

# Honoring our LEGACY

# CELEBRATING

# 90 Years of Gospel Ministry

er sins of this age, but Satan's trap for your prayer life, in reading the Word, in attending to the means of grace. We often permit legitimate things to crowd Christ out of our lives, thus causing us to be swept along with the world. Mary was too much upon other people—they were too willing to accept the world of kinsfolk and acquaintances as to Jesus' safety. Do you know that we are too much inclined to take the things of God second hand? We profess many things, not because we have experienced them ourselves, but because someone else has told us their experience. Others may say you are good, but you must not measure yourself by others. Have the witness for your own self. Be able to say with Job, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," Mary and Joseph assumed too much. They thought that



**FORCEY  
BIBLE  
CHURCH**



# HOLDING FORTH

## *the Word of Life for 90 Years*

**T**he story of Forcey Bible Church is a God story that began with the vision of one man who was called by God to reach the lost. Mary Ernest, Dr. Clark Forcey's longtime friend, 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 Clinton, 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 in Ohio where he was serving. He had been ready to settle down there with his wife, Margaret, and their five children, Lillian, Eldon, Leslie, Clark, and infant Herschel. He felt the call of God to come back to Washington, D.C. and serve as a pastor and make a difference for Christ in the nation's capital.

Dr. Forcey was born in Bigler, Pennsylvania 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!” And thus, his ministry to the D.C. area began. Within days, he met a man who owned a radio station, and with the little money he had, Clark Forcey purchased air time and began preaching the Word of God. His first radio program aired April 19, 1933. Initially with two broadcasts per week, Forcey delivered sermons while his wife sang hymns. He began inviting people to Evangelistic Services, which were first held in the Vermont Avenue Social Hall of the National City Christian Church.

The congregation grew rapidly numbering 500 attendees by July of that year. They began holding services in a canvas tent furnished with wooden plank seating and sawdust floors installed on land that Clark rented at the corner of Piney Branch and Underwood Streets in Northwest, D.C. The weather proved challenging, and the tent blew down repeatedly, encouraging the building of a permanent structure.

The non-sectarian Christian Tabernacle was dedicated on October 14, 1934 with 837 people in attendance. Over the next several years, Clark’s radio broadcasts increased to four each week, and the church added to its Sunday morning services by holding week-night Evangelistic services on Tuesday and Friday nights with over 1,000 people in attendance each week. Clark Forcey worked hard for the Lord and poured himself into his ministry to the very point of exhaustion. Weakened by his effort, he passed away on November 25, 1940 at the young age of 39.

According to newspaper clippings, Clark had lost his health due to overwork in the cause of the Tabernacle. After just seven years of ministry in Washington, D.C., he had given over 1,100 radio addresses, made 1,800 pastoral visitations annually, delivered 3,900 sermons and written and published seven books — a legacy of faith that lives on to this day. Forcey believed that much of his ministry’s success was the result of prayer, having held weekly prayer meetings and proceeded every service by a 30 minute prayer time. Clark’s first radio broadcast was about prayer, and his life reflected his belief that there was no greater ministry than prayer. The journey of Dr. Clark Forcey that began in 1930 led us to what we have now — our current building in Silver Spring, Maryland. The church continues to grow and God’s ministry continues to flourish.



# EARLY *Years*

**O**ur story is a “God story” that began with the vision of one man. Dr. Clark Forcey moved to Washington D.C. in 1933 after a vacation to the area convinced him there was no place on earth where he could make a greater difference for Christ. As Dr. Forcey prayed, “Lord, send me souls,” God opened the door for him to host a radio program and then to host meetings under a tent on the corner of Piney Branch and Underwood in Northwest D.C. By 1934, the church had been incorporated as the “Non-Sectarian Christian Tabernacle Association” and over 800 people were meeting on Sundays in the Vermont Avenue Social Hall of the National City Christian Church. In just seven years of ministry in the area, Dr. Forcey preached 3,900 sermons and gave over 1,000 radio addresses. Sadly, he died before his fortieth birthday in 1940.

In the years since our beginnings, our name and location has changed, but Dr. Forcey’s legacy of faith, prayer, creativity, and gospel proclamation remains today.

*Lord*  
SEND ME  
**Souls**

Dr. Clark Johnson Forcey (left)





Vermont Avenue Social Hall of the  
National City Christian Church



Tent at corner of Piney Branch and  
Underwood, Northwest, D.C.



