

JULY-SEPT 2023

# FORCEY FOCUS

*zooming in on the  
God stories of forcey*







# 90 YEARS OF GOSPEL MINISTRY



**compiled by Maryellen Stuart**

## IT STARTED WITH A PRAYER

THERE WAS A MAN SENT FROM GOD TO START A WORK OF FAITH IN WASHINGTON, D.C. HIS NAME WAS DR. CLARK FORCEY.

Dr. Forcey's longtime friend, Mary Ernest, related that she heard him describe the events of a day in the early 1930's, when he was driving through Northwest D.C. on his way home to Ohio after a trip. His car stalled directly in front of a house. In spite of his attempts he could not restart the engine. He walked to the front door of the house and was greeted by the owner, who kindly invited him in to use her phone. As they talked, Dr. Forcey mentioned that he was a pastor. With great excitement, she said, "God has brought you. I have prayed that God would send a pastor to us!"

Dr. Forcey went back home to the flourishing church where he was serving (in Ohio). He had been ready to settle down there with their five children. But God had other plans. He felt called of God to come back to Washington, D.C. and serve as a pastor.

Dr. Forcey was born in Bigler, PA. in 1901. At age nine, he and his father attended a revival meeting, where he accepted Christ as his Savior. The newspapers called him "The Boy Preacher" as he held evangelistic services in churches. As a sophomore at Greenville College in Greenville, IL, he was ordained. He married Margaret, whose parents were missionaries in Haiti.

Dr. Forcey's prayer as he arrived in Washington, D.C. in April, 1933, was, "Lord, send me souls!" His wife and children (Lillian, Eldon, Leslie, Clark and Herschell-an infant) arrived in June at the end of the school year. They stayed for a while with the dear woman who had prayed for him to come.

Dr. Forcey first opened a radio ministry on station WOL with services on Sundays and some weekdays. Mrs. Forcey was the soloist. He held evangelistic services in the Vermont Avenue Social Hall of the National City Christian Church.

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# FORCEY FOCUS

## JULY- SEPTEMBER R 2023



### what is the Forcey Focus?

The Forcey Focus is a quarterly newsletter set out to do one thing: zoom in on the God stories around our church! Often so much is happening and it's impossible to even document every single thing - but we want to give God the glory for as much as we can in honest, vulnerable, and worshipful ways.

- Think of this newsletter as a newspaper - these are the current happenings and ways God is moving!

- Think of it also as a family holiday newsletter - we are family through and through. We want to stay updated on what's *really* going on and what *really* matters to our church family!



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# THE SPEED OF COFFEE

- by Pastor Mike Foster

03

“It’s time for coffee!” Charlin said again. We had just finished lunch. And before that, we had coffee. But we were about to have coffee again. And the next day, we would have coffee four or five more times. It’s what you do in Honduras. And it’s not stopping at Starbucks and grabbing something to “get yourself going” on your way to work. This isn’t coffee to “start you up” but to “slow you down.” This coffee isn’t for caffeine but for connection. It’s all about relationships.

My friend Charlin has served as a pastor and church planter in Honduras since 2020. Prior to that, he interned for five years at my former church. In May, I was blessed to visit with Charlin for a few days on my way to El Salvador, where I officiated a wedding for a dear Forcey family. In Honduras, I enjoyed teaching a marriage conference and preaching in the church, but some of my favorite ministry happened in the conversations over coffee.

I’ve been saying that ministry in Honduras happens “at the speed of coffee.” Coffee takes time to brew. And it’s supposed to take time to drink. It’s too hot (and bitter!) to chug quickly. You’re supposed to hold it, smell it, sip it, and savor it – ideally while sitting with others who are doing the same. And this is what you do in Honduras. And I’ve done the same in Ethiopia, Costa Rica, and other nations. And my experience in such places is that slowing down, resting well, and relating more deeply with people leads to better ministry, not less!

