



First Free News

First Evangelical Free Church, 5150 Chicago Avenue South,
Minneapolis, MN 55417, (612) 827-4705

[Visit our Web Site](http://www.firstfreechurch.org)

www.firstfreechurch.org

Be Careful Not to Walk on By

Written by Pastor Joel Sutton

Who are the people God wants to use you to reach for Him?

Think about them for a moment. Who are they? Where do you meet them? Do you know who they are?

They may live next door, in your building, or down the street. They may have children in the same school or classroom as your children. They may be coworkers who you share stories with on Monday mornings. They may be the ones who pour your coffee or serve your table at the restaurant you always frequent. They may be relatives or even live in the same house you do.

Be careful not to walk by them.

Jesus once told a story that involved some who passed on by. It involved a man who was beaten up and left

to die on the side of the road. And the question Jesus asks is, "Who is going to stop and help?" Not a priest. Not a Levite. They walked on by.

The one who stopped was the least likely. The one who noticed and helped was the ungodly person. The Samaritan was careful to not walk on by. (Luke 10:25-37)

Jesus point? Open your eyes. Recognize those God has brought into your lives. They are the ones with whom you can serve, help, and share Christ's love. *Be careful not to walk on by.*

One of the problems we sometimes have in the church and as believers is that our world of non-Christian relationships tends to shrink. The longer you and I are believers the more we tend to surround ourselves with those who have

the same interests, values and beliefs we do. The problem is not that we don't care about outreach or evangelism. We just don't have relationships with non-Christians.

Our newsletter this month focuses on Outreach. Evangelism is one of our stated purposes as a church and as Christ-followers. The weekend of February 15-16th we will be exposed to what God is doing world wide as He builds His church.

Yet I don't want us to miss the mission field God has for each of us around the corner or in the cubicle across from ours. The world is full of hurting, desperate people who need to know Christ.

The solution: Open your eyes. Pray for your mission field. *And be careful not to walk on by.*



Pastoral Staff

- Joel Sutton
Senior Pastor
joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org
- Eric Twietmeyer
Worship & Student Ministry
eric@firstfreechurch.org
- Bob Chapman
Visitation Pastor
bobandlois@EFCM.net
- Russ Anteronen
Liaison to the Community
russ-mail2@juno.com

Office Staff

- Cindy Sawyer
Office Administrator
cindy.sawyer@firstfreechurch.org
- Donna Larson
Office Assistant
donna.larson@firstfreechurch.org

Worship Staff

- Deborah Smith
Pianist
deborah.smith@interalia.com
- Barb Olson
Organist

Custodial Staff

- Scott Beckett
Custodian
scott.beckett@firstfreechurch.org

~ February Sermons ~

The Ups & Downs of the Christian Life—Pastor Joel Sutton

| | | |
|------------|---------------------|------------------|
| February 2 | How to Win! | Judges 6:33-7:25 |
| February 9 | The Test of Success | Judges 8 |

Outreach Sunday—Mark Bowman

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| February 16 | Have You Ever Heard of Coca Cola? | Romans 10:6-15 |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|

The Return to Ephesians—Pastor Joel Sutton

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| February 23 | Two Good Mysteries | Ephesians 3:1-13 |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------|



A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. — Proverbs 22:9

What is the best thing to do in the middle of the winter in Minnesota? **Embrace the cold, don't run from it.** That's been the trend in youth ministry at First Free for more than a decade!

This past weekend 6 adults and 14 students made their way to The Wilderness Fellowship in Wisconsin for a spiritual growth retreat. There we spent a lot of time together, living in a log cabin without electricity or running water. We were more than up for it. While on the retreat, we learned to KISS. Before you start wondering about the youth pastor and the fall of the youthful morals, know that it stands for something--not the typical lip action. You can ask any youth around First Free, they should be able to tell you!

One of the S's stands for Serve. On February 21-22, we will participate in the national 30 hour famine where we will go without food for 30 hours. We will do some form of service project as well as hang out together. The program involves raising money for underdeveloped countries, as well as helping us to experience the needs of those countries.

You can help us in one of two ways for this event:

- 1) Pray for us to capture God's heart for the downtrodden and needy.
- 2) Sponsor a student in his starving efforts by giving money that will go to World Vision and help feed starving kids.