Non-Sectarian Christian Tabernacle  
dedicated in October 1934

## Dr. Clark Forcey's Legacy of Faith

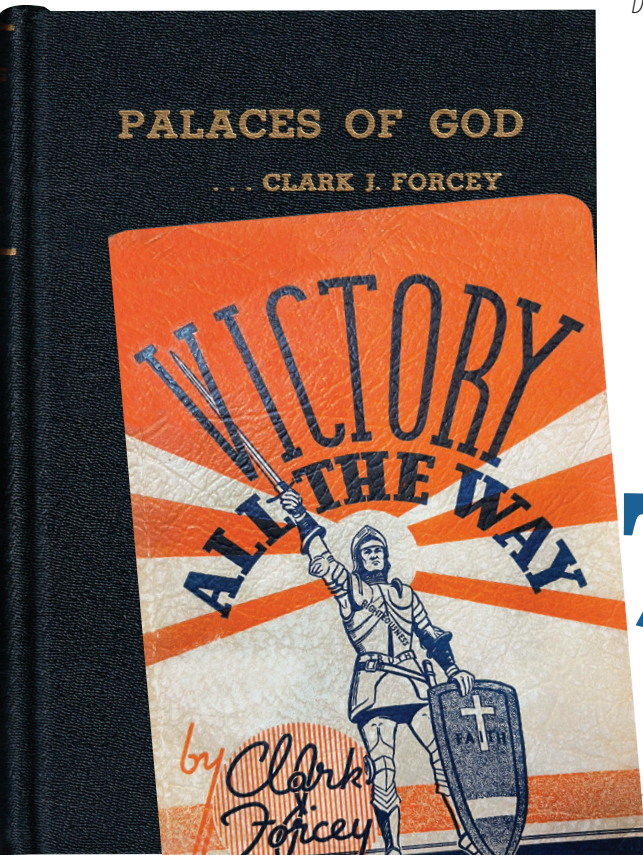
### *Dear Heavenly Father*

We thank Thee that Thou has provided a way home to Heaven for us. This way is known as the way of the cross. Christ trod this highway. He died on the cross opening heaven for us. It will be necessary for us to accept His death to get on the way. And then, thereafter, to carry our cross. Make us good disciples. Separate us from the world. And may we be sure that through faith in Christ we always stay on the way of the cross that leads home. *And we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.*

# 1169

## RADIO BROADCASTS ON STATION WOL

To My Congregation, Seen and unseen,  
in the Tabernacle and in Radio-land,  
I sincerely dedicate this volume of sermons.  
*Dedication by Clark J. Forcey, in All the Days*



# 3901

SERMONS

# 1800

PASTORAL CALLS

## 7 BOOKS PUBLISHED

All the Days  
Sparrows and Men  
Somewhat to Say  
Victory All the Way  
The Way of Life  
Palaces Of God  
Crossing the Spiritual Divide





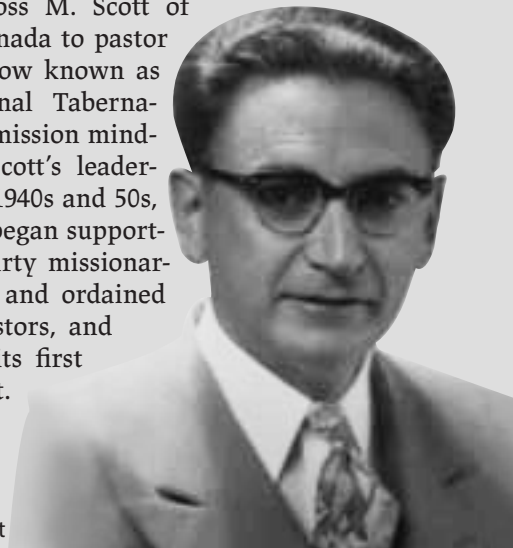
# A growing CHURCH

**F**ollowing Dr. Forcey's death in 1940, Dr. John McNeil of Glasgow, Scotland served as pastor until March, 1945. This was an era of deep testing in which the sifting of the flock had its purpose in God's plan.



Dr. John McNeil

In October, 1945, God called Pastor DeLoss M. Scott of Toronto, Canada to pastor what was now known as "The National Tabernacle". Under mission minded Pastor Scott's leadership in the 1940s and 50s, the church began supporting over thirty missionaries, trained and ordained a dozen pastors, and performed its first church plant.



