



This past year we have been studying and talking about God's five purposes for us as a church. Our church's purpose statement reflects those purposes: *We exist to Bring people into a relationship with Jesus, Connect them to God's family, Mature them in their faith, and Equip them for ministry so that God's name will be Exalted.*

When you look at the five purposes do you see a progression? Do you see the sequential process? Bring them in... Build them up... Train them for... and Send them out! All for the glory of God!

Jesus Christ gave his life mission in a single progressive statement in Matthew 28. He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." The results of using His process, is that we will make His disciples.

Do you know when Jesus was "full of joy"? Luke tells us it was when the 72 disciples had returned from being sent out (Luke 10:21). They had been fully trained. They had started living the process. "Bring them in... Build them up... Train them for... and Send them out!"

Do you want to bring Jesus joy? Live out the 5 purposes. Make the 5 purposes personal.

Here are a few ideas on how to do that:

Make relationships with non-Christians a priority in your life. It is sad, but many times I talk to believers, long-time believers, who have very few significant non-Christian relationships. How can we be about Christ's priority of winning people to Christ, when we don't know any non-Christians?

Continually participate in those activities that will help you grow roots in your faith. Find an Adult Bible Fellowship and meet together with them. Put yourself in places that will encourage your faith.

Find a ministry in the church. Serve others. When you see one of your friends come to know Christ, help them grow, and teach them how to reach their peers.

On Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a full day of training. The training is called "The Everyday Commission" and will be lead by Bill Allison. At this event you will be equipped to understand and apply God's mission for your life. Mark it down! Prioritize it! Register for it!

Joel Sutton  
Senior Pastor  
[joelsutton@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:joelsutton@firstfreechurch.org)

Eric Twietmeyer  
Worship & Student Ministry  
[eric@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:eric@firstfreechurch.org)

Bob Chapman  
Visitation Pastor  
[bobandlois@EFCM.net](mailto:bobandlois@EFCM.net)

Russ Anteronen  
Liaison to the Community  
[russ-mail2@juno.com](mailto:russ-mail2@juno.com)

Cindy Sawyer  
Office Administrator  
[cindy.sawyer@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:cindy.sawyer@firstfreechurch.org)

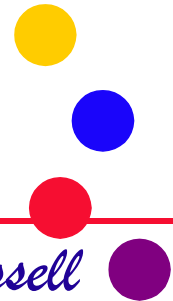
Stacy Olson  
Administrative Assistant  
[stacy.olson@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:stacy.olson@firstfreechurch.org)

Krista Jby Luedtke  
Choir Director  
[KJoyL@juno.com](mailto:KJoyL@juno.com)

Barb Olson  
Organist

Deborah Smith  
pianist  
[deborah.smith@nteralia.com](mailto:deborah.smith@nteralia.com)

Scott Beckett  
Custodian  
[scottbeckett@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:scottbeckett@firstfreechurch.org)



## RALLY DAY SEPT 7TH *Featuring Don Brussell*

Former circus performer

### SERMON SERIES *pastor Joel Sutton*

- 8-3-03 1 Cor 11:17-34 (John Easterwood) 8-24-03 Psalm 90
- 8-10-03 Ephesians (John Easterwood) 8-31-03 Psalm 130
- 8-17-03 Psalm 68 9-7-03 Rally Sunday  
Baptism at Lake Nokomis

### 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.

# Bob Gu Catching God's Vision

One individual allows God to use all of the elements of our vision to work as a whole in his life.

Just see what Bob has to say!



I did not know Jesus Christ until I came to U.S. to get my master's in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota in 1998. Glenn Kenadjian found a host family. It was the Symingtons who introduced me to Christ in a unique and intriguing way.

I did not expect to keep in contact, but they kept visiting. They drove me to their house to spend weekends with them. One night when John dropped us home after another fun weekend, I remember, he added to his goodbye: "I love you guys." I was astonished and unresponsive for a moment.

We talked about everything except God or the Bible due to tensions between Christians and Atheists. When they first invited me to church, I refused. They didn't push me to go, but continued inviting me to their house each weekend. As the Symingtons kept showing unrestricted love to neighbors, coworkers, and strangers, I wondered why they stopped talking about God. I was not seeing human love, but rather a love from the heavenly father.

Since then, I wanted to discover what God is like and how He molds people like John. Eventually, I heard about Seekers class and could not resist going to church anymore. People's kindness at First Free, much like the Symington's, helped me to not feel reluctant to go back after my first visit. In class, we shared about how each one got to know God at the beginning. Yet, I did not have the experience of hearing about God when I was in China. To me, God sounded like a far-away concept. I gradually learned more, but was reluctant to accept the answers as true. Rather, I took them as a fairly established theory from a bystander's point of view. I also struggled with people believing something after they hear too much about it, after they think too much about it, or after they live too much with it. As an engineer student, I tried my best to study about God without getting emotionally involved.