I’m not sure how much coffee Jesus drank, but I know he took time to relate with people. Jesus was known for a lot of things – his miracles, his teaching, his conflicts with religious leaders – but I don’t think he was known for being in a hurry. Despite having just three years to fulfill his mission, he never seems rushed. He affirmed those who took time to be with him even when they came across to others as entirely unproductive (Luke 10:41-42). He always had time for interruptions (Matthew 9:20-22). At times he moved too slowly to meet expectations (John 11:17-22). He constantly withdrew from the world to relate with his Father in a solitary place (Mark 1:35, 2:13). And he invited his disciples, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest” (Mark 6:31). In fact, his offer of salvation could be framed as an invitation to rest (Matthew 11:28-30).

There is no shortcut to ministry – it takes relationships. And there is no shortcut to relationships – they take time. I don’t like when people think I’m in a hurry. What would have to change for us to move at the speed of coffee? Is there a way you can slow down this summer or make some permanent adjustments to your pace of life? I know it seems impossible. But what if it’s impossible to continue at your current pace in any kind of healthy way for long? Maybe it starts with taking time to pray and talk with Jesus about it.

To be honest, though I love sipping good coffee in other countries, I rarely drink coffee in America. I’ve never liked it enough to justify getting myself hooked on it. But no matter our beverage of choice, we need the kinds of relationships with Jesus and each other that take time to brew, sip, and savor.



# Forcey Builds Relationships

We are thankful for the Forcey community both school and church. My wife (Monifa) and I have been embraced and welcomed. In this fast-paced world, it's easy to get caught up in our own little bubbles, but I truly believe that fostering connections has brought a special kind of richness and joy to our lives.

Let me share a heartfelt story that exemplifies the power of the Forcey family and its community building power. In April 2020, my wife was on temporary assignment to Maryland for 6 months on military orders, with the hopes of returning to Georgia. However, six months turned into 18 months because of extensions of her orders. Instead of just visiting Maryland several times a month, my wife and I decided that I would look for work and we wondered if God had plans for us in Maryland. Shortly after this question my wife came across the Forcey job listing and we went for it. I interviewed, got the job. So we decided to relocate to Maryland.

We are not new to moving. We've moved about 8 times in 30 years, three of those moves took our family overseas. We knew nothing about Forcey and knew no one at Forcey. From the first day we met the Forcey family, we have experienced nothing but kindness and genuine care. We've never felt isolated or have experienced the longing for a sense of belonging. The Forcey School and Forcey Bible Church have welcomed us with open hearts, hands, and arms. For that we are thankful.

I know our story of love and kindness is not the only one. Many people that I have spoken with have felt the same warmth and kindness as they've walked through the Forcey doors.

**Building a community isn't just about finding people with similar interests; it's about creating a support system that uplifts and inspires.** It's about being there for one another through the highs and lows, celebrating victories, and offering a shoulder to lean on during tough times. The Forcey family, for us, has been all of this and more.



So, if you are new to the Forcey family, I encourage you to take a leap of faith, embrace the hearts that have reached out, actively seek opportunities to build community and nurture relationships. Forcey has been a light for our Christian faith and a delightful place to build genuine relationships that prosper body, soul, and spirit.

Forcey, thank you, you never know the incredible connections and friendships that may blossom from your culture of open hearts, open hands, and open arms.

Remember Forcey Bible Church and Forcey Christian school, building a community starts with us. Continue to be genuinely open, kind, and ready to fully embrace each and every person who knocks on your doors.

