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# First Word

First Free's monthly publication

## Finding Your Place In Ministry

Pillar #1: Every believer is a minister.

Pillar #2: Every ministry is important.

Last June and July, in this very same newsletter, I highlighted these two key pillars! They are foundational. They affect the way we do ministry at First Free. This month I needed to highlight the last two pillars.

Pillar #3: We are dependent on each other.

Not only is every believer a minister and every ministry important, but every ministry is intertwined with all the others. No single ministry can accomplish all the church is called to do. Like a jigsaw puzzle, each piece is required to complete the picture. You always notice the missing piece first.

After an accident in which she lost her arm, a girl named Jamie refused to go to school or church for an entire year. Finally the young teen thought she could face her peers. In preparation, her mother called her Sunday school teacher and asked that he not call attention to Jamie. The teacher promised, but when he got sick on Sunday and had to call a substitute, he forgot to tell the second teacher.

At the conclusion of the lesson that day, which was about inviting friends to church, the sub led the class in doing hand motions to the familiar children's poem about working together.

Here's the church  
Here are the people  
Open the door  
See all the people

Jamie's eyes filled with tears. A 13-year-old boy realized how she must have been feeling. He knelt down beside her. With one hand apiece, they supported each other, making the church, steeple and people.

Together they illustrated what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:21, "The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" We need each other, and we need to work together.

Pillar #4: Ministry is the expression of my SHAPE.

SHAPE is an acronym, which stands for 5 elements that determine a person's ministry: Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. Each of us are uniquely designed by God to do certain things. You are unique, wonderfully complex, a composite of many factors. Therefore it is important that we each discover our SHAPE so that we do the things that God designed us to do.

How has God designed you for ministry? What is your SHAPE? We will be having Class 301: Discovering Your SHAPE on a Sunday night, January 25<sup>th</sup>. This is the place to begin evaluating and finding how God has designed you for ministry.

In this edition of First Word, we are highlighting a couple of different ministries and the stories of some of those involved in using their SHAPE to serve. Enjoy reading about some of our ministers at First Free!

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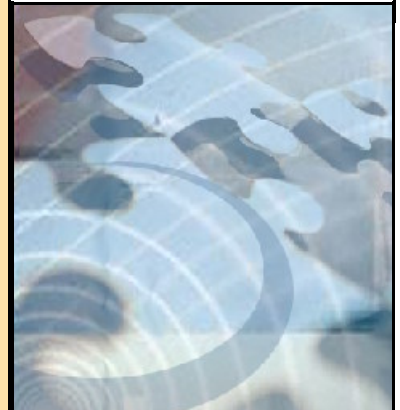
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### SERMON SERIES *pastor Joel Sutton*

11-2-03 Got Purpose: To Mature

11-9-03 Got Purpose: To Equip

11-16-03 Got Purpose: To Bring

11-23-03 Got Purpose: Celebration

11-30-03 Advent: Names of Christ *Wonderful Counselor*

### 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.

## *Tapping Into God's Potential*

**B**e encouraged when God pushes you to tap into an area of ministry that He has planned for you all along. Russ Anteronen, a member of our church, is exploring the shape of his ministry, while seeing God intervene in the lives of those around him.

***"I have always enjoyed sports, games and being active, so I try to plug in where that passion can be utilized. At King's Academy, I was made aware of a need in the PE area. I let them know I could try to help fill that need."***

Awareness is essential, especially when it involves other people's lives, and most likely, connections will be made along the way. Sometimes you are given a chance to connect deeply and intimately. Other times it is a practical need to provide. That practical need becomes a vehicle for developing significant friendships too. Those actions should not be overlooked because they are accumulative!

***I built some good relationships with people at Hale school when I helped there. Some of the youth I met at Hale now play on the McCrae basketball team that practices in our gym. One of those kids also ran on the summer track team at Hospitality House that I help coach. One of the coaches on the track team has children at King's so there are some interconnections as well. Our head coach who is a full-time pastor in north MPLS, had a need of more reliable transportation, and GAVE me their 91 Volvo! He said he knew the vehicle would be used to transport children to various activities. I also presently have a pretty consistent connection with Jerry Coffman at the Children's Gospel Mission. They constantly need more people to help them with inner-city children.***

In all of this there are the difficult parts of finding your place in ministry, but those times are some of the most important character building experiences, and are needed in order for any ministry to be effective. I noticed in the area of emotional endurance, God is strengthening Russ. As a result, improving those connections with the people that Russ reaches out to.

***I'm being forced to develop more patience and to not be so judgmental of those who struggle with destructive lifestyles.***

It is not easy to see a person continuously fall back in a destructive mode. It can be frustrating. However God continues to bring people into Russ's path. The influence that God has on those around us is activated when we take initiative to serve. We may never know how one person's life can be transformed, but we can be persistent in letting God use us!

