

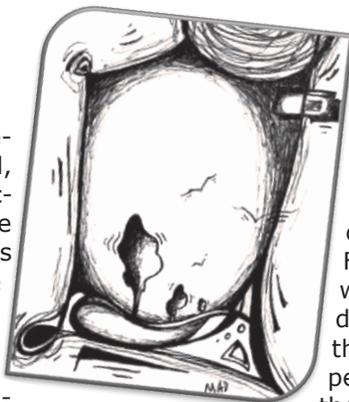


## So Much More

When predictions of the world's end or the return of Christ fail to happen as advertized, it's easy to become skeptical of *any* prediction—including any interpretation of what the Bible says is yet to come. Certainly false prophecies prove that nobody can confidently understand these end-time passages of Scripture, so they say. And a complacency sets in: things will continue on as usual, and if judgment is coming, it won't be that sudden or as severe as some people claim from these biblical warnings. It will be less than what they say, not more.

And what about the call of losing your life to find it, or investing for eternal reward? If Jesus' return will bring this world to its end, there are a lot of things I better enjoy now before they are gone! Do I really believe that giving up possessions or sacrificing time and life now to help somebody else will be offset by greater things to come? "If I don't do it now, my chance may be lost forever!" The end of this world will be less, not more.

"Let us picture a woman thrown into a dungeon. There she bears and rears a son. He grows up seeing nothing but the dungeon walls, the straw on the floor, and a little patch of the sky seen through the grating, which is too high up to show anything except sky. This unfortunate woman was an artist, and when they imprisoned her she managed to bring with her a drawing pad and a box of pencils. As she never loses the hope of deliverance she is constantly teaching her son about that outer world which he has never seen. She does it very largely by drawing him pictures. With her pencil she attempts to show him what fields, rivers, mountains, cities and waves on a beach are like. He is a dutiful boy and he does his best to believe her when she tells him that that outer world is far more interesting and glorious than anything in the dungeon. At times he succeeds. On the world he gets on tolerably well until, one day, he says something that gives his mother pause. For a minute or two they are at cross-purposes. Finally it dawns on her that he has, all these years, lived under a misconception.



'But,' she gasps, 'you didn't think that the real world was full of lines drawn in lead pencil?' 'What?' says the boy. 'No pencil marks there?' And instantly, his whole notion of the outer world becomes a blank. For the lines, by which alone he was imagining it, have now been denied of it. He has no idea of that which will exclude and dispense with the lines, that of which the lines were merely a transposition—the waving treetops, the light dancing on the weir, the colored three-dimensional realities which are not enclosed in lines but define their own shapes at every moment with a delicacy and multiplicity which no drawing could ever achieve. The child will get the idea that the real world is somehow less visible than his mother's pictures. In reality it lacks lines because it is incomparably more visible.

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"So with us. 'We know no[t] what we shall be;' but we may be sure we shall be more not less, than we were on earth. Our natural experiences (sensory, emotional, imaginative) are only like the drawing, like penciled lines on flat paper. If they vanish in the risen life, they will vanish only as pencil lines vanish from the real landscape; not as a candle flame that is put out but as a candle flame which becomes invisible because someone has pulled up the blind, thrown open the shutters, and let in the blaze of the risen sun." [(C.S. Lewis, *The Business of Heaven* (San Diego: Harcourt, 1984), pp 114-115)]

And so our Creator-Father has told us about what is to come—with pencil-line words that come out of the experiences and existence we have known so far. Yet He constantly whispers, "It will be so much more!" "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Cor 2:9).

- Pastor Phil Powers

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 25!!



**The Jubilee Gospel Choir** invites you to join them in an evening service of gospel singing. If you enjoy the old gospel hymns and music along with some of the new, COME and SING and LET US PRAISE GOD TOGETHER IN JOYFUL SONG and TESTIMONY. Bring your family, friends & co-workers for a night of joyful noise.

**Location: Forcey Bible Church** ● **Time: 6:00 p.m.** ● **Cost: FREE**

# Soul Winning at Forcey

“Behold, a sower went forth to sow” (Matt 13:3). When a soul winner presents the gospel to an individual who is outside of Christ, there is a possibility that the seed sown may also take root in the heart of another who happens to be nearby. Recently a Forcey member experienced this working of the Holy Spirit while sowing the gospel seed at a local hospital.

