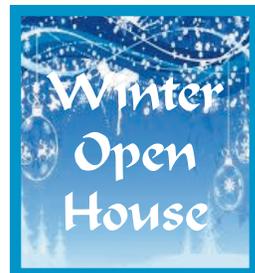
Not only did we have our annual Race for Education, a fundraiser in which students get pledges for running laps around the parking lot, and not only did our teachers attend the ACSI Nexus Live training event in Mitchellville, MD, more importantly we had an accreditation visiting committee come and observe all aspects of our program. We received great feedback from the visiting team. They will be recommending we receive *full accreditation* from the Association of Christian Schools International and the Middle States Association. We want to thank Judy Wilhelm for serving as the chairperson of our accreditation steering committee, and we want to commend our staff for their hard work over the last few years as we have strived to fully engage in the accreditation self-improvement process. The visiting committee told me how blessed I am to work with such an effective principal and teaching staff. I agree!

Please help us spread the word about the fantastic school we have here at Forcey. We have two winter open houses scheduled. The first will be Thursday, December 13, and the second will be Tuesday, January 22. Both are scheduled for 7:30

p.m. Meanwhile, I routinely give tours to prospective families on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 1:45 p.m. We encourage families to call our office at 301-622-2281 (Brenda Ludke, our registrar, is at x828) to schedule an appointment.

Our 2nd Annual Private High School Expo will be on Friday, November 2, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Interested parents of Forcey Church home-school and public school students are invited to attend, along with our school's 8th graders and their parents. For more information, email our guidance counselor at ruth-thompson@forceychristianschool.org.

~ Rev. Zeke Wharton, FCS Administrator



Private High School Expo!

“LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST”



Children's Sunday School Teacher Training

A training course designed to help you present the Gospel *clearly* to children!

open to **ALL** children's ministry workers

Sunday, Nov. 11th
Fellowship Hall
1st Hour (9:15 a.m.)
OR
2nd Hour (11 a.m.)



Get ready for the 17th Annual Craft Show & Bake Sale

There is a gift for everyone on your holiday shopping list!



Crafters are offering beautiful handmade craft and holiday items for you to purchase. Crafts will be available such as: home décor, floral arrangements, designer jewelry, hand-crafted greeting and photo note cards, paintings, ceramic designs, doll clothes, kitchen and pantry items, toys, pottery, holiday ornaments and much more.

The Bake Sale is not to be missed! Delicious, tempting, tasty baked goods will be available for purchase. Lunch will be served from 11 to 2.

Need further information?

Contact Metta Wagner,
Craft Show Coordinator

forceycraftshow@gmail.com or 301-570-4670.



The Craft Show promises to be a wonderful day of fantastic shopping & shopping. Mark your calendar and plan NOW to attend!



Click here for more info!

**NEW RECORDING from
Forcey's Ladies Trio,
JOY SONG
"Jesus Is The Answer"**

12 recorded songs! CD copies are available for any donation and 100% of proceeds will assist with adoption. Current donations support Bill and Karen Itzel in their adoption.

*For more details,
contact John Itzel, john-itzel@forcey.org.*

Providing Support During Time of Grief



Experiencing the death of a loved one, even as a Christian, is probably one of the most stressful of life's experiences. It is often difficult to know what to say to the bereaved who might be experiencing feelings of disbelief, anger or guilt. The most important thing one can do is to simply be there with that person to comfort them and to assess their needs so there can be a plan of action of what can be done to provide support.

The American Hospice Foundation recommends that we should **avoid** saying the following:

- I know how you feel
- It's part of God's plan
- Look at what you have to be thankful for
- He's (She's) in a better place
- It's time to get on with your life

12-Word Search

- support
- pray
- listen
- help
- cards
- errands
- disbelief
- denial
- bargaining
- anger
- acceptance
- bereavement

*Answers available in
the next
Focus issue*

L	K	N	P	R	A	Y	V	W	G	Q	J	V	Y	L	N	F	N	Z	X	E	L
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O	O	B	E	R	E	A	V	E	M	E	N	T	F	S	K	A	Y	R	J	P	C

The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them - Psalm - 34:7
~ Carmella (Joy) Wright for the Health Ministry