Pastor DeLoss M. Scott



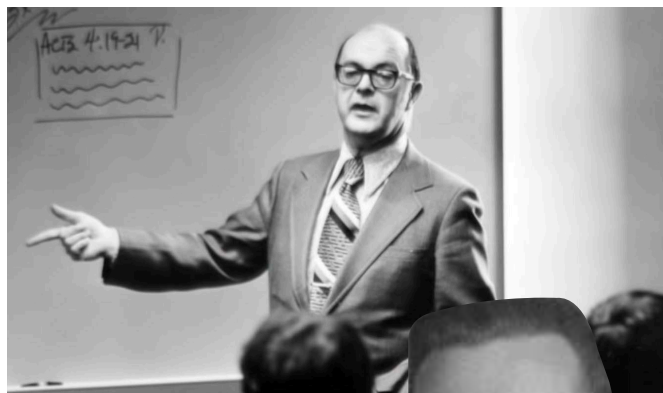


An extension work was begun in Clinton, Maryland. By 1948, the Clinton Gospel Tabernacle had its own pastor. In 1949, the first missionary was supported by the Tabernacle. Today the church supports wholly or in part 43 missionary endeavors around the world. The rented land claimed by Dr. Forcey by faith twenty years earlier was purchased by the congregation in April 1954. As the Tabernacle grew, the Sunday School grew, and on April 16, 1959, the ground was broken for an educational building, dedicated in 1960. In March, 1960, the Lord called Pastor Scott back to Canada.

In May 1960, God led Pastor Raymond E. Befus of Milwaukee, Wisconsin to shepherd the flock. Pastor Befus, a faithful teacher, emphasized Christian education and led the church to expand facilities. Under Pastor Befus' ministry, four children's worship services were inaugurated. Church attendance increased until it was obvious that the Tabernacle structure did not provide the facilities required if the work were to continue to grow. A challenge to the congregation regarding liquidating the large indebtedness on the Educational Building, thus paving the way for a new sanctuary, resulted in a single Sunday's free-will offering of \$45,000 on March 3, 1963. A ground breaking service for the new

sanctuary was held March 15, 1964. Adult services were held at Takoma Park Junior High School during the construction period. The new sanctuary was dedicated April 4, 1965 with Dr. Howard Hendricks of Dallas Theological Seminary teaching a Bible conference. During the

1960s, prolonged congregational concern over community misunderstanding of the church name led to the renaming of the church to "Forcey Memorial Church" in recognition of the founder. In June 1966, God called Pastor Befus to a pastorate in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



(Above) Dr. Howard Hendrick of Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS). Dr. Charles Swindoll, DTS chancellor and a 1963 graduate, well known for the *Insight for Living* radio program, recalled that Hendricks "is the one man who has had the greatest impact on my entire life. And there is no doubt in my mind that since the late 1950s to the present day, no other teacher at DTS has been more influential to more of our graduates, or more magnetic to more potential students than Dr. Hendricks."



