



The Forcey Focus

Forcey Bible Church Newsletter

October 2014

Disciples

A few years ago we asked, "Are we moving people closer to Christ, or just playing church?" To explore this question, we conducted a church-wide survey. Our strengths were affirmed: solid Bible teaching, missions emphasis, and much faithfulness in Bible study, prayer and giving. But we also found three significant areas needing improvement: outreach, relational discipleship, and engaging younger generations. This told us our discipleship was incomplete, and we needed an intentional plan to move people closer to Christ through relational discipleship.

Over the past months, through a lot of prayer, study and thinking together, we have identified this intentional purpose-strategy for Forcey Bible Church:

"To glorify God by following Jesus and bringing others with us. Together we will do this by equipping and encouraging people to pursue intimacy with God, community with believers, and a witness to those far from God."

Structure must serve strategy. We can't keep doing the same thing and expect different results. Like most churches, we are program oriented in our structure. We identify demographic groups, build programs for and around each group, and end up with separate silos and a hierarchal system rather than a network of relationships. When someone comes to Forcey, we try to find a spot for them and plug them in, rather than asking how can we move them closer to Christ.

So, instead of building everything around demographic groups, we are committing ourselves to keep the three discipleship pillars of *intimacy with God*, *community with believers*, and *witness to those far from God* as the driving force of all we do. That means I (Phil Powers) will take primary responsibility for intimacy with God, Ron Jones will champion community with believers, and Lonnie Harris will focus on witness to those far from God. We will all collaborate together to equip and encourage every "group" at Forcey to pursue true discipleship. Since children and teens very much need a pastoral presence to show them how to follow Jesus, Mike Maslin will shepherd them with a wonderful group of faithful volunteers.

We are already experiencing a wonderful partnership of ministry in this new direction, as we collaborate together on equipping and encouraging the family to follow Jesus and bring others with us. For example, though Ron provides oversight of Home Groups and Adult Bible Fellowships as part of our relational groups, I come alongside him to see how we can stimulate intimacy with God in these groups through Bible study for life change, the practice of spiritual disciplines, and growth to be like Jesus through accountability. Likewise, Lonnie joins us alongside the groups to see how witness to those far from God can be developed.

To follow Jesus and bring others with us — that is our calling, our passion, our life if we belong to Jesus. So post these pillars of discipleship in a prominent place, and begin to ask yourself, "What needs to be strengthened even more in my life? What's missing?" And let's pursue this new life in Jesus together!

~ **Pastor Phil Powers, Senior Pastor**

FBC Purpose

“To glorify God by following Jesus and bringing others with us.”

FBC Ministry Strategy

To equip and encourage people to pursue intimacy with God, community with believers, and a witness to those far from God.

Intimacy with God	Community with believers	Witness to those far from God
<p>(Ps 63:1-8; John 15:1-11; Rom 12:1-2; 2 Pet 1:5-8)</p> <p>In order for this to happen in our people, we will train them in . . .</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Biblical truth for life change<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Core knowledge/ biblical literacyb. Personal Bible studyc. Utilize gifted teachers2. The disciplines of the Christian life<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Understand basic disciplines of the faithb. Model the practice of the disciplinesc. Create environments for practicing the disciplines3. Christ-like character<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Tell and show the application of obedienceb. Encouragement through the accountability of othersc. Correction for realigning with obedience	<p>(Acts 2:42-47; Eph 4:1-16; Heb 10:24-25)</p> <p>In order for this to happen in our people, we will connect them in . . .</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Corporate worship<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The whole Body gathered together before God2. Relational groups<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular meeting with a small number of believers for spiritual growth3. Opportunities to serve<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using abilities for the benefit of the Body	<p>(Isa 58:6-9; Matt 5:13-16; 25:35-40; 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)</p> <p>In order for this to happen in our people, we will train them in . . .</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Evangelism<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Understand the clarity of the gospelb. Acquire skills to share the gospelc. Motivate them to pray and go2. Disciple-making<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Understand discipleshipb. Acquire disciple-making skillsc. Motivate them to bring others along in following Christ3. Care for people<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Understand God’s call to minister to serious life needsb. Create awareness of those needsc. Meet people where they are with the love of Christ

Soul Winning at Forcey

In the work of soul winning, one should never pre-judge a person's spiritual condition. First impressions often can be wrong. An opportunity to lead a person to Christ may be missed if the soul winner does not probe deeper into what his prospect believes regarding eternity and eternal life. A recent encounter by a Forcey member while witnessing to patients at a local hospital illustrates this point.