**Forcey Christian School's Vice Principal  
Terrance Lawrence**

# Thankful to the Call Team

05

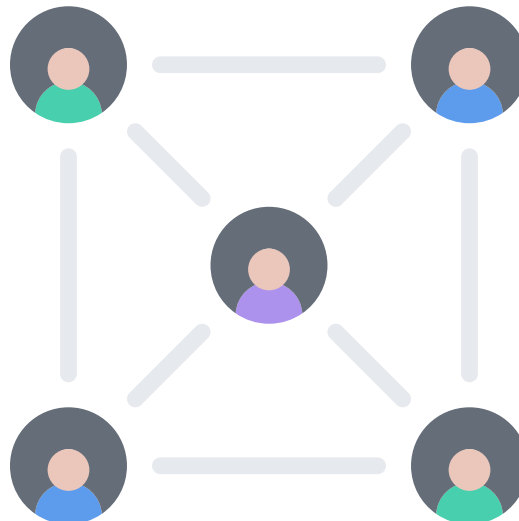
Now that the public health emergency has been cancelled, we think back to the very beginning of this defining chapter in our history and remember a small group of volunteers who started making calls to Forcey members, just to check in with them and to pray with them. This ministry was critical in continuing to support our body while we couldn't meet in person. There were several incidences where the call was made at just the right time and some very powerful stories of people being helped in real time. This couldn't have happened without the efforts of the Call Team!

This ministry continued for about 10 (?) months, during the time when there was a real sense of loneliness and isolation. As things opened up and we gradually came back together as a body, the calls became less of a lifeline. Although most of the Forcey members were able to meet in person, there were still several people who really needed that connection by phone. We know that many of the callers have continued to check in with those folks, even until today!

We are so grateful for the group of volunteers who stepped up while we made changes in our way of "doing ministry" and we just want to publicly thank them. There are too many to recognize by name, but you know who you are and on behalf of the Pastors and the elders, THANK YOU! You met very real needs during this difficult period and our flock at Forcey has been supported and strengthened by your efforts.

Once again, thank you very much!

Tom Beam





# A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Another successful school year has come to a close. June 14, 2023, was the last day of the 2022-2023 school year. Forcey Christian School finished the year with 383 students and 47 of them were graduating 8th graders who made up the class of 2023. We thank God for his mercy, grace, and provision this year. FCS was able to raise just under \$70,000 in our Forcey Forward annual fund. Allocation of funds is already being put to good use with summer building painting projects, new student furniture for middle school and second grade, and a totally upgraded teacher workroom space. The upgraded workroom space will allow for better flow and efficiency in the workroom.



After a short time of rest and rejuvenation, we will once again gear up for another school year. The FCS School Board updated our Vision and Mission statements this past year. We will begin the 2023-2024 school year focused on achieving our mission. One way we will focus our energies is through our newly completed Forcey Christian School Strategic Plan. It will be launched this fall. The strategic plan was created collaboratively with input from all stakeholders. We are excited to share it and get started with school improvement measures.

**The FCS Vision:** To train-up future generations of servant-leaders, who impact their world spiritually, intellectually, and socially, while leading lives that bring glory to Jesus Christ.

**The FCS Mission:** Forcey Christian School creates an environment, built on Biblical principles, to develop the whole student – mind, body and spirit– through excellent academic education, multiple extracurricular activities and qualified, Christian faculty, equipping students with essential life skills while instilling the disciplines of Christian life and Christ-like character.

**Motto:** Educating students in their lifelong journey for the glory of Jesus Christ.

We would appreciate your prayers and support as we prepare to begin a new year of ministry here through Forcey Bible Church.

*Mrs. Cheri L. Vislay*



# IT STARTED WITH A PRAYER

07

CONTINUED

Soon he began looking for land. He was still living on his own personal finances. He prayed over and claimed for God the property at Piney Branch Road and Underwood in Washington, DC. A widow lent Dr. Forcey \$300. to buy a tent, but later she demanded to have the money back. The owner of the property would not sell it but was convinced to rent it. As Dr. Forcey stood on the land with the tent, the next miracle from God happened. Three men from the neighborhood volunteered to help. One of the men was Elder Solomon Michaux, a pastor and radio minister. After they finished putting up the tent, they would not accept any pay. But they requested to have a watermelon feast as their reward.



