



THE FORCEY FOCUS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FORCEY BIBLE CHURCH - APRIL 2017

PASTOR'S CORNER

OWNED

With Easter and our celebration of Jesus' resurrection, I am reminded of something Jesus said: "And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day" (John 6:39). Brother and sister in Jesus, know this—He owns you.

However, we seem to act as if ownership is our own, and beginning with salvation we are on a partial lease to Jesus to bless us and use us—as long as He doesn't misuse the "property" in a way we don't like. We look forward to the hope of our resurrection, but there are things we want to do before then with our time, body, and soul.

C.S. Lewis wrote about our sense of ownership in *The Screwtape Letters*. As you read this, remember, "Enemy" means God, and "Father" means Satan.

The more claims on life... that your patient can be induced to make, the more often he will feel injured and, as a result, ill-tempered. Now you will have noticed that nothing throws him into a passion so easily as to find a tract of time which he reckoned on

having at his own disposal unexpectedly taken from him. . . .

You must... zealously guard in his mind the curious assumption "My time is my own"... You have here a delicate task. The assumption which you want him to go on making is so absurd that, if once it is questioned, even we cannot find a shred of argument in its defense. The man can neither make, nor retain, one moment of time; it all comes to him by pure gift; he might as well regard the sun and moon his chattels. He is also, in theory, committed to a total service of the Enemy. . . .

The sense of ownership in general is always to be encouraged. The humans are always putting up claims to ownership which sound equally funny in Heaven and in Hell and we must keep them doing so. Much of the modern resistance to chastity comes from men's belief that they "own" their bodies - those vast and perilous estates, pulsating with the energy that made the worlds, in which they find themselves without their consent and from which they are
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Good Friday Service

4.14.17
7 p.m.

Forcey Sanctuary

Easter Sunrise Service

4.16.17
6:30 a.m.

Brookside Nature Center
(campfire area)

Sunday Easter Services

4.16.17
9:15 and 11 a.m.

Forcey Sanctuary

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ejected at the pleasure of Another! . . .

We produce this sense of ownership not only by pride but by confusion. We teach them not to notice the different senses of the possessive pronoun - the finely graded differences that run from "my boots" through "my dog", "my servant", "my wife", "my father", "my master" and "my country", to "my God". They can be taught to reduce all these senses to that of "my boots", the "my" of ownership... we have taught men to say "my God" in a sense not really very different from "my boots", meaning "the God on whom I have a claim for my distinguished services . . ."

And all the time the joke is that the word "Mine" in its fully possessive sense cannot be uttered by a human being about anything. In the long run either Our Father or the Enemy will say "Mine" of each thing that exists, and specially of each man. They will find out in the end, never fear, to whom their time, their souls, and their bodies really belong - certainly not to them, whatever happens. At present the Enemy says "Mine" of everything on the pedantic, legalistic ground that He made it: Our Father hopes in the end to say "Mine" of all things on the more realistic and dynamic ground of conquest . . .

(C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, Harper San Francisco, 2001, pp. 111-115)

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies" (1 Cor 6:19-20). What you and I do with our body, time, and soul prior to our resurrection does really matter. Jesus owns it all.

~ **Dr. Phil Powers, Lead Pastor**

EVANGELISM MINISTRY



"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10). The Lord Jesus today still seeks lost sinners to bring them to salvation, but He now conducts this work through His faithful witnesses led and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

During a recent trip to a local hospital, a Forcey member came to a room where the patient, a young man named Stephen, was a prisoner from the local jail. After introducing himself to the two armed officers guarding the prisoner, the Forcey member started to leave the room. To his surprise, the two officers told him he was welcome to talk to the patient. Because this permission was contrary to standard protocol for prisoners at the

hospital, the Forcey member sensed that the Holy Spirit must be leading him to one whose heart was open to the gospel. After introducing himself to Stephen, he began to speak to him concerning his need for a Savior. As the Forcey member presented the gospel message, Stephen listened respectfully and seemed ready to receive Christ. When he gave the invitation, Stephen earnestly called upon the Lord Jesus to forgive his sins and to save his soul.

This encounter with Stephen demonstrates the power of the Holy Spirit to open a door that is usually closed. The Lord Jesus was pursuing a lost sinner, and, in so doing, He removed all obstacles that normally would have prevented this encounter. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

~ **Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team**

FORCEY ON THE MOVE - THE UNFINISHED TASK CONTINUES!

Hopefully you were able to participate in some of the events during our missions week. We heard missionary updates, learned about honor/shame culture, prayed for our missionaries, and enjoyed great food and fellowship. We also saw many of Forcey who are "On the Move." We were also encouraged and challenged to purposefully engage with people around us, particularly those from countries that have limited access to the gospel. We want to begin to apply what we learned.



On Saturday, during Missions Week, two groups went to local Indian/Asian restaurants to begin to learn:

- Who are the people around us?
- Where do they live?
- Are they part of a community?
- Do they practice a religion?
- Where do they worship?

Do you have neighbors from another land? Do you frequent a store that has immigrants? Do you like to try new foods? Begin by praying that the Lord will show you the next step He wants you to take. Invite an international student to your home for a meal. Maybe it will be visiting an ethnic restaurant regularly and getting to know the owner or servers. Or find a local market or shop to visit. Find out where the people are from. As you love them for Jesus, pray for ways to build relationships which will lead to spiritual conversations.