We're looking forward to this experience where we learn to give of ourselves in order to love others we haven't even met yet! We hope you'll join us in this venture!

Eric Twietmeyer, Youth Pastor

Outreach Weekend

Mission's Weekend February 15 & 16

- ◆ The focus of this weekend will be on 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.
K-6 Prayer Time 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.

PARTICIPATING MISSIONARIES (Breakfast & Sunday School)

- ⇒ RACHEL BLISS, *Compassion Ministries*
- ⇒ MARK & ATHLEE BOWMAN, *EFCM Japan*
- ⇒ GLENN & APRYL HULTSTRAND, *Honduras*
- ⇒ JON & LYN PRINS, *EFCM Japan*
- ⇒ DAVE BOELTL, *Okontoe Sports Ministries*
Prayer & Hospitality: Barb & Guy Hugo
- ⇒ DOUG & CHERYL CONRAD, *EFCM Japan*
- ⇒ TIM DAHLIN, *EFCA Missions Consultant*

Who Are We? (Missionaries & Organizations)



Dave Boeltl

OKONTOE SPORTS MINISTRIES

Dave Boeltl is Director of Okontoe Sports Ministries. He lives in St. Paul and worships at Woodland Hills Church. The hockey ministry was begun in 1980. Dave is a retired postal worker. He has a deep concern and love for the Native American people.

He has worked in many Native American communities in northern Ontario. For part of his ministry he has a band, *The Rotators*, that travels with him on the big trips.

Dave has a married son and two grandchildren.

Heart Beat of the Street

John and Wendy Gerhardt

URBAN IMPACT MINISTRIES

The Gerhardts are serving in an inner city situation in the city of New Orleans, LA. As of Jan 1, 2003, John is the Director of Urban Impact Ministries as well as pastor of the Castle Rock Church.

In the 1980's John served as Youth Pastor at First Ev. Free Church in Minneapolis for about 3 years. John and Wendy were married in 1985, and began attending First Free in 1986.

URBAN IMPACT MINISTRIES

(Continued)

John & Wendy began to work with Urban Impact Ministries in New Orleans in 1992.

They have four children, ages 13, 9, 5, and 2. Wendy home schools the three older children.

John & Wendy's
Prayer Needs are:

- More space for the growing Castle Rock Church. Last Sunday they had 116 people at their service.
- God's direction in balancing their work loads
- The Holy Spirit's direction as they help new believers to grow in faith and character.

Sheldon and Sigrid Tornquist

CAMP OF THE MASTER

During June and July each summer Sheldon and Sigrid are busy at the Camp of the Master, located near Ottertail, MN. They have a deep desire to win children and young people for the Lord.

Prayer requests include:

- The safety of the children at camp.
- Their spiritual growth.

The rest of the year Sheldon can be found working in his Real Estate business and managing apartment buildings. Sigrid is an Education Assistant at Michael Dowling School for Handicapped Children.

Andy and Lorna Gilbert

EFCM—JAPAN

Andy and Lorna had been missionaries to Japan before they were asked to serve in the Home Office.

After a few years at home they decided that they should return to Japan, which they did in the fall of 2002. They are now located in the city of Maebaru, Japan, where they are part of a team to plant churches in that district. Their co-workers are Bob and Joan Verme and Duane Dietze.

Their first task is to develop relationships which will develop into opportunities to share the gospel. As is customary for new residents, they have been visiting their neighbors, and have invited the ladies to their home for tea. The ladies came at 2 and left at 5:30. The Gilberts have joined a Sports Club to develop more relationships.

Before Christmas they conducted a wreath making class. A Bible Study was scheduled to begin in January of 2003.

Prayer requests include:

- Development of these relationships that they may have good spiritual results.
- Diligence in their Japanese language studies and continuing improvement in the language.

Prayer is powerful. The devil smiles when we make plans.
He laughs when we get too busy. **But he trembles when we pray—
especially when we pray together.** (Corrie ten Boom)

CONCERT of PRAYER

Let's take the time to pray
as a Congregation

COME for PRAYER & THANKSGIVING

Sunday Evening, February 9th

6:00 PM

Meet in the Fidelis Room

(Child care will be provided.)