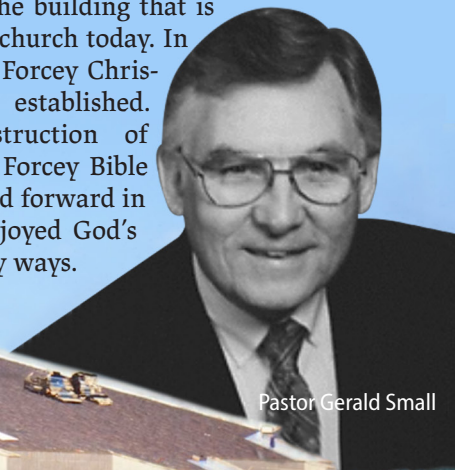
Pastor Raymond E. Befus

# Forward in FAITH

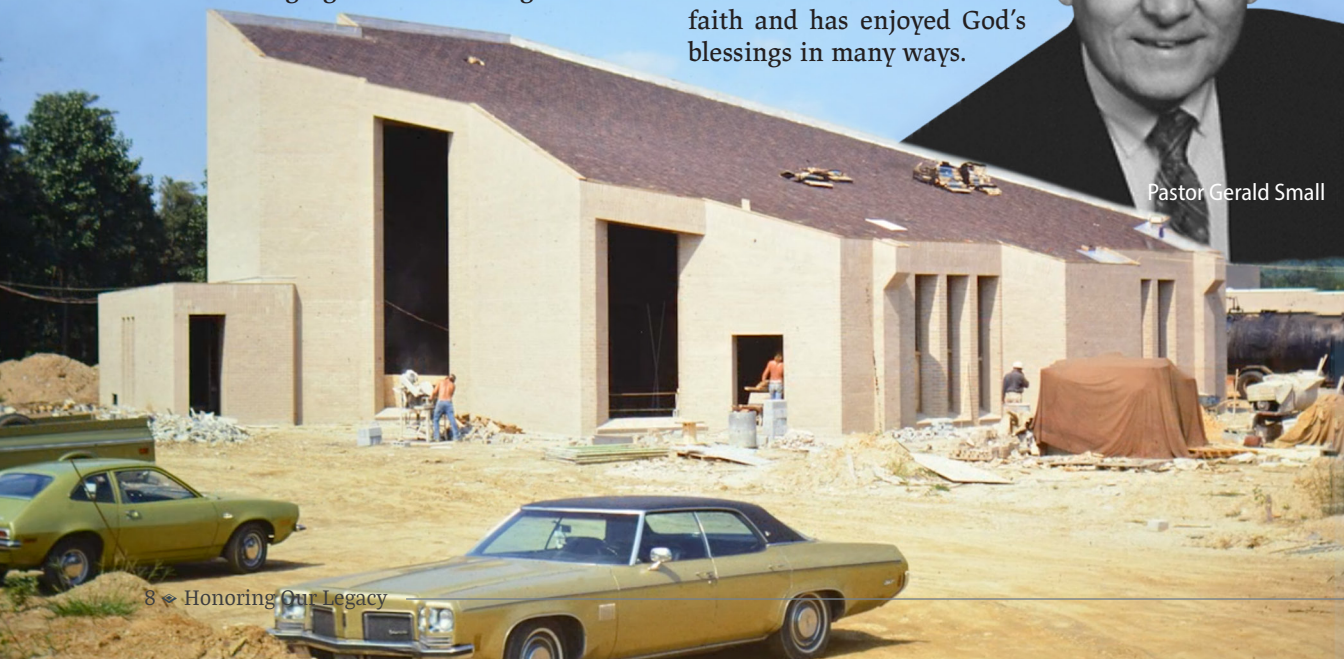
**T**he Lord then led Pastor Gerald G. Small, a caring shepherd from a pastorate in Little Rock, Arkansas to pastor the church in April, 1967. He pastored the church from 1967 to 1997. After he became the pastor, a newly created position of Minister of Education gave emphasis to Christian education. Daily Vacation Bible School was reinaugurated after being suspended for seven years. Sunday School attendance grew rapidly.

By 1970, space for these activities was insufficient. Additional Bible School space was greatly needed. A study of membership residency revealed that the center of church membership was located north of Silver Spring. About this time, the congregation had an offer to sell the church property to another congregation in the neighborhood.

By faith, the congregation voted to sell the church property although no land was in view on which to build a new church. The property was sold. The last service in the church was held May 2, 1972, and seven days later, all services were held in the John F. Kennedy High School on Randolph Road in Wheaton, Maryland. In September 1972, seven acres of land at Randolph and Columbia Roads were purchased, and an architect's concept was approved for a new church sanctuary and education building. In 1975, the new building was completed, and services started in the building that is still home to the church today. In September 1977, Forcey Christian School was established. Since the construction of the new facility, Forcey Bible Church has moved forward in faith and has enjoyed God's blessings in many ways.



Pastor Gerald Small







# Forcey Memorial Church

2130 EAST RANDOLPH ROAD, SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20904  
PHONE: 301 - 622-2200



## Certificate of Baptism

This Certifies

That \_\_\_\_\_

Was by me Baptized  
in the Name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
In the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_

