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Crossroads Retreat. More on page 9.

A Conversation with David and Carol Forsyth

Interviewed by Luke Rhee

You've read through the Bible together every year. How long have you been doing this and what kind of impact has it had on your lives?

David: You can't read the Bible without wanting to know what it means. We never doubted the inerrancy or the authority of the Scriptures. Those doctrines were never up for question for either of us from the day we got saved. But as we read the Bible, we thought, "I don't know what this means." And Carol asked me all the time, "What does this mean?" I was determined to find the answer to lead in our marriage.

Carol: We've read the Bible together for 36 years. Reading together has helped us begin to understand who God is. More than anything else, more than any book or sermon, just year after year, adding incrementally to our knowledge base, we began to understand the flow of biblical history and see the faithfulness of God. It was a little bit like drinking salt water. The more we read the more we wanted to know.

David: It helped us think biblically and in biblical categories. And when we started involving our kids in our Bible reading, we all had the same categories, vocabulary, and stories so that when we talked about everyone's day around the dinner table, we had a shared worldview through which we could all process the day.

I've heard you say that it's really important to develop personal relationships with each of your kids. Can you expand on that and explain



Carol and David in Idaho last summer

Picture by Julie Deaton

how you've tried to do that?

David: Relationships are essential for gospel purposes. Outside of a relationship, parenting is just a package you're delivering. It's the relationship that creates the environment in which people receive the gospel. We love our children and grandchildren. We love them as individuals, not just as a group.

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David & Carol Forsyth



The Forsyth Family, Summer 2018 Picture by Julie Deaton

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Carol: Observing how different children are personality-wise, if you don't get some of them aside, you don't hear their heart. It was so important to get one-on-one time with our kids, listen, and get them to share their heart.

David: We wanted to know them. We desire a two-way relationship. We knew life was busy, but it was important to them and me to have time to build that relationship. So I would do things like take them hiking one-on-one. Somehow we always knew that our kids would grow up, and we wanted a relationship that would carry forward into adulthood. I can remember people telling us, "Yea your kids are good now, but just wait until your kids grow up, wait until the teen years." It was discouraging to hear that and I refused to believe that it was true. I refused to believe that it was axiomatic that the kids would eventually reject their parents. I did everything I could to prove that wasn't true.

Carol: Now that our kids are grown, individual relationships with them are still important for us. There's value in all getting together, but there's even greater value in getting together with individual families. And that is something we look for-

ward to when we go north, now even with the grandchildren.

David: We want to get to know our grandchildren as people.

Not only is it important to you to know your children, but you also value knowing people outside your family. You guys have reached out to so many people and treated them as one of your own. How did hospitality become part of your family identity?

David: We started because we wanted opportunities to share the gospel. Early in our marriage, we invited my co-workers and neighbors to try to share the gospel. We were also hungry for relationships, so we invited people to our home.

Carol: When we were living in Texas, we told our pastor's wife that we had a hard time getting connected. She responded with something like, "How many people have you invited over?" or "To have friends, you need to be a friend." When we eventually got to California, we were relentless about inviting people over because we had to find friends.

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Hospitality is essential to being good neighbors and fulfilling the Second Great Commandment. You can't separate hospitality from the Christian life. If we're to be conformed to the image of Christ, we have to be hospitable because God is. And it's been so encouraging to us how so many people at Foothill are reaching out to others.

Hospitality has also helped us be part of the congregation. By getting to know people as they sit around our table, they realize that we have needs too. We are equal. One of the biggest gifts Foothill has given us is enabling us to be a part of the congregation. We've needed this body. It's been essential to our growth. It's a great way to be accountable when you bring people into your home because they see everything.

David: Hospitality is also essential for an elder. You can't fake it at home. Particularly if there are a lot of people who are in your home regularly, you just can't fake it. Who you really are will show up.

David, you've had a heart to train men for ministry and church leadership. How have you tried to encourage and prepare them?

David: I'm persuaded to the depth of my being that if you don't know the Scriptures, you can't function as a shepherd or leader of the people of God. Years ago, we started FITT (The Foothill Institute for Theological Training) to help people know their Bible. We conducted preaching labs to try to help people have the basic tools to deliver a Bible lesson.

Carol: In our own lives, we began to see how little things, little investments can make a difference. For us, no single person had a huge role to play, but everyone had a role to play. So, it was important to just be part of someone's journey and to do something to encourage them along the way.

