

I participated in the Residency because I had a desire to learn more about missional living. Coming from a Bible College background gave me so many heady and weighty ideas about theology, doctrine, and dogma. I needed to put flesh around all of this information. I felt that Forge had what I was looking for and could help show me how my life and my involvement with neighbors, the community, and people in general could be my opportunity to live and proclaim the Gospel.

As a resident I pushed myself out of my comfort zone when I was challenged by my coach to open my home and my life to others. Being naturally introverted, it is hard for me to go out of my way to put myself into social situations. My coach, encouraged me and taught me the importance of valuing the time I spend with others and he has helped me find excitement in being in open, social situations. So I learned to make myself talk to my neighbors. I learned to push myself to open my own door and invite neighbors to enjoy my home, my food, and my life

The Forge Residency helped me to find my passion in relationships and in teaching. Many friends of mine found God calling them to preaching, youth ministry, children's, or worship ministry. I didn't find myself drawn to those areas. Forge helped me experience things that showed me how I can use my entire life as ministry. I learned to become curious about my friends, neighbors, and community. I feel encouraged and edified in my attempts to love others in a way that is built upon the Gospel and is guided by real compassion rather than false or surface level emotion. I'm so thankful that God has revealed so much through this residency. I now find so much value in humans and in relationships that my introverted nature is becoming so unattractive and I am finding God and the Holy Spirit changing that aspect of me.

My advice for those considering a Residency is to please do it! It is so refreshing and brings about new perspectives and outlook on life, relationships, and how we portray the Gospel. Be prepared for certain aspects of Forge to be offensive to you. But honestly, offensive was good for me. It helped me to see where I was stuck in my faith and in my view of the church. So much of what I believed was subconsciously tied in the tradition that I was raised in. Forge helped me to reevaluate many aspects of my view of Jesus, mission, and church! If you are considering it, please do not pass it up. Allow God to shake you up a little bit. Reject complacency. Take a leap of faith and be open to what Forge has to offer. You won't regret it!

As a resident I pushed myself out of my comfort zone when I stopped participating in things (really good things) that I really wanted to be a part of in order to focus on other things that are more of a priority.

The Forge residency helped me to focus on the things that God has called me to and it has helped me understand the way God has created and gifted me. The Forge residency has also equipped me for the next season of my life.

I participated in the Residency because I wanted to get a new perspective on being like Jesus in the midst of my everyday life.

My advice for those considering a Residency is... go for it! If you are bored with "doing church" and want to really live as a follower of Jesus then this will give you a great start.

I participated in the Residency because I wanted to learn more about what it looked like for me to be Jesus within my various contexts. I desired to better understand the depths of what it meant to be the sent ones of Jesus Christ. I desperately wanted to understand what it meant to be a "missionary" in my everyday life.

I pushed myself out of my comfort zone when my wife and I were intentional about engaging each of the neighbors on our block to invite them to our home for a Christmas party. We had been living in our house for less than a year and had not been able to meet many of our neighbors yet. We were not sure how people would respond or even if any would be interested in coming. However, many responded with gratitude and joy which led to new connections and rich interaction.

The Forge Residency has helped me to continue to grow as a Kingdom participant, not just a church goer. It empowered me to further understand my faith as a dynamic lifestyle, and gave me the language to share this with others. The Forge Residency also helped me refine my contexts, where I felt the Lord was leading me, and how to engage those deeper and with more of myself. Simply, Forge has encouraged me, strengthened me, refined my voice and sent me to join God in where He is at work throughout my life.

My advice for those considering a Residency is to go for it! Enter into the experience with a loose grip and open heart concerning your present faith, lifestyle and understanding of what it truly means to follow Jesus with your life. Be prepared to let your understanding of what the gospel is, and how the Lord desires for that good news to be shared in a way that is out of the "box." Ask the Spirit to give you eyes to see and ears to hear, and through Forge, to move you closer and closer to Jesus and the way He intended your life to be.

This Forge Residency really helped me understand that there is an element of life that we as a society have deemed "taboo" in some sense. This element of neighboring and being a steward of people is a concept that I thought I knew well, yet Forge has helped me relearn what this task of neighboring actually entails. Forge has also helped me want to be real and raw with people and have them be real and raw with me. I want to hear the dirty, messy stories of life instead of the sugar coated versions. People don't always feel comfortable doing that and Forge has helped lead me to want and create relationships with that kind of transparency and trust.

My advice for the new Forge Resident would be this: understand that it's okay to relearn what you always thought was right and to also be intentional with becoming a person that people take interest in. By that I mean, "live a life that evokes curiosity" (Michael Frost) and live in a way that makes people realize that you are different. Attract others to you by living a life that is more than mediocre.

The Forge residency has increased my gospel fluency and challenged me to think outside the box about how to engage those who don't yet know Jesus.

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My advice to those considering the forge residency is that if you are willing to invest your resources and time to grow as a Christian you will get a lot out of the residency. Walking through the residency with a coach was challenging and rewarding and well worth the time

I participated in the forge residency because I felt stuck at the church I was going to. I wanted to move more toward applying what I was learning but most at church seemed content to learn without application.

I participated in the Residency because I was wanting to pursue my life as a disciple of Christ beyond an intellectual exercise and series of Bible studies.

I participated in the Residency because I felt like God was already leading me to see, be, and live church differently. Forge added confirmation and a structure to that leading.

I pushed myself out of my comfort zone when I when I
ran for our HOA Board which is something I said I
would never, ever do again. This time my posture is
one of service and connection only.

The Forge Residency helped me think and live more intentionally in my neighborhood

I participated in the Residency because I was desperate to find a people that were willing to radically orient their lives around Jesus and That desired to see the church be the church outside of the church.

I pushed myself out of my comfort zone when I began engaging my community in ways that made our church community question us.

The Forge Residency helped me gain a language for the things that had been swarming around in my head and it has given me permission and confidence to follow Jesus into mission even when it looks very different from the norm. It also helped my husband and I to learn more about our own wiring and gifting's while connecting us with others who flesh out missional living.

My advice for those considering a Residency Is "go for it!" Be willing to commit fully to the process and you wont regret it.