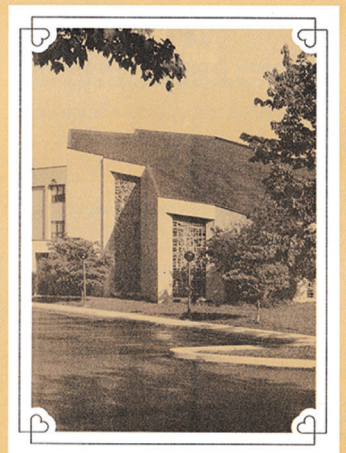
The Forcey Memorial Church

Silver Spring, Maryland

*Edward Small*  
Pastor



Home Cookin' is  
a Family Affair



Forcey  
Memorial  
Church

Holding Forth the Word of Life



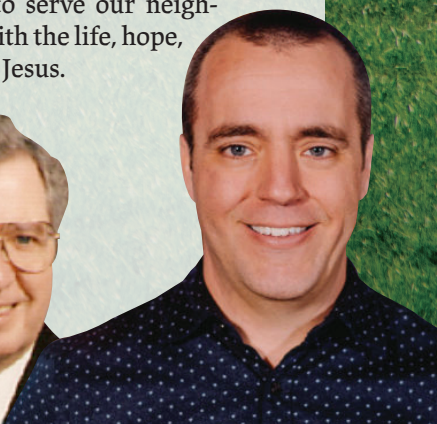
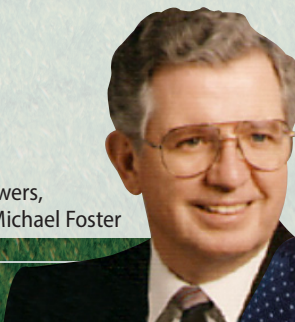
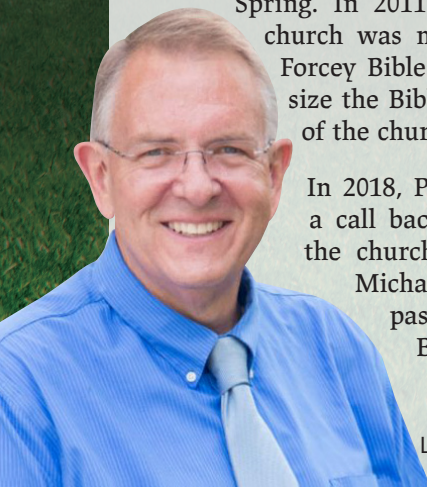
# SERVING *the Lord*

**P**astor Small retired from the pulpit in 1997. While the church searched for its next pastor, Dr. Homer Heater of Lanham, Maryland served as the interim pastor for the next three years. Dr. Heater taught for eight years at Dallas Theological Seminary, served on the faculty of Capital Bible Seminary for 30 years, and spent eleven years as President of the Washington Bible College and Capital Bible Seminary. In 2000, Dr. Phil Powers, originally from Saskatchewan, Canada and a gifted teacher who had been a professor at Capital Bible Seminary, was hired as the lead pastor in 2000. The church expanded its facilities to include room for Forcey Middle School and a new fellowship hall. Pastor Phil had a vision for outreach to the community around Silver Spring. In 2011, the name of the church was modified slightly to Forcey Bible Church to emphasize the Bible teaching mission of the church.

In 2018, Pastor Phil followed a call back to teaching, and the church welcomed Pastor Michael Foster as its lead pastor. Pastor Mike, of Buffalo, New York,

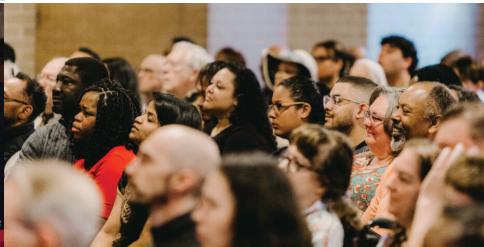
moved with his wife and six children to Silver Spring. Pastor Mike was mentored by Phil Powers and long-time Forcey Associate Pastor Ron Jones.

The church continues to focus on a robust adult Bible teaching curriculum and children's Sunday School classes. The ministries of the church include the Bread Ministry, the Care Team, the Helping Hand Ministry, the Not Alone Group, Forcey Prayer group, the Stephen Ministry, Band of Brothers, Sisters in Symphony, Widows Together, Young Adults Ministry, and the Senior Adult Ministry. Forcey continues to support global missions and supports 43 global partners with two annual missions conferences. Moving forward, Forcey Bible Church – like our founder – recognizes our unique position to make a difference for Christ in our world. We are now a church of people from more than sixty national backgrounds who are growing as one family in Christ. We are honored to be a part of a great community in Montgomery County and hope to serve our neighbors near and far with the life, hope, and joy we have in Jesus.