What would you say to someone who is considering ministry or pursuing it?

David: Run! Well first, I'd explore if they

have a love to learn. If they want to be a pastor but have no passion to read the Scriptures and pursue their understanding through outside reading materials, that would be very concerning to me.

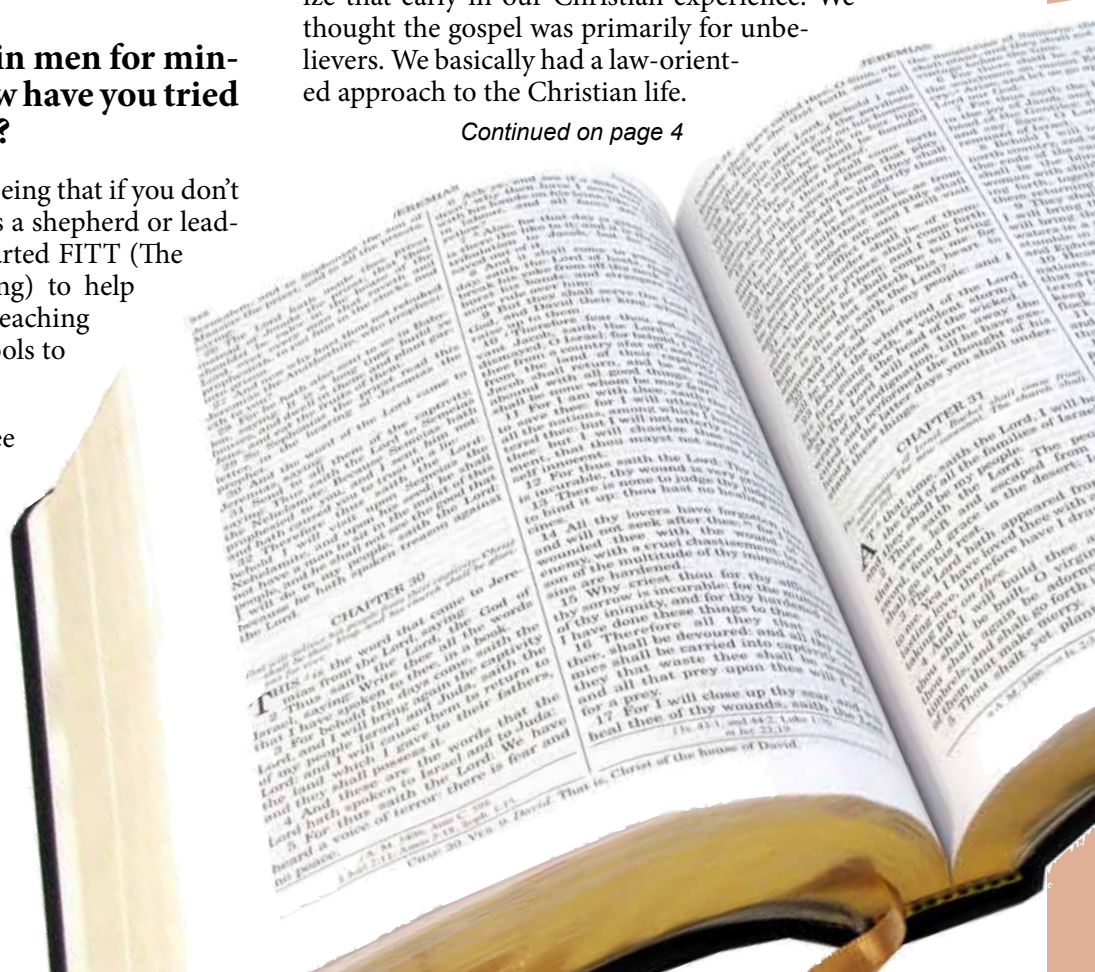
I would also explore their love for people and their willingness to serve. If someone says that they want to teach the Bible, I would start them teaching children. We do a disservice sometimes by elevating people too quickly. If you're passionate to teach the Bible, you'll be passionate to teach the Bible to anyone who will listen.

It's also fine if you think you're called by God, but does anyone else recognize it?

We've heard you say over the years is "Preach the gospel to yourself". What do you mean by that?

David: What we came to realize was that the gospel was for believers. We didn't realize that early in our Christian experience. We thought the gospel was primarily for unbelievers. We basically had a law-oriented approach to the Christian life.

