

FEB

2004



First Word

First Free's monthly publication

Outreach

Have you noticed lately that our world is asking spiritual questions?

Over the past couple of years, J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy "The Lord of the Rings," with its spiritual insights, has become a movie blockbuster. Each of these films has been more popular than the one preceding it. One of the major themes portrayed has been the existence of evil and the search for a spiritual understanding of the world in which we live.

Spiritually the world we live in is confused. Our neighbors, co-workers, and friends who do not know Christ are looking for an answer. Now this month comes another movie, which is sure to be a blockbuster and have a powerful impact on our world. Mel Gibson, the famous movie actor from Australia, has produced a film that depicts Jesus' last 12 hours. It is called "The Passion of the Christ".

Listen to what a couple of people who have seen the movie say about it:

"After watching 'The Passion of the Christ', I feel as if I have actually been there. I was moved to tears. I doubt if there will ever be a more graphic and moving presentation of Jesus' death and resurrection." **Billy Graham**

"Mel Gibson captures with explosive poignancy the final excruciating hours of Jesus' life. This movie will forever change your view of God Himself, and what He did for us all on that dark day in history as He endured an ignominious trial and hung on the cross."

The late Dr. Bill Bright

Why do I share this with you? Because the world will get to know Christ on the screen. And as has already been seen, new controversies will be sparked along with it, and also new opportunities!

As Christ followers we will not only have the chance to be moved by this visual depiction of Christ's walk to the cross, but we will also get the opportunity to engage our friends in spiritual conversations about the person of Christ and why he did what he did for us.

I Peter 3:15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." This movie, which will be coming out February 25 and will be shown in all major theaters, will provide us another opportunity to give the answer to the reason Christ is our Lord.

And then in March, we will begin a sermon series called, "The Passion – A Walk to the Cross." During that series, we will be looking at what the Bible tells us about Christ's life – from the Last Supper to the Cross to His Resurrection.

Will you join me in prayer - that God will use us during this season of spiritual questions to share His truth about His salvation with boldness and wisdom?

This month in "First Word" we are focusing on the purpose of evangelism. You will read stories about people who are sharing Christ here in the Twin Cities and around the world. As you read this volume – listen to what God might be saying to you about your involvement in reaching your world for Christ.

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SERMON SERIES: Taking God Seriously

pastor Joel Sutton

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|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 2-1-04 | The Faithfulness of God | Hosea 1-3 |
| 2-8-04 | Do You Know God? | Hosea 4: 6-6 |
| 2-15-04 | How Is Your Devotion To God? | Hosea 6: 7-11 |
| 2-22-04 | Outreach Weekend | (Tite Tiéno) |
| 2-29-04 | Are You Willing To Submit To God? | Hosea 11:12-14:9 |

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.



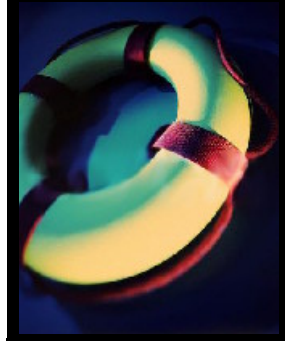
What inspired you in the last few years to help your community grow in Christ?

The deepest inspiration in my heart are the ones who are lost without Jesus. My deepest desire is to bring them to the Lord and to form the character of Christ in their lives, or better yet say, this is the call of Christ to my life, especially those who are immigrants that come to this great nation, including the lost in lonely. These people reach out to drugs and alcohol.

What has God been doing with the Twin Cities Hispanic community?

At this time, I'm the president of the Hispanic Pastors of Minnesota Association A.P.E.M, This position gives me the opportunity to observe the great need for a revival of God in the Twin Cities to be poured out. The Hispanic population keeps growing every day. There are about 70 Spanish congregations in the Twin Cities . I believe with all of my heart, that the Lord will be pouring a revival not only upon the Hispanic population, but upon the whole earth- especially upon His people.

There are practical needs within the churches, such as Sunday school supplies, evangelizing supplies, such as flyers, Bibles etc.



How have you seen the Hispanics help us as a congregation?

Instead of saying how we help you, I would like to tell you how together , as one body in Christ, we can help each other expand the kingdom of Christ. I believe that God put us together so we may bless you, since you have given us your love, and have shared the house that God has given you. All of this is not in vain. God will give back to you times hundred. With our amazing God, all our needs have been provided.

One more time, I want to say thank you, for all you have done for us, and I declare word of blessing and prosperity upon your congregation

What role can First Free play in helping the Hispanics grow and mature in Christ?

I believe, with all my heart, that the Lord is using you in a very special way. Allowing us make use of your facilities with our services and having the cost of the rent at such a low rate has been a blessing. It helps us as a church, since the financial part of the Hispanic churches is always a struggle with our small congregations. Right now we do not count on any external support, just the support of our brothers and sisters with their tithes and offerings. However, we cannot stop saying that God has been amazing in providing each week, Glory to God!