Left to Right: Pastor Phil Powers,  
Dr. Homer Heater, Pastor Michael Foster





### His Life Has Just Begun

Written to honor the homegoing of Jack Henry Unger, Sr.



Our lives are but a stepping-stone  
Its' a pause before we make it finally home.  
For everyone has a journey,  
A path to take filled with twists and turns and lots to see -  
A place to rest, until we reach eternity.

A Heavenly home is where he now resides  
For the blood of Jesus Christ did provide  
By accepting Jesus as his Lord and Savior  
He is forevermore with his Heavenly Father,  
And seeing Saints and loved ones who went before him.

The Lord guided his every step along the way,  
And now, his final destination is a place  
Filled with God's Love, Majesty, and Grace.  
Let your time of sorrow and tears be few  
And may your heart and mind recall precious memories to

We are called to celebrate this man's life  
Who has gone before us, the race he has won.  
His journey on earth has now ended  
But his life in Heaven has just begun,  
And he has claimed Heaven as his new home.  
As each day passes and he is not here to see,  
May God's peace comfort you and  
May you know you are never very far apart  
For every time you think of him, he is forever in your heart.

Written By: Richard L. Trent





# REACHING *the Lost*

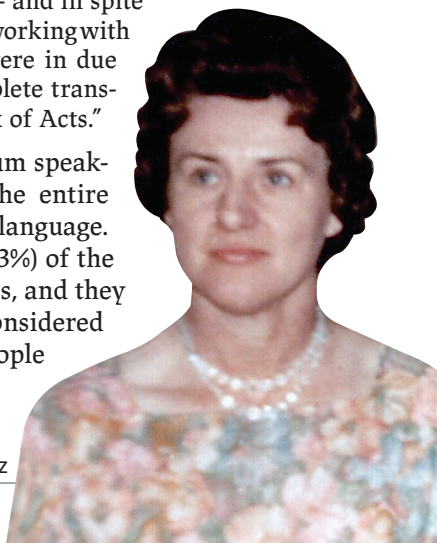
**F**orcey Bible Church has a rich legacy of worldwide outreach with the Gospel of Christ. In the 1940s, under mission-minded Pastor DeLoss Scott, the church began supporting its first missionary, Rosella Entz. When the church was in prayer for someone who needed support to go overseas in missions, Rosella Entz was a missions candidate with SIM (Sudan Interior Mission). By the end of the 1940s with Forcey's support, Rosella was headed to Dahomey, West Africa (present day Benin) where she served for over two decades.

As part of a team, she helped translate several books of the Bible into the Baatonum language for the Bariba people. But initially she had a problem as writing by hand was time consuming, and Rosella asked for a typewriter so she could work more efficiently.

The Forcey Ladies Missionary Society took on the task and raised \$55 (\$686 in today's money) to send a typewriter to Dahomey, Africa in April 1950. After the translation of two Gospels and several of Paul's letters, Rosella reported in the British edition of *The Sudan Witness*, July 1969:

"I am thankful to say that with the Lord's enabling — and in spite of the heat — we [working with Bariba pastors] were in due time able to complete translation of the Book of Acts."

Today, the Baatonum speaking people have the entire Bible in their own language. Close to 150,000 (13%) of the Bariba are believers, and they are no longer considered an unreached people group (UPG).



Rosella Entz





There are still thousands of unreached people groups and nearly half of the world's languages have little or no Bible translation. Forcey Bible Church seeks to send workers to reach UPGs and is still supporting Bible translation. Three of our current missionaries, Joy and Bill Carrera (translators support), Brian Migliazza (translation oversight), and Alex Crum (IT) work with Wycliffe Bible Translators. None of these missionaries need a typewriter because the work has been simplified by computers. But the workers are still few, and it is still an area where the Lord is calling us to serve.