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David & Carol Forsyth

David & Carol continued from page 3

But really, it was preaching through Galatians and Romans and reading *The Gospel Primer* by Milton Vincent that helped us see that believers must live in the light of the gospel. We need to rehearse the character of God to ourselves and remind ourselves of the truths of the gospel.

You're really committed to and passionate about the end of the story in the Bible. Eschatology matters. Why is eschatology so important?

David: It's what the Bible teaches and what the Bible teaches is important. If all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable to us, then eschatology has an important role. How the story ends is important to God. Eschatology also draws us to the kingdom and our future hope which gives us perspective on this current world that is filled with trouble. It lifts our eyes to the age to come and gives us hope no matter what happens now.

David, what have been the most impactful books to you?

Greatness of the Kingdom by Alva J. McClain - This book ties the Scriptures all together in a way that I had never seen it before. I really like the way the author writes. McClain is so perceptive in so many areas. He made the kingdom so appealing to us.

Delighting in the Trinity by Michael Reeves - This book brought us into the love of God in a way that we had never thought before. The fact that God primarily relates to us as a Father, not as a Creator, has been so life changing. It made our Christianity more relational. Our great doctrinal formulations haven't changed, they're just warmer to us.

Doug Bookman - This isn't a book, but Doug brought the humanity of Christ alive to us in a way that was so compelling that at times I wanted to cry. When Doug came and did the Life of Christ at FITT, we were overwhelmed. Being introduced to Doug Bookman was a big marker in our lives. He set our Christian growth on a new trajectory. He changed the way I preach, the way I talked about Christ, the way we read the Scriptures together. Doug's presentation of the humanity of Christ took Christ from being two-dimensional and in black and white to three dimensional and in high definition color.

The Gospel Primer by Milton Vincent - This book helped me see the importance of the gospel for believers. We need to glory and live in the beauty of the gospel on a daily basis.

The Trellis and the Vine by Colin Marshall and Tony Payne - This was so impactful because I can be drawn into programming very easily. It fits with my administrative bent. But our focus needs to be on people, not programs. Instead of recruiting people to fill our programs, we needed to release them to their ministry passions.

Every Thought Captive by Richard L. Pratt, Jr. - With regard to apologetics, I used to be an evidentialist, and I didn't know the presuppositional method. This book grounded me in a biblical apologetic method.

What have been the biggest ways Foothill has changed since you've been the teaching pastor?

David: Our series on Romans 14 was really important on understanding the Christian life and how to interact with people who had different convictions. It really helped each of us in our fight against legalism.

The college ministry has also invigorated the church with young people. It provided a venue to beautify marriage, parenting, and children. The college ministry has really been important and healthy for the church.

The church has become increasingly younger, intergenerational, and ethnically diverse. The church's commitment to serious exposition has drawn people from a lot of different ethnic backgrounds. People are able to look beyond their differences and barriers because they're looking for expositional preaching.

If you can address the young people of the church, what would you say to them?

Carol: One of the things we have stressed is the importance of biblical convictions. Know and love the Scriptures and know what your convictions are so that you're not tossed to and fro by societal conventions. Also, love and value the church.

David: If you love Christ then you'll love His church. Also, love the Bible and have absolute confidence in it. If you love the word of God, you'll love truth.

Carol: We believe the best days for Foothill are still ahead. With a commitment to the Scriptures, there's no limit to what God will do with you.

David: If you are humble before the word of God, there's no limit to where God will take you or how He will use you. To any young man I would say, "Humble your heart before the word of God, become convinced to the depth of your being in the inerrancy, authority, sufficiency of the Scriptures, and you will be a man of God."

*"We believe the best days
for Foothill are still ahead.
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Tony and Sabrina Martinez

by Rachel Mills

Please introduce yourselves to Tony and Sabrina Martinez who came into membership this past fall; you will probably find them during services sitting in front of the tech booth. As they share their story, they are quick to affirm the sovereign work of God in their lives. Tony and Sabrina were introduced to Foothill by the Harris family when their daughter was invited to ONE28 in 2016. They have two daughters now attending ONE28: Karina, a junior; and Sophia grade 7.

