

First Free Church
5150 Chicago Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55417

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Firstword

First Evangelical Free Church

A Church Family Publication

October 2009

“A WORLD-SIZED MISSION”

~Pastor Joel

“**The first thing I want you to do is pray.** Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live. He wants not only us but everyone saved, you know, everyone to get to know the truth we’ve learned: that there’s one God and only one, and one Priest-Mediator between God and us—Jesus, who offered himself in exchange for everyone held captive by sin, to set them all free.” (1Timothy 2:1-6; The Message, my italics)

Prayer is the one world-sized mission available to all Christians. Through it we can love any of the world’s unreached peoples, even at the ends of the earth. Our lives can begin counting right now for Christ’s global cause.

Don’t ever underestimate the mission of prayer. Prayer is action. There is nothing “lazy” about it. By prayer we step out in advance of all the other results we expect or hope to see. When you pray, you are not opting just for one of many “mission activities.” Rather, you have entered into the one mission upon which all others depend.

That is why Paul says, “The first thing I want you to do is pray.” It is through prayer that we see God win.

Brenda Salter McNeil told a story a few years back in “Christianity Today” about the power of prayer. She said, “I once met a brother from Ghana, West Africa, who was completing his PhD in the School of World Missions at Fuller Theological Seminary. During one of his trips home, he attempted to share the gospel with several people who lived in his community. Although they listened respectfully, no one turned to Jesus Christ. He later learned that they were intimidated by a witch doctor who lived nearby. The witch doctor kept a symbol of his authority hanging outside his home: a

Continued on pg. 2

• October 4 – Anniversary Celebration: Whose House Are We Building? – Revisited

“What Did Jesus Say About...”

- October 11 – What Did Jesus Say About...Love
- October 18 – Outreach Weekend – John Robb Speaking
- October 25 – What Did Jesus Say About...Forgiveness
- November 1 – What Did Jesus Say About...Responsibility
- November 8 – What Did Jesus Say About...Hypocrites
- November 15 – What Did Jesus Say About...Calamities
- November 22 – What Did Jesus Say About...Commitment

Outreach Weekend October 17 - 18, 2009

"Prayer: The Front Line of Missions" is our theme. Because "We wrestle not against flesh and blood," (Ephesians 6:12), the battle for souls is spiritual and the victory comes from God Himself. In prayer, we acknowledge our own inadequacy, claim the victory in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and by the grace of God actually participate in God's program of calling out a people for His name.



John and Lori Robb are with International Prayer Council. Lori (Erickson) grew up at First Free and with John, served in Malaysia for 7 years before becoming traveling ambassadors and prayer coordinators for World Vision for 23 years. John will be our keynote speaker.

Ernie Manges teaches pastors and Christian workers at a seminary in the Philippines.

Dave and Jan Harthan serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators, bringing the written Scriptures to tribal peoples around the world.

Bruce Fleming, having taught at a seminary in west and central Africa, is now engaged in training workers in "oral cultures."

Weekend Event Schedule on pg. 2

Alpha is a tool for evangelism. It is focused on answering questions about the Christian faith that non-Christians might have. Our hope is that our church members would invite their friends who are seeking spiritual answers to Alpha. At the same time all faith

You may have seen TV commercials or yard signs saying, "Is there more to life than this?" before. There is more to life and that's why we'd like to bring the Alpha Course to First Free in 2010. It is a huge undertaking, and we need lots of volunteers at all levels including: leaders, helpers, food service, and child care to make it work!

Who is Alpha for?

Alpha



Alpha - What's it all About?

- Laurie Asmus

If you missed our table at the Ministry Fair and would like to get involved or have more questions, please call Laurie Asmus at (612) 703-5242. We're looking for 6-10 people for a "core group" to do more brainstorming and planning. Please also visit alphausa.org for more general information.

How do I volunteer to help or sign up for the class?

Alpha is fellowship, food, and fun—no homework or pressure! There are ten weekly sessions, including a weekend retreat. Each weekly session begins with a meal, followed by a short video about different aspects of the Christian faith. After this, a time for discussion where everyone is welcome to give their opinion and ask questions.

What happens at Alpha?

Levels will be increased as we ask questions, re-discover more about the Holy Spirit, and learn practical ways to share our faith.

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
 is **EXALTED**

"A World-sized Mission" Continued from pg. 1

lattice basket, filled with water, that never leaked.

My friend decided to pray that God would empty the basket.

He stayed outside the home of the witch doctor and prayed all night that God would demonstrate his power. At some point he fell asleep. The next morning he was awakened by a commotion. The basket was empty. That town saw a mass revival as people learned about the God who caused the water to come out of the basket. There had been a power encounter—and God had won."

The greatest impact any of us can ever have on world missions is to saturate our missionaries with prayer.

How do you do that? The place to start is by picking one or two missionaries whom you want to get to know. Learn about them. Pick up one of their prayer newsletters in the foyer. Read about them off our website. Visit with them when they come to First Free. Adopt them as your missionary.

Then begin praying for them, maybe once a week at a designated time. Pray that God would be glorified in their lives and in their specific location. Pray that God might give them the right methods and message. Pray that Satan would be bound and that Christ's victory on the cross would be evident. Pray for their specific needs.