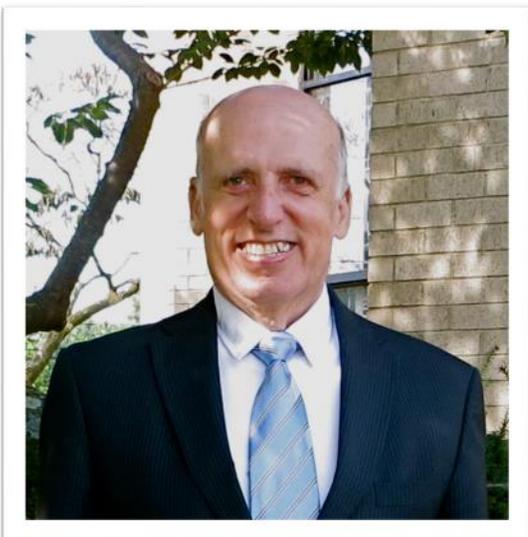
When the Forcey member entered the room of Lucinda, he found her sitting up in bed with a Bible in her lap. He immediately assumed that she was a Christian. Even his initial conversation with her concerning spiritual matters did not change his opinion. However, because of his training and experience, he raised the question regarding her assurance of going to heaven. Lucinda's response indicated that she was trusting in her good works for salvation. Although surprised by her answer, the Forcey member silently rejoiced at the opportunity now before him to try to lead her to Christ. As he presented the gospel message to her, Lucinda listened earnestly and respectfully. When asked if she would like to receive Christ by faith, she agreed. With heads bowed, Lucinda called upon the Lord Jesus to be her Savior.

This witnessing encounter drives home the point that the soul winner should never assume the role of the Holy Spirit. He should ask the right questions in order to make an accurate spiritual diagnosis. In this case a hungry soul, who was already seeking comfort from God's word, found assurance of her salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

~ Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team

2014 Elder Candidate

Ralph Zimmerman



My wife Pamela and I, along with our sons Stephen and Mark, have been attending Forcey since June 1981. During this time I have served as an elder for 15 years, and continue to serve as an Adult Bible Fellowship (ABF) teacher and as a member of the church's visitation/evangelism team. In addition, I assist with Forcey's ministry to Alzheimer's patients at the nearby Manor Care facility, and also serve as a volunteer chaplain at the United Medical Center (UMC) in Washington, DC. Since my retirement in 2011, Pamela, Stephen, and I have begun volunteering part-time with a marketplace evangelism ministry in Carroll County, providing office support and participating in personal soul-

winning outreaches at public venues. In the coming years, my goal at Forcey is to continue to help provide discipleship training in the area of personal evangelism.



Perspectives
on the World Christian Movement™

Experience "Perspectives" at Forcey - A Unique Class with Global Impact For Christ

Next spring Forcey will be hosting Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, a discipleship and educational ministry of the US Center for World Mission. Perspectives has influenced the lives of over 100,000 alumni worldwide. Now is your chance to become one of them! The course has 15 inspirational and motivational lessons, taught by a different instructor each week expert in cross cultural ministry. In the course you will be exposed to powerful insights and biblical principles, and you will find yourself in awe of the magnitude of God's work around the world. The weekly readings and assignments will help you dive deeply into the unfolding story of God's purpose for His people. The Forcey Perspectives Class will meet every Sunday evening from 5:30-8:30 pm from early January through early May. The cost is \$290 for certificate, and \$575 for credit. There are discounts available for early registration and for couples. For more details about Perspectives, or to register online, go to the website www.perspectives.org. If you have any questions please contact the class coordinator Mark Heazlit at markheazlit@gmail.com.



Perspectives
on the World Christian Movement™

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendar

Christmas in October Luncheon

Sunday, Oct. 12

1:00-3:00 p.m.



Everyone is invited to share lunch with our missionaries as we enjoy food and fellowship around the tables.

Hear updates from:

Paul & Carmiña Adams •

Zane Dempsie • Greg Fletcher

• Patrick Hall • Bob Mathieu

• John Sackett • Keith & Karen Thomas

and others, including several serving in sensitive areas.

A love offering will be taken as a Christmas present for our entire missionary family.

Please sign up to bring sandwiches, a salad, or dessert to share.

Soup will be provided. Sign up in the lobby or

[click here and sign-up online!](#)

Annual

Congregational

Meeting

Sunday, October 19

6-7:30 p.m.

followed by the.....

John Itzel

Retirement Dessert

Celebration

Come join the fun and give God the glory for the ministry work of John Itzel who has retired from the Music Minister position at Forcey.