Tony and Sabrina were both raised identifying as Catholics by tradition. Tony was born in Mexico City and at the age of 11 years moved to Durango with his parents and 5 siblings. His parents were biochemists who worked in the pharmaceutical industry. Tony attended a Mexican military college equivalent to West Point for 4 years and became an officer. He served until he was encouraged to join his sister and brother-in-law in the dental field in California. This led him to a dental office in Chino that became very instrumental in the formation of the Martinez family.

Sabrina's parents and two siblings emigrated from Argentina before she was born in Boston. When Sabrina was 19 years old her dad unexpectedly passed away due to complications from a knee surgery. Sabrina

needed to grow up quickly and was desperate to get a job. Where did she apply and get hired as a dental assistant? It happened to be the perfectly chosen dental office in Chino. Tony and Sabrina worked together, fell in love, and were married in 1992. They

Chino Hills where they were presented the deeper truths of the gospel. Tony shared that the solid Bible teaching began to connect the dots of his childhood exposure to the Bible. This teaching combined with witnessing the dramatic change in

entrepreneurial mindset. They are homeschooling the girls in order to pass on a legacy of a strong work ethic and faith in the sovereign God. They also enjoy investing time together on camping trips to Glamis, cheering on Tony at his Jet



Tony & Sabrina Martinez, Karina and Sophia Picture by Raul Moreno

will celebrate their 27th anniversary in July.

During the early years of marriage they worked hard and focused on their careers, attending an occasional event or Sunday service at a Christian church with family. However it wasn't until they became pregnant with Karina and faced a diagnosis of lung cancer for Sabrina's mom, that Sabrina started to ponder eternity and spiritual realities. They began attending Calvary Chapel

Sabrina as she submitted herself to the teachings of the Bible had the greatest impact on his heart. Both Tony and Sabrina would describe their testimony as a gradual process of understanding, one that clearly showed God's hand at work all along the way.

Today, you can find the Martinez family working together in their own dental lab which they were able to acquire and maintain through years of hard work and an

Ski races, and cheering for the girls at their volleyball games. Karina enjoys singing in the ONE28 Worship Band and the girls regularly rock climb together with church friends. By attending the Bohlers' small group, serving at Cheerful Cooks, and the girls' involvement in Children's Ministry, the Martinez family continues to become more connected to the FBC community.

New Members

Brandon and Erin Nathaniel

by Cindy Behnke

Have you seen the curly haired mom with the three beautiful daughters and her husband with the big, contagious smile? That's Brandon and Erin Nathaniel and their daughters, Leah (11), Emma (4 ½), and Sophia (2 ½). They make the trek from Highland every Sunday to attend our Bible-teaching church. They

know it would be nice to have church closer, but as they shared, Foothill Bible Church is absolutely worth the drive.

Brandon grew up in Elk Grove. Brandon's dad taught Brandon and his brother about God. He took him and his brother to be baptized when they were small kids. Brandon really wanted to make his faith his own when he was 16 and chose to get baptized. Brandon grew up going to Calvary Chapel with his dad then continued to attend church in

his adult life but never really had a church he called home. Brandon loves helping people and finds great joy in it! He knew in third grade he wanted to be a doctor. It was his third grade science teacher that really sparked his interest in medicine. He is now a physician at Riverside University Health Systems in Moreno Valley working as a Hospitalist and Resident Educator. He also helps in the Mental Health Service twice a month and as a physician advisor for the hospital. Working hard to pay off their medical student loans, Brandon has accomplished this huge goal earlier this year!

Erin grew up in a Christian home in Rancho Cucamonga. Her parents who also attend FBC, Don and Rebecca Maynard, taught Erin about Jesus. Erin remembers having her parents' small groups and Bible studies in their home. Erin loved being a part of youth group and outreach, and attended several missions trips in High School and college to Mexico. She remembers specifically in Junior High recognizing her need for a Savior and wanting to walk in obedience and be baptized. Erin went to Point Loma Nazarene University and grad school at Loma Linda University. Erin and her daughter Leah started attending FBC in 2011.

Brandon and Erin met in 2011 at Loma Linda Hospital. Erin was a dietician and Brandon was a Surgical Resident. After their first date, they haven't dated anyone since! Attending FBC now together, Brandon and Erin were married by Pastor Vince Nicotra.