The tent had a sawdust floor with pews of wooden planks. In the summers it was burning hot, and it had no heat in the winter. It held 300. Within 4 or 5 weeks the place was full, and funds were coming in. Mrs. Forcey said that the attendance for the first service was 301 and the next was 499. Severe winds blew the tent down in July. Several men were able to set it back up immediately. God was with these followers of Christ in the midst of hard times. A second tent was erected the second year, but it also was demolished after a storm. The congregation nobly attended open-air services wearing overcoats. Dr. Forcey preached the simple gospel message – that Jesus died to pay for our sin, and people need to accept Jesus as their Savior. Little by little people began to respond. Next they met at National Christian Church and then Joppa Hall on Georgia Avenue in the winter.

After many difficulties, and with God's help, a tabernacle was erected with practically no funds available. On October 14, 1934, the large tabernacle on the Piney Branch property was dedicated. A three-day a week radio ministry was launched with four preaching services a week held in the tabernacle, later (1946) called The Non-Sectarian Tabernacle. The attendance soon became 1,000.

Dr. Forcey had worked among the churches of the Methodist, Episcopal, Free Methodist, Nazarene and Baptist churches. Therefore he had a background suitable to non-sectarian and interdenominational work. He felt that although Christians may differ in regard to detail and methods, there should be a Gospel mission and tabernacles where they could worship and agree on the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

Prayer was considered the foundation of the church, and prayer services were held before each meeting of the church. By the end of his pastorate, Dr. Forcey had written 7 books and delivered 1169 radio addresses and 3901 sermons plus made about 1800 pastoral calls. One tenth of their funds were designated for missions. There was no salary, but a love offering was taken once a month.

Dr. Forcey died November 25, 1940 at the age of 39. Many church members came to his home in those last days. There were so many that some gathered outside the window of his bedroom and prayed.

# 08

## Journals from my missions trip to the countryside of Ecuador

Carlos Gonzalez

*"...so is my Word that goes out from my mouth; It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11).*

### DAY 1

I left SS to NY where I had to another fly to Miami, my flight to Miami was kind of late, and because of that I almost missed my connection to Quito the capital of Ecuador, I was the last person to board the plane. I arrived in Quito around 10:30pm



### DAY 3

I arrived, around 5:00am, to the point where my cousin was waiting for me and together, we went to his home in a nearby town called "Ricaurte". I brought with me 3 boxes of Bibles and Tracts to be handed to people on our walk to the villages and the mountains. I spent the whole day in "Ricaurte" and together with my cousin went to some houses sharing the Gospel and handing some tracts to people we met. At the end of the day one person made the decision to accept the Lord. We finished the day around 8:30pm



### DAY 2

On this day I picked up the Bibles that I had to bring with me on the mission trip and left Quito on the very last bus of the day (11:30pm). This bus brought me near my destination.



### DAY 4

Together with my cousin we went, by bus, to a small village called "San Isidro," 45 minutes away from "Ricaurte." In this village, there is a small Church called "Santa Palabra" (Holy Word) and we chose this place as our Base Site from where we were supposed to walk to the mountains. In this village we spent a little time sharing the Gospel with some people, before going to the mountains. In my walking I stopped in several homes to share the Gospel. In one of those houses I visited, a person who threatened me with a machete, but I asked him to please calm down and listen to me first, so I was able to identify myself as a missionary who was sharing the Gospel of Jesus; then he calmed down and after apologizing to me I was able to talk to him about the Lord Jesus and he ended up by asking me for a Bible, so I gave one to him. After this, I continue my walking up to the mountains and around 6:00pm, I arrived to a home where I had planned to spend the night; But, on my arriving to that home, I was welcomed by seven wild dogs that attacked me, and when I tried to defend myself, they circled me and pushed me into a ravine; but somebody came to my rescue and delivered me from the dogs' attack. I spent the night there and shared the Gospel with them and left a Bible with them.





