

# First Word June-July 2003

Have I told you about Tom and Betty?

Tom and Betty were two of the most unlikely Jr. High volunteer workers I had ever met. They were old (anybody over 50 was old when I was 27). They were not “cool”. They could not teach, nor lead any games, nor really hold a Jr. Higher’s attention. The problem was they were the Jr. High leaders when I arrived on the scene in my first ministry in California. I remember thinking, “Wow, does this Jr. High program need new volunteers.”

But I soon learned differently! Tom and Betty may not have had the entire up-to-date “lingo” down, but they loved Jr. High students, and they understood a couple of the key pillars of lay ministry.

**First, every believer is a minister.** Ephesians 4 tells us that each believer in the church is to be prepared “for the works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up . . .” and that “From him (Christ) the whole body (the church), joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” As a Christian you are a minister and when you are ministering you are serving. If Christians are not involved in ministry, then they are a contradiction. Tom and Betty understood they were ministers – no matter how “cool”.

**Second, every ministry is important.** The apostle Paul told this to the believers in the church of Corinth. “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.” Tom and Betty also understood this Biblical principle. Their ministry with the Jr. High students was as important as anyone else’s. And they went about it with a “we are doing a very important ministry” attitude.

After I was at that church for a couple of months, my perspective changed about Tom and Betty. I saw their love of the kids. I saw their commitment to ministry. I saw their commitment to serve God by serving in the church. And the church was better for it!

In this edition of First Word (June and July 03), we are focusing on various ministries in the church. Take some time to read about those ministries and those who are serving. And then coming up on September 6<sup>th</sup> will be a couple of ministry training workshops we are hosting here at First Free that I would especially like you to pray for and plan on attending.

All of us are ministers. And every ministry is important. So, where are you serving?

<u>Pastoral Staff</u>	<u>Office Staff</u>	<u>Worship Staff</u>	<u>Custodial Staff</u>
Joel Sutton Senior Pastor <a href="mailto:joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org">joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org</a>	Cindy Sawyer Office Administrator <a href="mailto:cindy.sawyer@firstfreechurch.org">cindy.sawyer@firstfreechurch.org</a>	Krista Joy Luedtke Choir Director <a href="mailto:KJoyL@juno.com">KJoyL@juno.com</a>	Scott Beckett Custodian <a href="mailto:scott.beckett@firstfreechurch.org">scott.beckett@firstfreechurch.org</a>
Eric Twietmeyer Worship & Student Ministry <a href="mailto:eric@firstfreechurch.org">eric@firstfreechurch.org</a>	Stacy Olson Administrative Assistant <a href="mailto:stacy.olson@firstfreechurch.org">stacy.olson@firstfreechurch.org</a>	Barb Olson Organist	
Bob Chapman Visitation Pastor <a href="mailto:bobandlois@EFCM.net">bobandlois@EFCM.net</a>		Deborah Smith Pianist <a href="mailto:deborah.smith@interalia.com">deborah.smith@interalia.com</a>	
Russ Anteronen Liaison to the Community <a href="mailto:russ-mail2@juno.com">russ-mail2@juno.com</a>			

<u>Psummer Pseries of Psalms:</u>		
6-1-03	Psummer Pseries of Psalms	pastor Joel Sutton
6-8-03	Psalm 8	7-20-03 Psalm 32
6-15-03	Father's Day Psalm 11	9-7-03-Rally Day
6-22-03	Pastor Eric T. Psalm 46	7-27-03 Psalm 23
6-29-03	Psalm 51	8-3-03 (Guest Speaker)
7-6-03	Psalm 67	8-10-03 (Guest Speaker)
7-13-03	Psalm 14	8-17-03 Psalm 87
		8-24-03 Psalm 68
		8-31-03 Psalm 90

## FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE PURPOSE STATEMENT

We exist to:

**BRING** people into a relationship with Jesus,  
**CONNECT** them to God's family,  
**MATURE** them in their faith ,  
**EQUIP** them for ministry so that God's name will be **EXALTED**.

The heart of the Dominican team: We will serve in anyway we can, but it will not be on our own agenda!

EQUIP

SERVE

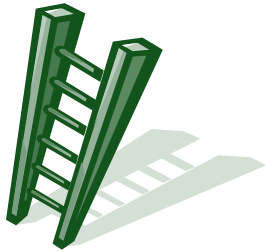
John Symington,  
How have you seen  
God Equip your  
team for the  
Dominican  
Republic so far?