"In the few years I have been at FBC, we really feel like our faith has

grown," Erin said. It was during a women's morning Bible study, she really felt convicted about serving. She shared that she knew she was being fed, but what was she giving to the body? She signed up to serve in the church nursery. After having Leah in Awana for a year, she really wanted to serve in this ministry too. She has now completed her first year serving in Sparks! Last year, Brandon and Erin decided it was time to take the New Members class and they became members. They wanted to join a small group but didn't know how it would work with Brandon's full schedule and being so far. After the church service with the Thanksgiving testimonies, the Nathaniel family decided to join our small group and what a blessing it has been!! Jumping into a small group in the middle of the year, in the middle of studying a book, could have been challenging. But for Erin, this is exactly what they were craving - more relationships in their church body. She said, "I love the morning Bible studies and building relationships with so many wonderful women. Now at small group, my whole family gets involved. We are getting to build relationships together, know how to pray for one another and study together, being challenged to grow. And we love that we share a meal together! It's been great for our whole family." Speaking for our Behnke small group, we are so thankful that God weighed it on their hearts to pursue small group. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Brandon and Erin, and absolutely love having their three darling girls join!

So why membership?

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Brandon & Erin Nathaniel, Leah, Emma, and Sophia
Picture by Don Maynard

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Brandon and Erin wanted to be committed to FBC and have the accountability to the elders and the church as whole. They shared that while it may have taken them some time to truly get involved, they are so thankful for the steps they have taken in serving, small group, and membership to grow in their walks and relationships.

“By listening to Pastor David’s sound teaching,” Erin said, “I feel more equipped as a believer. Before, I did not feel as confident answering questions about my faith. Whereas now, I want to share my faith and what it means to follow Christ.” Brandon added, “I appreciate the fact that Pastor David teaches chapter by chapter and gives a more rich understanding of the Bible.”

The Nathaniel family loves to go on family walks, enjoys their season passes to Seaworld, and gets maximum use out of their pool! For fun, Brandon enjoys barbecuing and cooking for family, friends, and neighbors. Erin loves being able to stay home with their three girls and keeps busy caring for them, their cat Bella, running with their puppy Golden Retriever, Daisy, and fixing up their home. They plan to send their daughters to Redlands Christian Academy this upcoming fall and are excited for this change.

Rejoicing in the sweet friendships that God has provided us in the Nathaniel family, I hope you get the same privilege! And I do hope it involves Brandon cooking for you... oh my, your tastebuds will thank you!!!



Andrew Hsieh Picture by Blake Buehl

Andrew Hsieh

by Jonathan Schaap

Andrew Hsieh has attended FBC for around 15 years ever since he was a child. He has lived in Claremont his entire life. Andrew became a believer by heeding the call of His Savior and Lord and submitting to Christ at a young age. He has embraced Christ’s teachings and grown in Christ throughout the years. His favorite book of the Bible is Proverbs because it provides so much wisdom that can be applied to a number of situations in life. Andrew attends Crossroads on Wednesday’s and has served in Children’s Ministry since he was in the 6th grade! One wonders if Andrew has much spare time since he attends Cal Poly, Pomona and majors

in chemistry, all the while working part time as a trainer at Chick-fil-A! Whew. Andrew has indeed gone to the ant and considered her ways and has become wise (Proverbs 6:6) - serving the Lord as a student, an employee, and a servant in the local church.

He is thankful for the biblically based teachings here at FBC. During high school, the teachings by Micah Lugg (who used to be the Student Ministries Director) has challenged him to live more like Christ during his time here on earth. The many small groups in ONE28 and Crossroads have encouraged him in his sanctification, and the accountability has spurred him onward in his walk with Christ. Besides the high school and college ministries, Andrew is so grateful for the Sunday morning preachings

which he declares have always been amazing. Pastor David’s biblically based teachings have been such a blessing in his life and have given him many ways to walk in a Christian manner and grow in faith. It has been a blessing to see FBC deal with many trials biblically and not base them on the principals of this world. Seeing FBC’s commitment to the Word of God has been such an encouragement and a comfort in this increasingly anti-Christian world to our brother Andrew and so many of us as well.

We rejoice in what Christ has done, is doing, and will do in Andrew’s life as he grows in the fear of the Lord because that is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). Welcome to membership at FBC, Andrew Hsieh!

Father Son Beach Camp



Picture by Todd Young

Father & Son Beach Camp

A group of men and boys spent the weekend at San Clemente State Beach in April and the theme was "Leaving a Biblical Legacy." They learned about understanding the importance of being a godly leader to our children and then having that passed on to their children.