*Adapted from the Forcey Focus article by Mary Jane Barrow.*

## Forcey Bible Church Global Missions

Forcey Bible Church has been actively involved in overseas and domestic missionary outreach for most of its 90-year history. Today, Forcey supports 36 missionary families serving in over 20 countries in a variety of ministries. In addition to those in overseas service, Forcey encourages and supports several U.S. based partners who serve with organizations focused on internationals, college students, and Bible translation. Here are just a few of our global missionaries:



Paul and Carmiña  
Adams



Brent and Diane  
Anderson



Bill and Joy  
Carrera



Bob and Diedre  
Ewerth



Kevin and Lucy  
Heater



Brian and Shirley  
Migliazza



Reuben and Loice  
Meriakol



David and Renée  
Lyons



Joel Rast



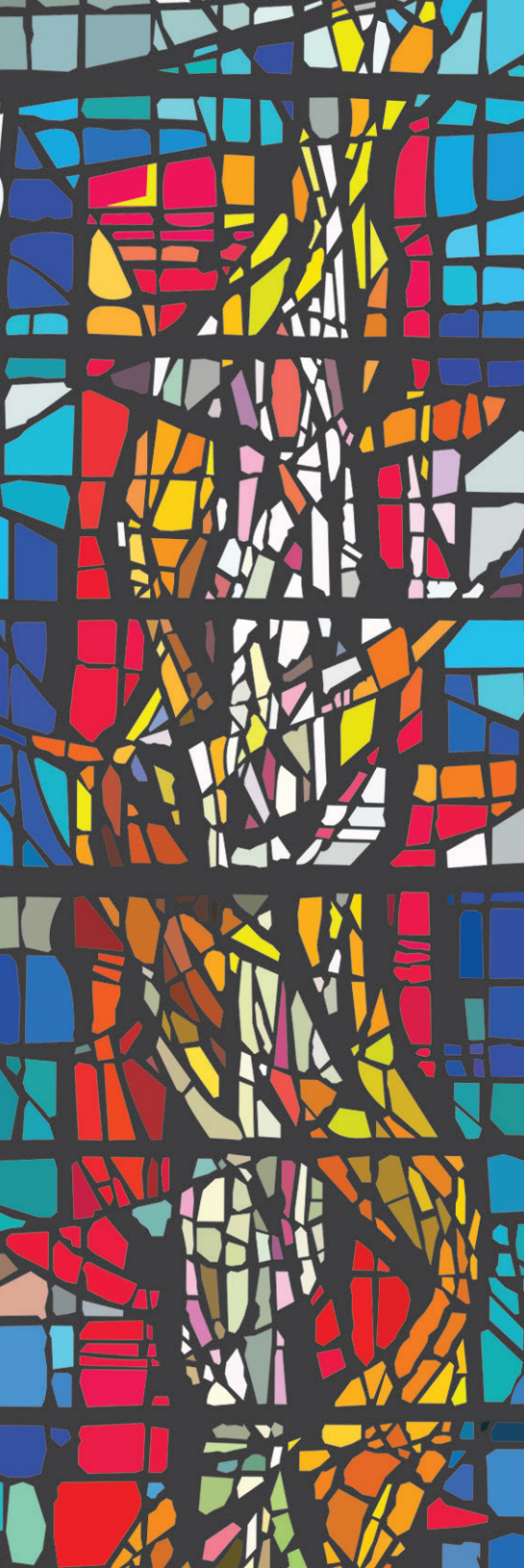
Hanna and Evelyn  
Shahin



Michael and Donna  
Sprague



Bob and Marcia  
Arnold



# STAINED *Glass*

**S**ome of the most beautiful and arresting architectural elements of Forcey Bible Church's remarkable sanctuary are its distinctive stained glass windows. Contracted through the Willet Stained Glass Studios, Inc., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and designed by glass artist Charles Z. Lawrence, the twelve windows have graced the sanctuary and choir room since the church was built in 1974. The two-year process of creating the window designs began in 1972 when a Forcey committee reviewed slides provided by Willet Studios showing stained glass installations in churches from across the nation. Windows from 14 churches were highlighted from cities including Seattle, San Francisco, Denver, and Houston. The Forcey committee's preferences were recorded and summarized by the building architect, Benjamin P. Elliott, in a letter to Willet Studios on November 9, 1972:

"The windows should be generally bright and warm with the introduction of some cool colors to provide a symphony of colors. A full orchestration of flowing melodies, warm and inspiring, punctuated with staccatos and counter points..Vertical motifs, not necessarily straight up and down, varieties of size with smaller pieces woven through and working them into a pattern seemed to be a kind of design that the [Forcey] Committee desires."