As the Forcey member was completing his visits on Sunday, he entered a room occupied by two older patients. Since the curtain between their beds was drawn, he decided to deal with them separately. Choosing to start with the patient by the window, the Forcey member introduced himself to a very friendly gentleman named James. As they began to talk, it was evident that God had prepared James’ heart for that conversation. He openly confessed that he was a sinner who was not Heaven bound. The Forcey member then began to share with James the power of Christ to redeem sinners and to give eternal life. Within a few minutes, James earnestly and sincerely called upon the Lord Jesus to be his Saviour.

After reviewing with James the assurance of his salvation in Christ, the Forcey member then turned his attention to James’ roommate Reggie. However, before he started sharing the gospel, Reggie informed him that he had been listening to the gospel presentation given to James, and that he had called upon the Lord Jesus when his roommate did. Therefore, the Forcey member decided to review with Reggie the assurance of salvation in Christ to ensure that he had understood correctly the gospel message. After completing this review, he concluded that this “eavesdropper” did understand and believe the gospel and that he was now saved.

As he left the hospital that day, the Forcey member reflected upon the saving power of the gospel of Christ. The Word of God that was sown intentionally in the heart of one needy soul proved effectual in the salvation of another as well. One plants, another waters, but God gives the increase (I Cor 3:6).

*- Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team*

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## “A Gift of Love”

I will never forget the very first time I heard about a new ministry beginning at Forcey years ago called Stephen Ministry. I must admit I was intrigued and ignorant of its meaning and purpose. As I learned more about it I was blessed to know how God was moving among the body of Christ here at Forcey to serve others and share God’s love.

My encounter with the Stephen Ministry personally came when Kirk and I lost our third-born son, Seth. Although we were surrounded with an outpouring of love, prayer and support from our Church family, I needed help to sort through the grief and pain. I scheduled an appointment with Pastor Schneider. After a few visits, he then connected me with a Stephen Minister. Although I was so glad and considered it a privilege to have my husband going through this journey with me, what a comfort to have someone else who could be there for me to talk with and to pray with. My Stephen Minister was so compassionate and kind. She was extremely sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading which provided a safe and confidential environment for me to share my deepest hurts and disappointments. Never did I feel urged or pressed by her to quickly move beyond the grief of losing someone so special to me and my family. She asked specific questions which drew me out to talk about my feelings and how I see God moving in my life. She listened lovingly and touched my life in such a significant way strengthening me to continue serving, ministering and caring for my husband and then 2 children.

In time my broken-heart has mended and healed. The care I received from my caregiver has been complete and lacking nothing. Our hearts have bonded, I have gained a friend and we share a deeper connection through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.



*- Vicky Thompson , Stephen’s Ministry*

**Stephen Ministry Training begins  
September 12th @ 7 p.m.**

# “Genesis and the Authority of the Word of God”

Dr. Karl Giberson is a Christian physicist and a former professor at Gordon College. He is the co-founder, along with geneticist Dr. Francis Collins, of the BioLogos Foundation. Dr. Giberson is a well-known critic of creationism. In a 2009 interview published in the Christian magazine *Books & Culture*, Giberson said the following:

“One of my theologian friends once said, in great frustration over this issue [i.e., creationism], ‘I wish they had never put the Bible in the hands of ordinary people.’ It seems to me that we need to take more seriously the teaching ministry of the church. We encourage people to read the Bible on their own, but certain misunderstandings [i.e., creationism] are bound to emerge with that approach. Young people are going to read Genesis and think of Adam and Eve as real biological parents of the human race.”

Are Dr. Giberson’s concerns justified? Is it a bad thing that we “ordinary” Christians get to read Genesis for ourselves and that many of us have come to think of Adam and Eve as our “real biological parents”?

This fall, Dr. John Doane will be holding a 5-session class on “Genesis and the Authority of the Word of God.” In this 5-part series, Dr. Doane will examine the book of Genesis and its relationship to the origin of life and the truthfulness of the Bible. Dr. Doane will show how a literal reading of Genesis—including a belief in young earth creationism—has strong support biblically, theologically, and scientifically.

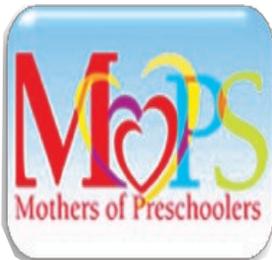
**The first class will meet on Sunday, September 18, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 150.** The next sessions are October 9 and 23, November 13, and December 4. Please prayerfully consider coming to these classes and bringing a friend or loved one with you. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the authority of the Word of God.