CROSSROADS RETREAT

Crossroads College Ministry in Lake Arrowhead this past March. The theme this year was Table Talk with Pastor David and Carol Forsyth. Picture by Camille Orilla

ONE28 Retreat



ONE28 at Pine Summit Christian Camp in Big Bear this past May. Luke Rhee taught that being eternally minded moves them to live for what really matters. Picture by Ben Costello

Great is Thy Faithfulness

DAVID AND CAROL'S MINISTRY STORY

By Laura Rhee

David Forsyth was raised in a loving home and occasionally attended church, although the first time he remembers hearing the gospel was his junior year in college. He was attending the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, and through the faithful witness of a campus missionary, he came to faith. He graduated in 1979 with a degree in finance, began working in commercial banking, and in August of that year, he married his first and only sweetheart, Carol.

They began attending a small local church and one of the pastors on staff approached David and wanted to disciple him. He began feeding him book recommendations, and this was when David first developed his love of reading, and his library began to grow. He studied the Scriptures, read good books, and was involved in the ministry of the church, and in 1984, he first felt the call of God to vocational ministry. As he and Carol began to pray and consider that possibility, he joined the elder board of the church they were attending and began to grow in leadership experience.

After much prayer, they became convinced that Dallas Theological Seminary was where God was calling David to be trained, so in 1986 he packed up his young family and moved them to Texas where he enrolled at the seminary. After finishing just a few classes, he was forced by financial pressure to leave school and go back to working full time. Rather than giving up entirely, he took night classes for a year and a half before dropping out of school entirely because the travel demands of his job prevented him from continuing. At this point, he and Carol battled discouragement certain that they had misunderstood the call of God.

David settled back into a career in commercial banking, and in 1991, he was transferred from Texas to the Pasadena, California branch of Bank of America. In September of that year, he took his wife and four kids to California, one of the two places (Texas being the other) that Carol had al-

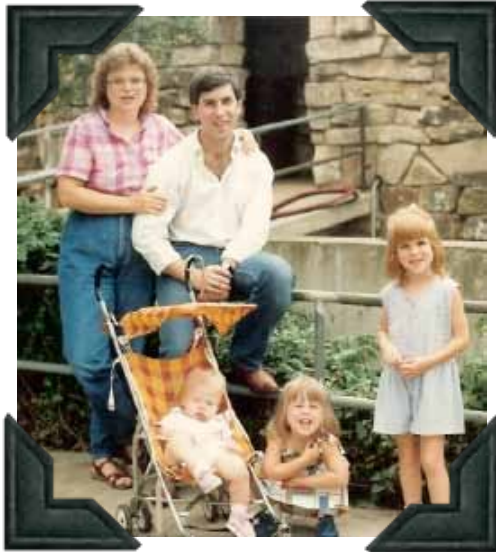


David and Carol, Stacey, Jessica, Laura and William in 1997

ways said she did not want to live. By now, they had moved all the way across the country from their families to a place where they knew no one and had given up on the idea of full time ministry.

They looked for housing in the Upland area and discovered, by the providence of God, a little body of believers known as Upland Bible Church, which was pastored by Jerry Westcott. They again became involved in ministry, teaching Sunday School and serving where they were needed, and the next year (1992), David was asked to join the elder board. For a nine-month period from 1992 to 1993, he served on a team that facilitated a merger between Upland Bible and another church body named Foothill Baptist; the combined church was known as Foothill Bible.

In 1994, Pastor Westcott and the elder board asked him to consider leaving Bank of America to join the staff as the Associate Pastor of Christian Education and Administration. Once again, God had brought before them the possibility of serving in ministry, and they knew that if David left banking for a second time, he could not go back; this time would be permanent. It was a big decision, but through prayer, counsel, and the study of the Scriptures, David and Carol became convinced that this was indeed God's will for them. In March of 1995, David joined the staff of Foothill Bible Church as the Associate Pastor of Christian Education and Administration.