I can see it in the make up of our team. We're seeing new people, veterans who have gone to the Dominican Republic, along with 1st timers. We're going to receive training by example.

I am so excited...just recently we have had people join our team who are skilled in music and the Spanish language!

Vanessa Beckett,  
How are you preparing  
to serve the kid's needs  
emotionally & spiritually.

We are praying for the time spent with the children. They've already heard the gospel message, so we are planning activities and lessons that the kids may not have experienced before. We really want to make it fun for them.



First Free has a mission group going to Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic from June 21 through June 28th. The persons involved are John, Unni, Deanna, and Krista Symington, Hong Gu, Susan and Eric Stabnow, Wayne and Julie Danielson, Scott and Vanessa, Matt Beckett, Craig and Katie Hucek, Christine Uphoff, Bob, Paulette and Jimmy Goodman, and Chris Hansen. The team will be constructing a building which will house 12 young orphans and two house parents. These 12, along with many more, are on a waiting list. Each evening we will provide a camp program for the kids. We are busy planning those activities now. You can be involved in this endeavor in several ways.

1. Pray that Hong Gu will be able to obtain a visa in time to go. Pray for the safety and health of the team. Pray for the persons with whom we will be sharing Christ's love there.

2. You can give. thanks to you who have already helped support some members of the team. You can specify your giving for any one of the team members by making your checks out to the church and putting them into the regular offering.

SHARE

DEFEND

Scott Beckett,  
You will be equipping people to share their testimonies authentically. What kind of needs in this area exists in your team?

I believe we need to allow God to work in and through us. We need to be willing to take opportunities God may be giving to us. We need to actively use those opportunities!

John S.,  
In Ephesians 6, God describes the external armor that we need to wear in order to defend ourselves from the evil one. How will you equip your team to use this spiritual armor as you prepare to leave?

Helmet of Salvation:

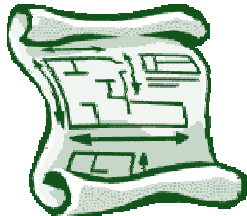
We wear the helmet of salvation by sharing our testimonies.

Sword of The Spirit:

Daily devotions is our way of using our sword.

Gospel of Peace: Willingness to go.

Breastplate of Righteousness: Leaders are meeting



You can donate. We would like to take with us things for the children. Suggestions are children's clothing (new or gently used, sizes 4-14), school supplies, sports equipment (balls, jump ropes, roller blades), craft supplies, puzzles, Spanish children's books, games, personal hygiene items, gifts for children (toys, watches, jewelry), gifts for teachers and house parents, fun stuff like candy, wrapping supplies, etc., lastly money to purchase these things. Beginning June 1st, we will have a place in the foyer to collect your items. We will also have a photo report after the trip

Congratulations ~ Graduates!

**Sarah Easterwood** graduated from Richfield High school and will be holding a celebration @ her home on 7121 Morgan Ave S. on June 8th from 2-5 pm

**Becky Sutton** has graduated from Hamline University with a masters in ESL.

**Laura Snyder** graduated from Augsburg College...go Laura!

**Brian Mondy** graduated with honors from Bethel College with a degree in philosophy.

**Stacy Olson** graduated from the College of Visual Arts with a BFA and emphasis in illustration.



## T reasures of T he Nile V acation B ible S chool

C ome join us on a caravan as we search for an ancient treasure. We'll journey through the B ible and discover that J esus is the greatest treasure of all. J ust like last year, we will have a week full of fun games, crafts, snacks, songs and lessons that will make V B S the best week of your summer!

W hen:

J uly 28-A ugust 1

9:30-am-12:00 pm

W ho can come:

C hildren from ages

5-6th grade

Registration forms will be available very soon

## Impact the world Get a *PASSION* for ministry

Fall training workshops  
Featuring Bill Allison of  
**Cadre Ministries**  
S e p t e m b e r 2 0 0 3



Everyday Commission 8:30-12:00

"Becoming a *High Impact* teacher  
1:00-4:30"

Registration info:

(Before August 22)	\$5.00
(Whole day)	\$10.00
(After August 22)	\$10.00
(Whole day)	\$20.00

Prices include training materials, snacks and lunch.

To register contact the church office @  
(612) 827-4705