

October 17, 2021

The View

“Sirs, we wish to see Jesus.”—John 12:21

Welcome Visitors!

You are our honored guests and we are pleased that you have chosen to visit us today. Our goal is to do everything according to God’s word, including respecting its silence. This is a church of Christ; we are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church and we have no earthly “headquarters.” The six elders oversee this work and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily aimed at our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don’t understand something, please do not hesitate to ask one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God’s word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

**Please fill out a visitor’s card and put it in the collection plate located near the entrance.
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.**

Schedule

The Lord’s Day

Preaching Today @ 10:30 AM

David Posey

Jesus on Preaching

Livestream at 10:30 <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>

Bible Class @ 1:30 PM in room 15/16 — Hebrews

Bible Class @ 5 PM — A Study of Prayer (Auditorium)

Young People’s Class, 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey’s home

Middle school class: monthly

Contact Dan Stegall at 818- 209-9810)

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

Bible classes for all ages

Auditorium: A Study of Paul’s Letter to the Philippians

Men We Support Brent Forsyth

Brea, California

This year, 2021, is my 27th year of full-time preaching. I grew up in Yorba Linda, CA and was raised in the Lutheran Church. In college, I was converted to Christ by some Christian neighbors who attended the Tustin congregation. I began worshipping with the brethren at Tustin and was learning quickly of Jesus Christ from His precious word.

I graduated from California State University Fullerton in 1992 with a B.S. in Communications. I worked for Anaheim cable as a sports reporter for their nightly local news when an opportunity to attend Florida College was presented to me. As a sports reporter, I had interviewed such star athletes as Dave Winfield, Wally Joyner, Jim Abbott, and gold medalist gymnast Tim Daggett. I decided to make use of that opportunity with a goal of preaching the gospel. In the summer of 1993, I worked with Forrest Moyer in a summer training program in Fresno, CA. I graduated from Florida College in 1993 and turned my eyes toward foreign evangelism.

I started my preaching work in the country of Romania. After two years there, my wife and I returned to the States to start our family. I continue to make trips to Romania and have now been involved with the brethren there for 27 years. I have also preached in Fresno, CA (Sierra Vista congregation, 3 years) and Tucson, AZ (Northside congregation, 13 years). I am currently working with the Brea Church of Christ in Brea, CA (11 years).

Preaching in Southern California is met with many challenges. First, California is the reverse of the "Bible Belt." Trying to find people interested in biblical Christianity is difficult. Second, there are very few Christians moving into our area while at the same time many Christians have moved out of California due to liberal politics and the high cost of living. Therefore, many congregations are dwindling in size.

In my spare time, I work as a volunteer firefighter for Orange County Fire Authority, which is just a different way of helping people and the community at large. In 2014, I was awarded the "Unsung Hero" award. In 2018, I was bestowed the Reserve Firefighter of the Year Award for Battalion 2.

My wife is Tamara Houchen Forsyth. She is the oldest daughter of Larry Houchen who preached for over twenty years in California. My grandfather-in-law was Hoyt Houchen who preached several years throughout Texas and in Denver, CO while he was alive. We have been married for 28 years and have three children. My oldest son, Kyle, is 25 years old and lives in Bowling Green, KY. My second son, Travis, is 22 and just graduated from Florida College. My third child is my daughter Larissa, she is 18 and is attending Santiago Canyon College. All three children are faithful Christians.

I am the author of two workbooks both published by Florida College Press: *Jeremiah, Judah's Last Hope for Salvation* and *Ezekiel, God's Prophet to the Exiles*. I have conducted numerous gospel meetings and was a speaker at the 2019 Florida College Lectures.

I thank you for this opportunity to tell a little bit about myself to your congregation. I am always thankful that you make my work in Brea possible.



Brent Forsyth

Thoughts on staying connected

Christie and I received absolutely *no* pre-marriage counseling. I came home from Hawaii, on leave from the Army, in late August and we were married on September 5th. The only marriage advice I got came from Vern Wilson, the preacher who performed our ceremony, on the Wednesday before the Friday of our wedding. It was at the back of the church building. He had known Christie since she was a little girl, but had only met me a few times.

Vern took me aside and said, “David, I’ve noticed you are a very private person. Christie, though, is a very sociable, people person. You need to try to be more sociable, like her.”

“I’m disappointed that I heard so many sermons in the past using Hebrews 10:25 to urge (or warn) us to keep coming back to the assembly but very few, if any, that began with Hebrews 10:24 – *‘Let us consider how to stir one another to love and good works.’*”

I said, “OK.” I would agree to do anything to marry Christie — even be a people person.

Vern was right — I was not a people person. It’s not that I didn’t like people, but I just didn’t want to be around them very often. I even suffered a little when going to Dodger Stadium for a baseball game (but I went). People made me nervous. Lots of people made me really nervous. Crowds scared me to death.

I have changed — *Yes! People Can Change!* I have become more of a people person. Maybe I should say I’m a people person as long as they are a certain kind of people. I still, unfortunately, struggle striking up conversations with complete stranger. That’s thorn in my side. But when it comes to the people in the Folsom church family, I’m definitely a “sociable” person.

That means I found those days turned into weeks turned into months when we were unable to meet together almost unbearable. I wouldn’t have felt that way 50 years ago.

Getting together is really important but its significance is not just in the assembling itself. I’m disappointed that I heard so many sermons in the past using Hebrews 10:25 to urge (or warn) us to keep coming back to the assembly but very few, if any, that began with Hebrews 10:24 — *‘Let us consider how to stir one another to love and good works.’*”

No one who fully appreciates v. 24 needs v. 25 to get them to assemble. Verse 25 was written to a group of people who had decided that it was not safe to meet. But not assembling is anathema to those who love to participate in the experience of stirring up and being stirred up to love and good works.

And it works! We are stirred up through singing, praying and preaching (I hope) and the encouragement we get from that continues long after the formal service is over. Typically, Christie and I get home about an hour after services, even on Wednesday night. Yes, there is a lot of “stirring up” going on the porch and in the parking lot, too, because, that’s what loving families do.

My theme song when I was young was Paul Simon’s “I Am a Rock.” But the experience I’ve had in this church family has fully converted me into a people person.

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The collective power of fellowship

In fellowship we engage in common activities of worship, study, prayer, celebration, and service with other disciples. This may involve assembling ourselves together in a large group or meeting with only a few. Personalities united can contain more of God and sustain the force of his greater presence much better than scattered individuals. The fire of God kindles higher as the brands are heaped together and each is warmed by the other’s flame. The members of the body must be in contact if they are to sustain and be sustained by each other. Christian redemption is not devised to be a solitary thing, though each individual of course has a unique and direct relationship with God, and God alone is his or her Lord and Judge. But The Life is one that requires some regular and profound conjunction with others who share it. It is greatly diminished when that is lacking.

The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives by Dallas Willard.