FIRST FREE OUTREACH SUNDAY

February 22, 2004

Morning Service



We are privileged to have Dr. Tite Tiénou as our special guest at the morning worship service. Dr. Tiénou is Senior Vice President of Education, TEDS Academic Dean, and professor of theology of mission at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. He has been at Trinity since 1997. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School is one of the organizations our church supports with our Outreach Fund offerings.

Dr. Tiénou earned the Doctor of Philosophy in intercultural studies and the Master of Arts in missiology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Before this he earned the Maitrise en Theologie at Faculte Libre de Theologie Evangelique in Vaux-sur-Seine, France, and the Bachelor of Science in theology at Nyack College in New York where he graduated cum laude.

Prior to coming to Trinity, Tiénou served as president and dean of the Faculte de Theologie Evangelique de l'Alliance in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire West Africa, and taught for nine years at Alliance Theological Seminary in Nyack, New York. He was the founding director and professor of the Maranatha Institute in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, in addition to being a pastor in the Central Alliance Church there. Dr. Tiénou's areas of expertise include missions, theology, and the church in Africa. He presently lives in the Chicago area with his wife, Marie, and their four children.

Adult Bible Fellowship Hour



From 11 am until 12 pm, all adult classes from 7th grade and older are invited to the sanctuary to hear a panel of missionaries discuss their work. We will hear from our own members as well as guests. The panel will include both full-time Christian workers and those who have participated in short-term mission trips. You will also have an opportunity to pray for our missionaries. Some of the participants on the panel include:

Katie Dudgeon-- Katie recently started attending First Free, and works at the Evangelical Free Church headquarters with the "Take Twelve" program. At First Free she is a member of the Local Outreach Task Force.

Mark Fleming-- Mark, a high school student, has always attended First Free, and has been an enthusiastic participant in all activities. Last summer he went on a mission trip with his Southwest Christian High School, and conducted a summer camp for orphans near St. Petersburg, Russia.

Bob Goodman & John Symington-- Bob and John have been members of First Free for many years and have taken numerous mission trips together. They have worked in at least three continents as well as in Minnesota. Just last summer they went to the Dominican Republic and to Ely, MN. They will be sharing a new opportunity they have been given which may be the most exciting yet!

Terri & Matt Miller-- Terri and Matt serve with the Evangelical Free Church of America-International Mission in Russia.


Sam Song-- Sam, a member of First Free now for two years, became a Christian while living in his home country of China. Sam is presently pursuing a PhD at the University of Minnesota. However, he regards this as just a step on the way to his goal of starting a Christian University in China. God has recently given him additional plans about how this can be achieved and he will be sharing these.

Al Tunberg-- Al and his wife Darlene were members of Central Free Church for many years, and also career missionaries. They now attend First Free, and recently Al has been assisting in teaching the Agape ABF class. Al now works at EFCA-IM headquarters as Director of Training, and will be sharing about his work (the role of the headquarters staff in our missions efforts).

Potluck Dinner



Following the ABF hour we will be having one of our famous First Free "all-you-can-eat" Potluck Dinners! You will be receiving more information in your Sunday bulletins in February so you will know whether you need to find your favorite hot dish or jello recipe. Our morning speaker and panel members will be joining us, which will provide us with an opportunity to speak with them personally. They will also have pictures and displays available for us to learn more about their work. (If you would like to do a "service project" of your own and help with setting up, serving, or clean-up crew for the dinner please contact Vi Fjellman at 952-929-8462 or Marie Mondy at 952-835-0845, email msmondy@hotmail.com.)

	<p>It is time for the Shamineau Annual meeting! Our church needs to send 5 delegates. The meeting is Sunday, February 29th, at 3:00 pm at the Maple Grove Evangelical Free Church. Call (612) 827-1863 for delegate registration information.</p> <p>If you are planning on attending camp this summer, registrations are due March 1, 2004. First Free will pay 50% of the cost to attend camp Shamineau, Camp Nathaniel, or Camp Cerith. See Sherie McClun for details.</p>
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Baby Showers Alert!

Sara Gallagher: Thur Feb 19 7 pm (Registered at Babie's r us & target)

Carrie Boyum: Sun Feb 29 3 pm (Registered at Babie's r us & target)

Vanessa Beckett: Sun March 7 3 pm (Registered at Target)

Head's up! _____

Herb Bloomquist, director of Camp Shamineau, will be speaking at Women's Guild on Feb 3rd @ 1:00 pm.

New Life Family Service's baby bottle fundraiser is a partnership. New Life exists to honor human life by assisting clients in life-affirming decisions with the love and compassion of Christ. When you fill the bottles with checks and currency, you are helping to provide free pregnancy testing, decision making, counseling, ultrasounds, support groups and maternity and baby clothing. By participating in this fun support raising effort, you will know you are making an eternal difference! Please return bottles by February 8th!