This month, on the weekend of October 17th and 18th, we will focus on the impact prayer has on missions. I hope you will plan on taking part . . . and asking God to release His work into every corner of the world. And remember Paul's instruction: "The first thing I want you to do is pray."

Schedule for Outreach Weekend

Saturday, October 17, 9:30-11:00 am
 Breakfast Panel

All the missionaries will participate, summarizing the place of prayer in their work and will answer questions. There will be an amazing Pancake Breakfast by Craig Hucek and his team of chefs. Childcare will be available upon request, and we would like to know if YOU are coming (sign-up sheets available soon).

Sunday, October 18

John Robb speaking at both services.

ABFs

9:30: Sojourners -- Bruce Fleming; Life -- Dave Harthan;
 Parents of Teens -- Ernie Manges

11:00: Makarios, Metamorphosis, Agape and Seniors -- Dave Harthan;
 Fleming and Manges elective classes

Children: Jan Harthan will speak to the 4-6th graders at 9:30
 and the K - 3rd graders at 11:00.

Adopt a Missionary Program: In order to facilitate closer contact and prayer support of missionaries, Adopt a Missionary will be launched. Watch for details.



Attention
 Moms who
 have children
 at Nokomis
 Community
 Schools (Wen-
 nah k-3 grade
 & Keewaydin 4-8 grade)! Come
 experience how you can replace
 your anxiety and fear with peace
 and hope by praying with other
 moms. Moms In Touch gathers
 in a private home. Moms come
 together to pray specifically and
 scripturally for our children and
 school. Won't you join with us in
 prayer for this next generation?
 Please contact Vanessa Beckett
 612-721-6885 or vanessabeckett@yahoo.com, for more infor-
 mation.

125TH ANNIVERSARY - FIRST FREE CHURCH

HIS FAITHFULNESS TO ALL GENERATIONS: FIRST GENERATION



Compared to the other people in this article, we are almost newcomers to First Free in that we have been attending here only 39 years! We moved to the Twin Cities from Illinois shortly after we were married. The only people we knew in Minnesota were Tom and Joy Harriger, a staff couple with Campus Crusade for Christ who attended First Free. Steve had never been to a Free Church, but one Sunday we visited with Tom and Joy and really liked it. However, it was a long drive for us since we were living in St. Paul. After a year of trying different churches, we decided it was worth the drive to attend First Free. Meanwhile, the Agape class for young couples had started. We were starving for Christian friends our age and it was a perfect fit! Once we started having children, and the gas prices escalated, we thought we

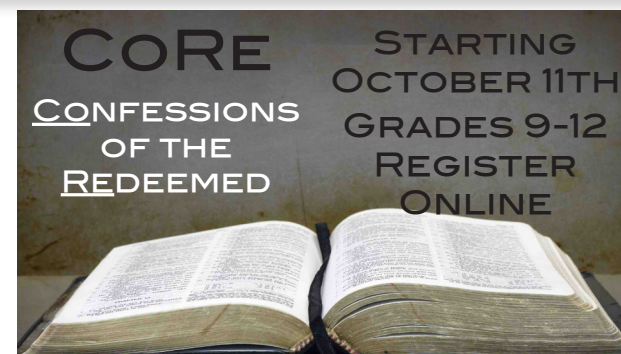
might have to leave. Then Steve found a teaching job in Bloomington, and we thought this was God clearly saying to us that we were to stay at First Free. We moved south in 1980. Since we have no relatives in the area, the people of the church have been God's family to us all these years. They have rejoiced in our blessings and sympathized with us in our sorrows. We have been challenged, stretched, and grown spiritually working in many different ministries here. Another thing we have always appreciated is the strong Biblical foundation combined with the willingness to be flexible on issues not specifically spelled out in the Bible. We have had only three pastors in 39 years and the teaching of each of them has blessed us. God has been very good to us!

--Steve and Marie Mondy

Current and former First Free Choir members: You are invited to join us in performing for the 125th anniversary celebration service, October 4th. If you are interested, please arrive at 1:15 pm for rehearsal. The service is at 2:00 pm.

CELEBRATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- * October 4 - Morning Services
 Sermon: "Who's Building the Church?"
- * 2 PM - 125th Anniversary Celebration:
 - > Prelude by former music director Tim Anderson
 - > Multimedia presentation of First Free's long history
 - > Music by volunteer choir
 - > Challenge for the future by Pastor Joel
- * 3 PM - Reception & Fellowship



Minnehaha Nokomis Area Grief Support
 Mondays at First Free
 October 5 through December 7, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Participants may join the group any time. There is no fee and it is a faith-based program. Contact Marilyn Fisher for more info. 612-724-9311

Inter-Generational Men's Fellowship
 Saturday, October 3
 8 - 9:30 AM
 Characteristics Of A Godly Man:
 Loving God Wholeheartedly

**CLASS 101
 EXPLORING CHURCH
 MEMBERSHIP
 OCTOBER 11, 4-8 PM
 FIRST FREE CHURCH**