We will be serving dessert in the Fellowship Hall after the Annual Meeting on October 19th. The meeting will be held 6-7:30pm, with the celebration immediately following. [Click to RSVP so we can get a head count!](#)



TRUNK or Treat

October 31, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Would you like an opportunity to show hospitality and the light of Christ to our community by doing something fun for the kids? You should participate in this year's Trunk or Treat - a safe, fun and not-so-scary alternative to going door-to-door on Halloween night - appropriate for even the youngest of kids. Theme decorated cars will line the parking lot while families and friends go trunk to trunk collecting candy! The event will also have carnival games, hot dogs, prizes, fun costumes – **and it is all FREE!**

We need individuals and families to sign up to decorate their trunk and fill it with candy AND there is a prize for the best trunk!

Click [HERE](#) if you are interested in adding your car to the line-up or are available to assist someone with their car during the event.

**We also need candy donations.
A labeled box is the foyer for candy donations.**

Hope you can join us and invite every family you know!
Questions? Contact Ann Hunt, ann-hunt@forcey.org.

**2013
Trunk
or
Treat
Winner!**



Craft Show & Bake Sale

November 22, 2014 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Forcey Christian School will host its 19th Annual Craft Show and 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 11-2 p.m..

Questions? 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, shopping!



Calendar of Ministry Activities

October 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			High School Teens Small Groups (7-9 p.m.) Pioneer Girls, Stockade & Treeclimbers (7-8:30 p.m.) Wednesday Prayer Group (7:30-9 p.m.)	Battalion (7-9 p.m.) Praise Band Rehearsal (7-9 p.m.)	Karate (7-9:30 p.m.)	Ladies Prayer Group (7-8 a.m.) Body & Soul Aerobics (8:30 - 9:45 a.m.)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Middle School Teens Mini Golf (5-8 p.m.)		SAM's Bible Study (10-11:30 a.m.) Soul Winners Club (6:30-9 p.m.) ESL Classes (7-9 p.m.) Choir Rehearsal (7-8:30 p.m.)	High School Teens Small Groups (7-9 p.m.) Pioneer Girls, Stockade & Treeclimbers (7-8:30 p.m.) Wednesday Prayer Group (7:30-9 p.m.)	Battalion (7-9 p.m.) Praise Band Rehearsal (7-9 p.m.)	Karate (7-9:30 p.m.)	Ladies Prayer Group (7-8 a.m.) Body & Soul Aerobics (8:30 - 9:45 a.m.)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Christmas in October (1-3 p.m.) Middle School Teens (6-8 p.m.)		Soul Winners Club (6:30-9 p.m.) ESL Classes (7-9 p.m.) Choir Rehearsal (7-8:30 p.m.)	High School Teens Small Groups (7-9 p.m.) Jubilee Choir Rehearsal (7-9 p.m.) Pioneer Girls, Stockade & Treeclimbers (7-8:30 p.m.) Wednesday Prayer Group (7:30-9 p.m.)	Battalion (7-9 p.m.) Praise Band Rehearsal (7-9 p.m.)	Karate (7-9:30 p.m.)	Ladies Prayer Group (7-8 a.m.) Body & Soul Aerobics (8:30 - 9:45 a.m.)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Annual Congregation Meeting (6-7:30 p.m.) John Itzel Retirement Dessert Reception (7:30 p.m.)		SAM's Bible Study (10-11:30 a.m.) Soul Winners Club (6:30-9 p.m.) ESL Classes (7-9 p.m.) Choir Rehearsal (7-8:30 p.m.)	SAM Steam Into History Trip (9-3 p.m.) High School Teens Small Groups (7-9 p.m.) Jubilee Choir Rehearsal (7-9 p.m.) Pioneer Girls, Stockade & Treeclimbers (7-8:30 p.m.) Wednesday Prayer Group (7:30-9 p.m.)	Battalion (7-9 p.m.) Praise Band Rehearsal (7-9 p.m.)	BAND OF BROTHERS RETREAT Karate (7-9:30 p.m.)	BAND OF BROTHERS RETREAT Ladies Prayer Group (7-8 a.m.) Body & Soul Aerobics (8:30 - 9:45 a.m.)
26	27	28	29	30	31	
BAND OF BROTHERS RETREAT Middle School Teens (6-8 p.m.)		Soul Winners Club (6:30-9 p.m.) ESL Classes (7-9 p.m.) Choir Rehearsal (7-8:30 p.m.)	High School Teens Small Groups (7-9 p.m.) Jubilee Choir Rehearsal (7-9 p.m.) Pioneer Girls, Stockade & Treeclimbers (7-8:30 p.m.) Wednesday Prayer Group (7:30-9 p.m.)	Battalion (7-9 p.m.) Praise Band Rehearsal (7-9 p.m.)	Trunk or Treat (6-8 p.m.) Karate (7-9:30 p.m.)	