## DAY 5

09

I came back to the Base Site, from the mountain I went to the day before, picked up some Bibles and some more tracts and went to another small village called "La Polvareda." In this village, together with my cousin, we went house by house talking with some people about the Gospel and handing them some tracts. We were also told that in one of those houses was living alone one old woman that was very ill, so we went to that house and shared the Gospel with this person, and she made the decision to accept the Lord Jesus in her heart. By the end of the day, I met a group of teenagers and spoke to them about Jesus (they were about 15). They paid very close attention to all the words I spoke; I told them about God's love for everybody and the need of receiving Jesus in their hearts. I also mentioned that heaven and hell are real, they also asked many questions. At the end I challenged them of making the decision of accepting Jesus in their heart, but they mentioned they were not ready yet. I came back to the base site around 8:30pm.



## DAY 8

In my daily walking I was unable to bring many Bibles with me, but I asked people who wanted a Bible to come by over the Base Site to receive one. So, in this day, many people came by to the Base Site looking for Bibles, I gave to them, and mentioned that the Bible is for reading and learning from it in a "daily basis". In each Bible that I handed to each person, I wrote their names and a small portion from the Bible. After doing this, I walked to another small village called "La Pompeya" and doing the same thing I had been doing every day, sharing the Gospel with people that were open to hear.



## DAY 10

I went back to Quito with the satisfaction of having fulfilled the mission I was sent by the Lord

## DAY 9

The Brothers from the church "Santa Palabra" in "San Isidro" asked me to stay for the "Vigil" they were having the following night, but I told them that I couldn't stay because I had to go back to Quito next day. So, I left the Base Site to "Ricaurte", but not before the Brothers gave thanks to the good Lord and prayed for me.





# Meet the Elders and Trustees

Since joining the board in October 2022, I have seen evidence of God's grace and faithfulness in many ways. After obeying the call to serve I have been blessed to get to know and work closely with many members of Forcey. Serving has provided opportunities for me to grow in my faith and experience the love that we share as the body of Christ.

The past year has been a year of answered prayers for me and my family. Everything has worked for our good (Romans 8:28) as we have all achieved important milestones in our lives, such as baptisms, participation in new ministries, career progression, etc. Esther and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary! We have made rewarding friendships with many members of Forcey especially since we began gathering in person again. The year hasn't been without its challenges, but the Lord has been faithful as we have trusted in Him. We are so thankful.

Two of my favorite Bible verses are Habakkuk 3:17-18 and Leviticus 23:22. The Lord has been gracious to me all my life. I feel a burden to treat others with grace as I have been blessed. I am an avid book reader and I like collecting traditional African crafts. I love nature and enjoy bird watching. As a family, we love traveling and exploring new places together. We also love eating out together!



I love working with people and making a difference in the lives of those I interact with. As a disease prevention expert, I work with people in low- and middle-income countries to find sustainable solutions to the burdens of diseases such as malaria and dengue. This work gives me opportunities to share and demonstrate the love of Christ with the less fortunate.

I am honored to serve on the Greeting & Ushering Ministry. I am also a member of the Missions Team.

**-Elder Allan Were**



# MADE IN HIS IMAGE

11



As the school year ends, and summer begins, we are saying goodbye (for now) to many seniors who will be leaving for college. As these students begin this next season of life, they will be entering into adulthood in many new ways.

While many of these students have already been taking on more responsibility, I believe this next season is the biggest transition into adulthood for many of them. They will be faced with new challenges, question and pressures that they may never have experienced before, for many, all on their own. It is part of the reason why these moments should be matched with times of blessing and sending off like we had for our seniors a few weeks ago. During this time, we heard from their parents give blessing to their children as they “let go” in this next season as they move into new things. Part of the blessing given to these seniors was the blessing given in Numbers 6. “The Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” When we read “The Lord make His face shine on you,” we want that to be true for our students, and all people. Our desire is for the Lord to look down on us and shine His

light, His goodness and His mercy upon us in our life. However, I think it should go beyond that as well, as we are image bearers of our creator. Part of being made in the image of God, means that we should reflect our creator. Being made in the image of God means that when people look at us, and God shining on us, that shining should be reflected and



shown to all others, so that when people look at us, whether it be in school, the work place, at home or anywhere, they see the light of our God coming off of us. It is part of the reason why I believe Jesus said to “let your light shine among all men, so they may see your good works and give glory to your Father”. We want people to look at us and see who created us, and my prayer for our students as they enter into this next season of life is that they would be mirrors of their creator, reflecting the goodness He shows to them, the mercy and the grace, and show it back to others around them.

-Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, AJ Itzel

# Thankful for You

**Kathy Reese**

Kathy Reese answered God's calling in 2014 and took the challenge to start the Widows Ministry. The program would take the form of bringing fellowship and love to widows who were socially lonely and needed something to enjoy on a regular basis. Like minded we would share feelings, prayer, and comfort from the Word of God and through mutual experiences. And so, we have had Widows Together for many years. God has called her to make a huge decision moving to Utah. Forcey Bible Church's Widows Ministry has touched many lives.



## Farewell Kathy!



*Psalm 68:4-5 Rejoice before him-his name is the Lord...a defender of Widows is God in his holy dwelling.*





## WHAT IS YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

Various dictionaries define perspective as “a particular way of considering something,” “to compare something to other things so that it can be accurately and fairly judged,” and “the capacity to view things in their true relations or relative importance.” Wouldn’t it be eye-opening to view the peoples of the world from God’s perspective and see their relative importance from His eyes?

FBC is sponsoring a course which focuses on this very perspective.

The course takes us through:

- The Biblical account from Genesis to Revelation of God’s plan and purpose for every believer
- An historical perspective of the world Christian movement
- A multi-cultural perspective of the Gospel
- Strategic perspective on how God’s purposes can be fulfilled.

In the past fifteen years, 49 people from Forcey have taken this course. Through it, God has strengthened Forcey’s Biblical mindset on missional endeavors.

There are over 250,000 Perspectives USA alumni.

Perspectives is also offered in 37 other countries in 9 different languages.

*For more info, see [www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org) or contact [MaryJane-Barrow@forcey.org](mailto:MaryJane-Barrow@forcey.org)*

### 2023 Fall Class

**Where: Forcey Bible Church**

**Dates: Sunday evenings 5:30-8:80, Aug. 20 thru Dec. 17 (no classes 9/3, 11/26)**

**Cost: \$285 (\$19 per lesson) \$50 discount if paid in full by 8/7,  
tuition assistance available**

**-Mary Jane Barrow**

# **Forcey in Spanish**

## **“Forcey en Español”**

“Forcey en Español” began as an Adult Bible Fellowship (ABF) and was later reclassified as a Forcey home group, holding virtual classes on Sundays at 1:30 PM. The group consists of both native and non-native speakers seeking to learn more about the Bible, in Spanish.

Saturday, June 17, sister Diana Cortijo, a member of the group hosted a lunch event at her home. This informal meeting served to recognize and have fellowship with Forcey missionary couple Miguel and Lupe, on furlough, recently back, from overseas. Both brother Miguel and sister Lupe are fluent in Spanish and shared with the group what God is doing in the field and how excited they are about the future plans awaiting God's confirmation.



*If you are interested or know of someone seeking to fellowship and study the Bible in Spanish, please reach to fellow group members Omar and Patricia Herran at: [forceyservant99@gmail.com](mailto:forceyservant99@gmail.com).*