David and Carol, Jessica (5), Stacey (3), and Laura (1), Ft. Worth Zoo, Texas, in 1986

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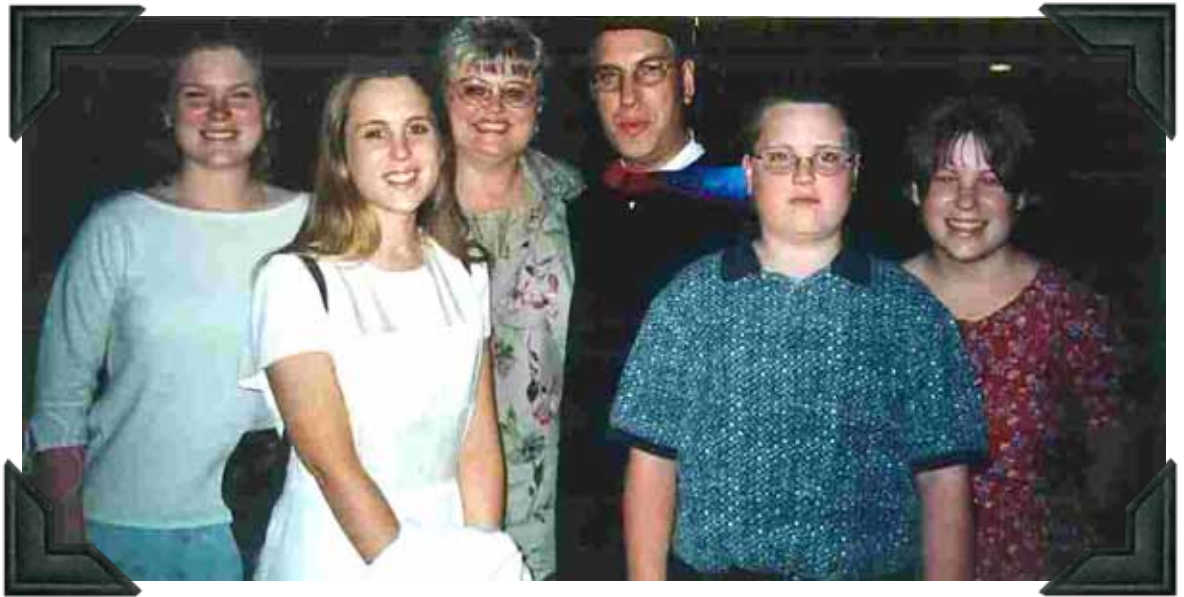
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While studying for his ordination, it became clear to him that he needed to complete his seminary education, so in 1997 he began attending The Master's Seminary (TMS) in Sun Valley, California, a process that would take him five years to complete.

During that time, in the fall of 2000, Pastor Jerry Westcott took a four-month sabbatical and David was given the opportunity to fill the pulpit. He spent the four months preaching through the book of Galatians and that experience

really confirmed for him and for Carol that his call was not just to pastoral ministry, but particularly to the ministry of the public preaching of the Word of God. After his graduation from TMS in May of 2002, when Pastor Jerry retired, the church called him to fill the role of Teaching Pastor.

As the Teaching Pastor, David has faithfully preached and pastored for seventeen years. He has preached through



David Forsyth graduated with his Master of Divinity from The Master's Seminary in May, 2002. David and Carol with Jessica, Stacey, William and Laura

the books of John, Hebrews, Romans, James, Matthew, and Ephesians. His final Sunday at Foothill will be on June 23, 2019. He will be retiring from pastoral ministry and moving to Sandpoint, Idaho to be with many of his children and grandchildren. David and Carol especially desire to impact the lives of their grandchildren, and Lord willing, generations to come with the gospel.

Perhaps the best way we can honor David and Carol's legacy is to, as they have, leave a gospel legacy to those who come after us.

In the words of the Psalmist, "[God] established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments" (Psalm 78:5-7 ESV).



David and Carol Forsyth with Shirley and Jerry Westcott in 2004

His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22b-23



Picture courtesy of Rebecca Allison

Joni & Friends Family Retreat

A group of 16 short-term missionaries from FBC assisted and served as a friend to a child or adult affected by a disability at Wonder Valley in Sanger, California from April 14-19.

FBC Connection

The purpose of the FBC Connection newsletter is to inform and inspire the FBC body of what God is doing in the life of its members. Please note that the testimonies and articles are written by volunteers and do not necessarily reflect the sentiments or endorsements of the elder board. The apostle Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 12 that the local church is one body made up of many members and gifts. FBC Connection recognizes this diversity in the FBC body and seeks to promote community through this form of communication. On behalf of the elder board of FBC, we invite you to proclaim the excellencies of Christ who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.