- Mark Zimmerman

Connect

Grow

Serve



Traditionally, September is a time of harvest. Summer crops have grown in the warm summer sun, and the fruits of the trees, plants, and vines are ripe for the picking. In Forcey MOPS ministry, we too are experiencing a time of harvest.

Our ministry, which began over six years ago with a handful of women, has grown to 50 women and their preschool-aged children. MOPS is an outreach ministry for women of all walks of life, from single mothers, working mothers, and those who do not know Christ. We strive to provide friendship, fun activities, and a faith-based approach to parenting for the moms and their children.

MOPS International has provided a theme based upon the Message translation of 2 Tim 1:7: “...God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible.” The theme is the guidepost for the group’s endeavors. In the course of the yearly meetings, we seek practical help in responding in a Christ-like and loving way to two-year old tantrums, the persistent questioning of three-year olds, and the self-assertion and boundary pushing of four-year olds.

Practical help is provided through the leadership of Christian women who serve as discussion group leaders, educational speakers, and Mentor Moms whose prayers, testimonies, and wisdom shepherd the mothers seeking answer and help as they traverse the

struggles and joys of motherhood.

If you are amidst this journey, then come **join** our **BOLD, LOVING, AND SENSIBLE** endeavor as we explore the joy and transformation of Christ’s love for us as we mother our precious children.

We are planning for the upcoming year, which begins on September 27, and there are people needed to see Christ’s work done in the lives of the MOPS community. As Jesus reminds us in Luke 10:1-2, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” It is our heartfelt prayer that this September many of you will answer the call to provide childcare and thereby witness the harvest for our Lord in the Forcey MOPS ministry.

**For information on joining or volunteering, contact Rebecca Wilson, [beccajwilson@gmail.com](mailto:beccajwilson@gmail.com) or Kelly Poirier, [poirierfamily@gmail.com](mailto:poirierfamily@gmail.com)**

# Forcey Day Camp: A Means To Change Lives

One of our tougher, older campers got in trouble at a field trip. One of our staff members took him away from the scene and attempted to talk with him, only to have the camper screaming in anger "I don't want to talk about anything...I hate this camp." A few minutes later the staff member and camper were seated calmly discussing not only the incident, but the extremely difficult past six months of this 7<sup>th</sup> graders life. As this camper shared details of his life he "wasn't supposed to talk about," the sinfulness of the world in which he lived became evident. For the next half hour an emotional conversation ensued before this staff member and camper bowed in prayer and the



camper prayed in his own words to bring Jesus into his life for the saving of sin.

Two weeks earlier, another staff member was sharing the gospel in their group time, and a little girl began to cry. She placed her faith in Christ.

A few Fridays later, after a large group message, campers were challenged to forego game time and talk to a staff person if they had any questions about the gospel message just shared. Three campers, including one of our long-time and oldest campers, stepped forward to speak with their counselor. Three professed Christ that day, as our staff was highly encouraged by the work God had done in our midst. Thank you for your prayers!

- Mike Maslin, Director of Day Camp / Forcey 360



There are some things we think we can handle and there are other things that we know immediately are **way beyond** me! But one thing for sure - **nothing is 'way beyond' our God.**

This session of Body & Soul focuses on who God is: His greatness, His goodness and His power. Ladies are invited to join us for the fall session of Body & Soul Fitness, **WAY Beyond Myself**. Our 75-minute workout

includes cardio conditioning, strength training, flexibility, and Pilates which are choreographed to Christian contemporary music that motivates us to move and encourages us spiritually.

Classes meet in the gym Saturday mornings at 8:30 beginning September 10. Bring your mat, water bottle and weights. For more information call Jennifer White 301-483-4986 or email [rjslwhite@msn.com](mailto:rjslwhite@msn.com).

## September Calendar Highlights

Precepts Bible Study - begins Sept. 8th @ 7:00 p.m.

Losing To Live - begins Sept. 10 @ 7:15 p.m.

Stephens Ministry Training - begins Monday, Sept. 12th @ 7:00 p.m.

Genesis & the Authority of the Word of God - Sept. 18th @ 6:00 p.m.

Jubilee Choir Concert- Sept. 25 @ 6:00 p.m.

SAM Bible Study (1st & 3rd Tuesday @ 10:00 a.m. )

ESL - Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. (weekly)

Weekly Prayer Group - Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.

SIS Prayer - Saturday @ 7:00 a.m. (weekly)

XEE Training - Saturday @ 6:00 p.m. (ends October 8th)

### 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