God didn't give up on me. In 2000, I graduated from the University of Minnesota and planned to study at Purdue University, Indiana. People wondered where I was spiritually. Among them were Joy and her husband Bruce, who invited me to their home several times to talk. My roommate warned me of getting too close to Christians. I knew this, but was confident that I could prevent myself from taking the step. How could I know that nothing can be stopped once the Holy Spirit comes! The night before I left, I had my last talk with the Flemings. During this time, my heart softened. I prayed with them to accept Jesus Christ as my savior. My eyes filled with tears.

John already knew about my decision from the Flemings, when I met Him at a restaurant, but he didn't say anything. He just patted me gently on the shoulder. I felt it was a pat from a father in heaven to welcome his lost son back.

Purdue was tough academically and spiritually. Joy introduced to me Chinese Christians there. I went to their Bible study each week, but as an advanced group, they were focusing on how to be a good Christian instead of why be a Christian. I was confused and unwilling to ask the new people for help. Bruce and Joy visited me at Purdue and left scripture cards for me to memorize. Next Thanksgiving break, I returned to Minnesota and Joy checked my scripture memorizing. The pressure was on. I disliked memorizing verses, praying before meals, or reading the Bible daily. All of it made me feel metaphysical. I felt after accepting Christ, I lost God's love and gained restrictions instead. Things worsened. I used to be able to set up a plan for myself and carry it out without compromise, but I couldn't accomplish anything.

One night, I made an oath to God. He listened, and gave me patience and persistence in prayer. My own effort is not enough, but praying to God each night convinces me of His faithfulness and reconnects me to Him. In the process, I've learned to long for God. I am inspired by a friend to view my relationship to God as a personal and intimate one.

## Workshop 1

### *Everyday Commission* 8:30-12:00

Registration Info:

Half day-\$10.00 (Before Aug 22) \$15.00 (After Aug 22)

Full day -\$20.00 \$30.00

Prices include training materials, snacks and lunch for the full day.

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

*Learn:*

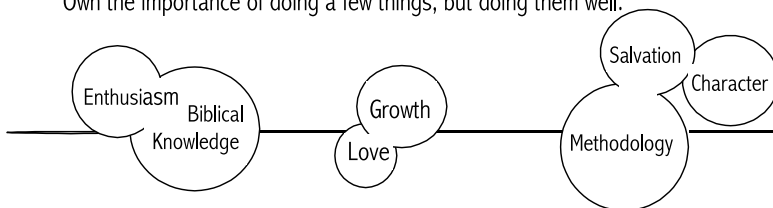
1. Our divine purpose  
Discover three priorities Jesus balanced to live out the Everyday Commission. Evaluate your personal balance as you adjust to God's purpose for your life.
2. Our desired end-product  
Identify a fully-trained disciple-reflecting the character & priorities of Christ.
3. The disciple making process  
Discuss the three priorities of a fully-trained disciple. Evaluate your place in the disciple making process-defining your next step
4. Disciple making activities  
Learn how to maximize the everyday activities in your life for disciple making. Own the importance of doing a few things, but doing them well.

## Workshop 2

"Becoming a **High Impact** teacher" 1:00-4:30  
(Before August 22) \$5.00  
(After August 22) \$10.00



This workshop is for **ANYONE** who is serving in **ANY** teaching capacity in the church and would like to be **encouraged, equipped** and **energized** to function more effectively as a teacher.



W O R K S H O P F O C U S

### Church Family

Thank you for your generous contributions to the benevolent fund. Because of your generosity, many people have been blessed by this vital ministry.

*The Caring Commission*

In 2002, I was about to get my master's in Computer Science at Purdue. I debated working toward a PhD or leaving for a job. When an interview with Microsoft did not work out, I lost my confidence again. But God provided a job, which allowed me to return to Minnesota. I joined a group that read the Bible through a year, which was led by Bob Chapman. For a long time, I tried reading the Bible through but failed. Now I read God's word after work instead of wandering the internet. I attend classes as long as I am available; another plan that I carry out regularly besides my daily prayer.

I learned about God's sovereignty, which gives me perspective about being humble and submissive. In my prayer, I search for God's will above my own. At this time the Seekers class wanted an international leader to make it more approachable to its international attendees, God blessed me with the position and I accepted.

When I look back on my path in life, I realize God put His hands on me far before I knew Him. It is He who drew me to himself in a unique and perfect way. I have no doubt that my walking with Him is better than walking by myself. For He is the loving God who has a perfect plan for every one of us. I want my path with Him to never end.

Let's continue to keep Bob in our prayers. He will be baptized at Lake Nokomis on August 17.

*Prayer Emphasis* — Start off the school year right with prayer.

Our prayer week from the 7th—the 14th will include two sermons focused on prayer and a concert of prayer. Join us Wed night the 10th from 7 pm-8:30 pm

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