The musical and directional motifs are evident in the final designs, which flow and rise dynamically in a way that can almost be heard as well as seen. From these initial ideas, the artist created the windows we





have today. Charles Z. Lawrence (“CZ” to friends and associates), was a noted stained glass artist who worked at Willet Studios. During his over 60-year career, he created five windows in the Washington National Cathedral, as well as many others for various facilities including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the University of Rochester, and Penn State University. Lawrence received The Stained Glass Association of America’s (SGAA) Faceted Glass Design Award twice, the Interfaith and Forum on Religious Art and Architecture Award twice, and the St. Francis Xavier Chapel Award of Excellence. In 1994, the SGAA presented Lawrence with its “Lifetime Achievement Award”. A senior advisor for the American Glass Guild, he was also an associate member of the British Society of Master Glass Painters. He worked from his own studio in Mt. Airy, Maryland, until his death on January 1, 2019.

The meaning of the abstract shapes that make up the windows has been a source of speculation for years, as was intended right from the start. Willet Studios summarized the design this way:

“As the people enter the Church perhaps each will have a different interpretation of

the window[s]. The orange and red forms seem to suggest flames. It is the flaming sun which keeps the earth alive. The burning bush where Moses saw God is used as a symbol of the presence of God. In the New Testament, tongues of fire indicated the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to guide the Church. Again, a continuing presence. The golden blaze at the top also suggests the New Jerusalem, the golden city, where the ascended Christ is seated on the throne in glory. The blue background might be the infinite sky. The color blue symbolizes the love of God for all His creatures.”

Several of the windows were originally installed in the rear of the church near the choir rehearsal room, a part of the church that is not frequently seen. To ensure the widest possible audience was able to enjoy these windows, they were moved during the sanctuary’s refurbishment in Summer 2020 and placed in the vestibule just inside the sanctuary, where they can be enjoyed by everyone attending services.

*Adapted from the Forcey Focus article by Don Vislay.*

Sources:

<https://www.charleszlawrence.com>

<https://talkingoutyourglass.com/cz-lawrence>

of certain of it? You watch the balance when you buy a pound of meat, then you purchase a piece of cloth, you watch your insurance policy, and you want to be sure about the title of your town lot; and are you willing to suppose that you have a title clear to mansions in the skies? Friends, is it possible that you have lost Christ and broken with his sweet communion? I am not insinuating that your lives are wrong, or that you are living in open sin. Why, your lives may be as clean and wholesome as those of Joseph and Mary, yet if you are not conscious of the presence of Christ, you are among those Christians who are termed, "Out of repair." Oh, the pathos of losing fellowship with Christ. Can you not see the picture that evening when Mary and Joseph first discovered Jesus was missing? The caravan had halted. The various families were pitching their tents and preparing for the evening meal. Then, for the first time, Mary and Joseph discovered the lad was not with them. Can you not see them going from tent to tent, from company to company, with the question, "Have you seen Jesus?" You can imagine what Mary and Joseph experienced when all the replies were negative and the darkness was deepening about them. So we can pass on through the day of prosperity and health without greatly missing the Master but by and by the night of sorrow, sickness, and loss will fall upon us, when we shall need the comfort which only the presence of Jesus can furnish. It will be hard to face the night of death without our Comforter and Guide. A preacher tells how he was reared in a home of poverty, as one of a large family of children. The house was a log cabin, with no carpets on the floor and no paper on the walls. When the oldest boy was only eighteen years of age, he went away to the city to get work and help support the rest of the family. That preacher tells of the sad parting of the mother and his older brother, for he was the first to leave home. The rest of the children thought little about it, until the evening shadows gathered and the firefly lighted its lantern, and the frogs began their evening song, and the owl started his lonesome cry, and the whippoorwill whistled, and the katydids chirped, and they joined their mother down at the old milk-gap to brush away the flies and keep the calf away from the cow. Then they noticed tears in her eyes. Later, when she prepared the simple meal of bacon and biscuits and gravy, she paused again to wipe away the falling tears. Oh, the empty chair when the night came on! "Of, my boy! Where is he tonight?" she cried. Some day, when night comes on, yea, when eternity's night comes on, those feelings of that poor lonesome mother will be augmented a thousand-fold in your hearts. My friends, have you lost Christ? Are you out of repair? O the pathos of it! With those thoughts in mind, how I thank God for the wondrous words of the text! "But the Lord will be a place of repair for His people." If you have lost Christ, if you have broken down, if you are out of spiritual repair, if you have lost communion, if you are a backslider, there is hope for you. One statement in the book of Jonah always cheers my heart:—"And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time," Certainly that remark is full of encouragement to those who are conscious of failure,