**-Omar Herran**



# NEW LIFE

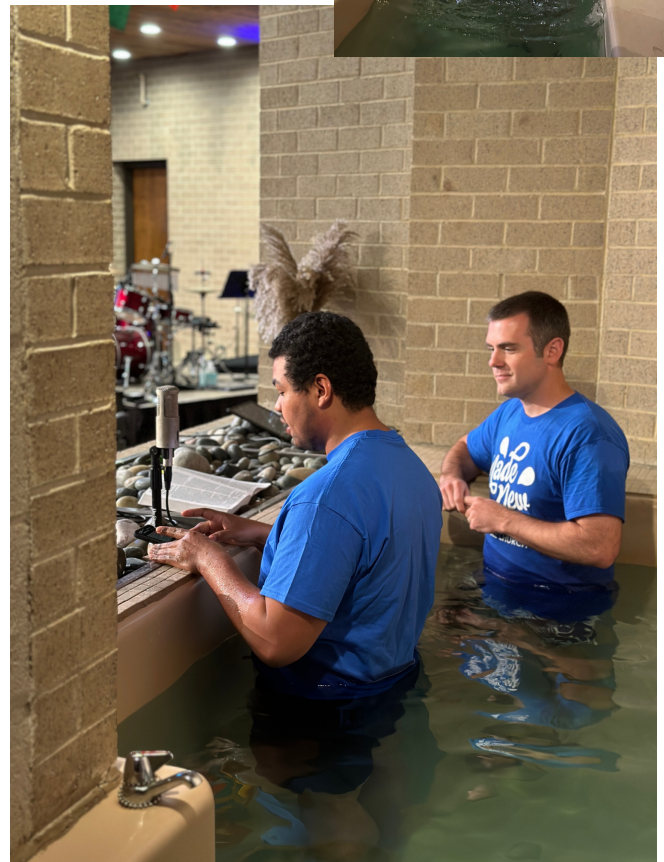
-a testimony by Brandon Young

"Hello brothers & sisters in Christ, my name is Brandon Young. I have grown up in this building and this sanctuary by attending this school from K-8. When I was in 3rd grade I believed that which we have been taught about the coming, death, & resurrection of Jesus and accepted Him as my Lord & Savior, but as I grew I did not take this as seriously as needed. Throughout high school I gradually grew more in my faith, one great highlight being work at Mission Possible. However it wasn't until college that I would say it became real. I can see it in now: it was late in the Spring semester of I think 2018 and it was a sunny Monday morning. I had taken (and miserably failed) an exam for an entry-level engineering course and I was miserable.

Throughout the entire semester I had been in existential dread of what failure would look like - if I fail and don't become an engineer, what would I study? How would I provide for myself? Would I have a job that I wanted? A thought occurred to me:

*If I really believe what I say I do,  
then reality should reflect it.*

If we're assured eternal life by the resurrection of Christ, then why am I acting like a dead man walking? At this my life reoriented around walking with God and I've been able to grow in Him ever since in a way that doesn't isolate Christianity as a part of life, but becomes life itself. Every thought, choice, and action comes from the reality of who Jesus is. From this conviction I stand before you today to honor this truth about the world and the new life He brings."



*"We remember the days of long ago.  
We meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done.  
We spread out our hands to you."  
Psalm 143:5-6*



**FORCEY BIBLE CHURCH**

**HOMECOMING**

**90 YEARS OF  
GOSPEL MINISTRY**

**We invite you to a special weekend of  
remembrance and celebration of God's  
legacy through Forcey Bible Church  
September 22nd-24th, 2023**

**RSVP ASAP on the website at  
[forcey.org/90years](http://forcey.org/90years)**



**hotel block at the Hyatt Regency Silver Spring North**  
Details and booking available on our website



**email [heather-moe@forcey.org](mailto:heather-moe@forcey.org) if you have historical documentation/images  
or if you have a story you'd like to share via video!**



**[www.forcey.org/90years](http://www.forcey.org/90years)**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

july - august - september  
2023

Registration is open for the 23-24 school year!  
Parent Orientation at Forcey Bible School is  
August 24 and 31  
See more at <https://fcs.school>



Forcey MOPS is a discussion based, community group for moms of young children! Meetings start back up in September. More details are coming soon in regards to the virtual group, but the in person group (with or without childcare) is open for registration! [forcey.org/mops](https://forcey.org/mops)

Our next set of baptisms will take place during services on September 24th! If you are interested in being baptized, email [forcey-office@forcey.org](mailto:forcey-office@forcey.org)



for more info on these or other upcoming events:



[forcey.churchcenter.com](https://forcey.churchcenter.com)  
or download the app



[forcey-office@forcey.org](mailto:forcey-office@forcey.org)



[www.forcey.org/events](https://www.forcey.org/events)