***I personally visited a lady with a daughter who had special needs. They were dealing with a temporary rent problem and were close to eviction. The church prayed for them, and we teamed up with Mary Jo Copeland financially to pay some rent. They were not evicted and she later called to tell the church "Thank You" for praying, as her situation had changed miraculously for the better. I have not heard further from them.***



***"My general ministry philosophy is that children have such a tremendous potential. I like to try to help them develop some of it along with letting them know about the source of all potential... GOD!"***

# Did You Know...?

Check out these ministries and see where God could place you in serving Him! Be challenged and experience God's power at work!

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for man. Colossians 3:23*

## White Cross



Imagine cutting enough fabric squares to cover the whole United States! White Cross teams across the nation have produced above and beyond! Take a peek down in the gym on Tuesday mornings, and you will find a group of vivacious ladies sewing, and assembling a plethora of items ranging from bandages to quilts and outfits for young children. They provide for thousands of missionaries. White Cross Ministries is raising money for an International Ministry Center in IL. Supplies will be organized and shipped for effective outreach at this facility.

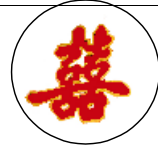
## Door to Door Local Outreach



You may pass by these houses everyday, but 2 members of our church, Harold Anderson and Aaron Buddensiek are actually stopping by to knock on each door in our neighborhood and to plant seeds. They pass out flyers and information about the events going on in our church including the Got Purpose event. Harold and Aaron also hand out pamphlets along with the four spiritual laws.

## Seekers

### International Outreach



We have a CLONE! Not quite, but this year Seekers split into 2 groups. Class 1 is geared toward reaching newcomers. Class 2 focuses on further growth in Christ.

Sam Song, a faithful member, has a vision to establish a University in China. Currently a high school, has been approved for Sam to transform into a Christian University. Talk to him during the potluck downstairs in the gym every Sunday after service. He'll show you pictures, and you can hear how God is moving in mighty ways because of this man's obedience.

"Most people are not comfortable going out door to door. God has provided a great partner for me. Aaron, who works for the postal division is very outgoing and great with people. We make a good team!" It was encouraging to hear these words coming from Harold! It is exciting to witness the evidence of God taking the strength of a person and their background to build a unique little ministry. Just last week, both of these guys met with a Catholic woman who is very hungry for the word. They had a great conversation with her. Protect Harold and Aaron with your prayers!

## Refugee Relief



Teaming up with World Relief, Paulette and Bob Goodman open their hearts to help refugees find temporary housing. Until these refugees are ready to stand on their own, love and assistance is provided, even giving rides to and from clinics and providing furniture. Now in transition, after helping Yolanda and her baby from Toga for a year, Paulette and Bob prepare for the next refugee. You can help as well. Many volunteers have come along side them to show the love of Christ in a complicated situation. Yolanda's prayer has also been answered. During her escape to America, her husband was also able to make it out alive. God also provided a friend, an attorney to help Yolanda even more!

## Internet Prayer Forums



Is there such a thing as an electronic based ministry? One such ministry exists within our local body. Look closely, and you'll see discussion forums on our site. There are hurting people who find our forums, and members of our church available just to communicate with them and post prayers for them. Praise God! If you are willing, it would be great to start a prayer chain for these people! You can also share your own requests too!

## Shut in Outreach



Who knew that just by bringing three hymnals, your voice, prayers and your encouragement to a hospital, that those too sick to attend church could still worship with members of the church right where they are, even when they are physically debilitated. One former choir member of our church, struggled with the last stages of Alzheimer's disease. She couldn't function, but was touched and visibly relaxed as Bob and Lois sang to her. A smile spread across her face. Bob, mentioned that even those too weak to sing, still want to sing! Join in on loving our members who are not able to be with us physically in church.

## Kitchen Ministries



It is all behind the scenes with the coordinated list of people who help out each Sunday to organize our connection time after the service and for special events. This group makes sure the church kitchen supplies are stocked and that coffee and donuts are provided. These people serve in the background, but have a great influence on the social components of our church.

## Thanksgiving Donations



God has been so good to us...lets do the same for those in our city. In the coming weeks, you'll have a chance to give right back to your community. We will be supporting the work of Manna life line again. However, we are going to accomplish this in 2 different ways.

1. You will find grocery bags in the foyer on Nov 9th and Nov 16th. Fill these bags with non-perishable food and return them to the church no later than Nov 26th.
2. You can also make checks out to First Free Church and signify on the offering envelope that you want the money to go to Manna Life Line. This money will go towards Thanksgiving meals for families who need assistance during the Thanksgiving season.