If you need suggestions, help, or training, please contact Pastor Lonnie Harris for more information (lonnie-harris@forcey.org). Also, we'd love to hear about your experiences. We want to know our community better and find ways to engage particularly with people from countries that are closed to the gospel.

ISRAELI NIGHT @ FORCEY!



On Wednesday, April 19, 7:00-8:30 p.m. we will hear an update on the mission work that is being done in Israel. Enjoy some light Israeli traditional refreshments!

LADIES PRAYER TIME TOGETHER



LADIES, let's spend time together on Saturday with a time a prayer!

All ladies are welcome, any Saturday at 7a.m. to come and pray for family, church, nation and world. Arriving late is fine, and we finish at exactly 8a.m.

Contact Debbie Scesa with questions, jscesa@msn.com.

BUSY LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Busy Ladies Bible Study will meet on Thursday, April 6, at 7 p.m. at the home of Nancy Meyerdirk, 2005 Hopefield Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905. We plan to continue our study of **Heaven: My Father's House**, by Anne Graham Lotz.

If you are interested or you have questions, contact Glenda Jones jones.glenda0@gmail.com or Metta Wagner mettantony@comcast.net.



LADIES MOVIE NIGHT!



LADIES OF FORCEY

You are invited for a Sisters in Symphony Movie Night. The movie, *Miracles from Heaven*, will be shown at Forcey on Saturday, April 29 at 6pm. Bring a friend, or 2 or 3!

Click on the poster to watch a preview!



FORCEY MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS)

The Forcey Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) invites mothers of children up to the age of five to join us for the 2017-18 year! We are a community of women who meet to laugh, cry, and embrace the journey of motherhood together. Our mission is "to encourage and equip moms of young children to realize their potential as moms, women, and leaders, in relationship with Jesus, and in partnership with the local church."

Our meetings are 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from September to May at 9:30-11:30 a.m. MOPPETS childcare is available for children five and under. Registration fee is \$75 without childcare, or \$205 including childcare. Financial aid is available upon request. Registration opens in April to Forcey Bible Church attendees and current MOPS members, then in May to the general public.

For more info, contact forceymops@gmail.com. We hope you can join us!



BODY AND SOUL WOMEN'S AEROBICS

Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. ~ John 13:34-35

Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. ~ 1 John 3:18

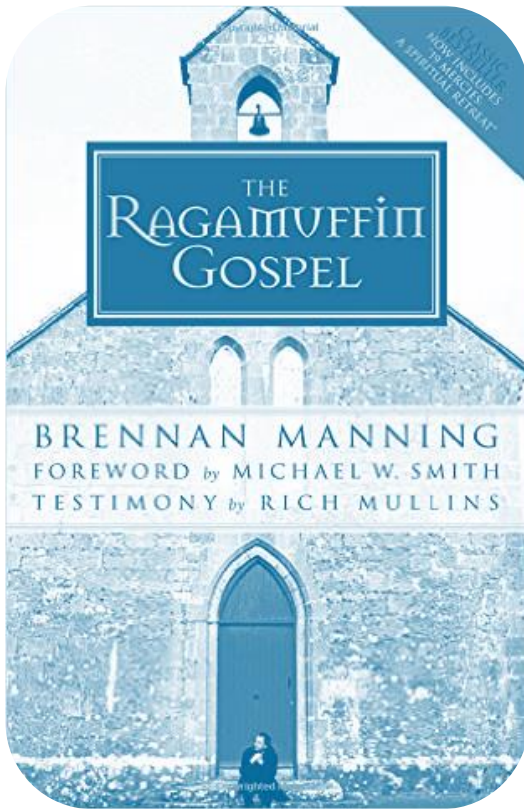
LOVE in ACTION

Body & Soul Fitness classes offer exercise to strengthen the body, uplifting music to nourish the soul and fellowship to keep you motivated. The music for the spring session, **Love In Action**, focuses on living out Jesus' command to love one another. Ladies are invited to join us every Saturday morning 8:30-9:45 in the gym beginning April 1!


body&soul
FITNESS

Register today at bodyandsoul.org. For more info, contact Jennifer White, rjslwhite@msn.com

where faith and fitness meet



**Are you still amazed by the love of God?
Do you have a clear view of the grace of the Gospel?
Have you lost the joy that you once had as a new Christian?**

Later this spring we will be studying the book *The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out* by Brennan Manning. The late Brennan Manning (April 27, 1934 - April 12, 2013) was a former Franciscan priest who struggled with alcoholism. As reported by the magazine *Christianity Today* in the June 2004 issue, "Manning's admission of his failings—combined with his ability to make others feel God's love in spite of their transgressions—is one reason for his popularity among those who have paid more attention to their shame than to God." One review on Amazon says, "You will NEVER regret reading it. Life changing!! Best book I've ever read in my lifetime." We all know that the Bible is the best book ever written because God is its author. Brennan Manning points us to the unfathomable and undefeatable love of God for us.

Our study begins on May 7, 2017. Books will be available from the teaching team at both of our Sunday classes. There are two like sessions each Sunday (both studying the same material) - 1st hour, 9:15-10:30 am, and 2nd hour, 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. We meet in room 324 at both time slots, and all men are welcome to join in our study and weekly discussion. Please come and bring a friend.

**Did you know that you can watch Forcey Bible Church
Sunday Morning Services**



**LIVE
ONLINE?!?**

Click on the laptop and you will be directed to the page.