



First Free News

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Visit our Web Site

www.firstfreechurch.org

All Things Are New!

Written by Pastor Joel Sutton

All things are new! What would happen if that were really true? All the mistakes that you made in 2002 are gone! All the goals you didn't reach—you could start over again. All your relationships are new, with no hurt or baggage.

One of the great truths of scripture is that all those who are Christ-followers, those who are in Christ, are new!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Cor. 5:17

Author, pastor, and onetime atheist, Lee Strobel, told this story about becoming new:

"How can I tell you the difference God has made in my life? My daughter, Allison was 5 years old when I became a follower of Jesus, and all she had known in those five years was a dad

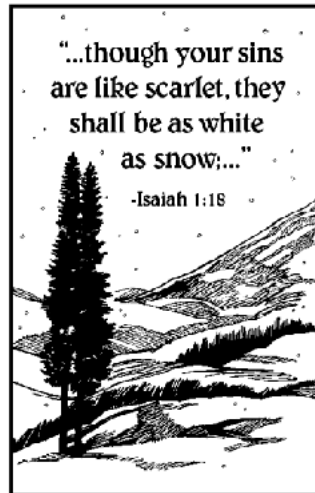
who was profane and angry. I remember I came home one night and kicked a hole in the living room wall just out of anger with life. I am ashamed to think of the times Allison hid in her room to get away from me.

Five months after I gave my life to Jesus Christ, that little girl went to my wife and said, "Mommy, I want God to do for me what he's done for Daddy." At age 5! What was she saying? She'd never studied the archeological evidence (regarding the truth of the Bible). All she knew was her dad used to be this way: hard to live with. But more and more her dad is becoming this way. And if that is what God does to people, then sign her up. At age 5 she gave her life to Jesus. God changed my family and my world. He changed my eternity."

Do we really understand

this truth? When God steps into our life everything is new. He brings forgiveness, cleansing and peace. A new perspective and new direction with new attitudes and a new destiny! We are new creations of Christ!

What a great truth to take into the new year!



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~ Sermon Series — The Ups & Downs of the Christian Life ~

January 5	How to Start New	Judges 2:10-19
January 12	Limiting Your Limitations	Judges 3:12-30
January 19	A Winning Combination in a No-Win Situation	Judges 4-5
January 26	God's Training Camp	Judges 6:1-32
February 2	How to Win!	Judges 6:33-7:25
February 9	The Test of Success	Judges 8

Outreach Weekend

Mission's Weekend February 15 & 16

- ◆ The focus of this weekend will be foreign missions.
- ◆ Come and learn more about the missionaries that our congregation supports!

Outreach Breakfast

- ◆ A pancake breakfast is scheduled for Saturday (February 15) at 8:30 am.
- ◆ This will be followed by a panel of missionaries who will tell about their work. *Child care will be provided.*

Mark & Athlee Bowman

- ◆ The Bowmans, Evangelical Free Missionaries to Japan, will be with us for the weekend. Mark will speak in the Sunday morning service.
- ◆ There will also be missionaries in many of the Sunday school classes.
- ◆ If you would like information about the missionaries supported by First Free, check out the church website at www.firstfreechurch.org or contact Maureen Juarez.



Missionary Prayer Focus

- ◆ Each week the Outreach Commission tries to highlight one missionary or organization that we support.
- ◆ This is to give the congregation a clearer idea of who we are supporting and what their specific prayer needs are.
- ◆ Look for the "Missionary Prayer Focus" in the weekly Prayer Guide and Sunday Bulletin.
- ◆ We will also feature more information in the Newsletter, so you will be well updated.

Who Are We? (Missionaries & Organizations)

North Central District

The North Central District (NCD) includes most of the Evangelical Free Churches of Minnesota, including our own church. The District Superintendent, Rev. Dean Johnson, recently retired and now Rev. Tom Mauw is in that office. Dean Johnson is still actively involved as a counselor to pastors.

The NCD actively encourages the planting of new churches and helps churches without pastors to find new ones.

Manna Life Line

This organization collects food, money and even some home furnishings to give to people in need. This organization is closely related to the Evangelical Free Church but is an independent organization.

Jim & Gina Grosz (Florida)

Jim serves under Youth for Christ and ministers to high school young people. His monthly reports always introduce us to students who have accepted Christ into their hearts.



Just Do It!

(Accept the challenge)

The Caring Commission is challenging EVERYONE to make plans with someone from our church family during the month of January.

Meet someone for coffee or dessert, go for a walk, invite someone over for dinner, make a snowman - be creative! 😊

**You KNOW you've been meaning to do it...
Make the call today!**