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Firstword

First Evangelical Free Church

A Church Family Publication

September 2010

“EXCUSE ME, I DON’T PRAY!”

Excuses are easy to come by. Especially when it has to do with prayer. Let me give you a few:

“I am too busy to pray.” We live in a frenetic age. In everything we do we rush, we perform, we strive, we do. And the result is we seldom take time to pray. What is God’s response? I think Jesus gives us the answer: As the crowds pushed in around Him and kept asking Him to do, to heal, to teach, He dismissed them and went off by Himself to pray (Mark 6:45-46). To Jesus, prayer was of utmost importance.

“I feel too dry to pray.” Many times this spiritual dryness comes from discouragement, despair, or disillusionment. We prayed fervently that Dad would survive the surgery, but he didn’t. And so we’re tempted to give up on prayer. What is God’s response? In Luke 18, Jesus tells a parable of a persistent widow. Although a corrupt judge began by ignoring her, eventually her persistence in asking paid off; he answered her request. Jesus draws the conclusion: “And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?” (Luke 18:7). Jesus points to the weak and weary pray-ers: Don’t lose heart

in praying. Keep on praying. The Father does listen to every prayer. You have no idea how much your conversation means to God.

“I am too ashamed to pray.” Old-fashioned sin is strong enough to create an ever-widening gap in a person’s relationship with God. The wider the gap, the less likely it is that they will pray consistently. What is God’s response? When Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to hide from God. But God sought them out. God says to us, “Admit your waywardness. Tell me you fouled up. Come back and we will relate closely again.”

In this month’s *First Word*, our focus is on prayer. I have asked a number of ministry leaders to share prayer requests for their area in the church. I would invite you to pray for each of these leaders and their requests. Join us for prayer on Wednesday nights from 6:45 - 8 PM. Sign up to receive our “knee-mail” prayer requests during our Prayer Emphasis week (from Sunday, September 12, through Sunday, September 19th).

Whatever you do: pray. Fight your way through whatever excuse you might have. And pray.

~Pastor Joel

PRAY FOR WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

WNBS is a ministry where women of all ages can connect with other women and study God’s Word. Through small group Bible study, we seek to bring women who are not believers into a relationship with Jesus Christ. We also seek to encourage women who are believers to grow in their faith and knowledge of scripture through personal study and small group discussion.

Pray...

- That God will touch each woman’s heart in a new way through the study of His Word.
- That many women from the community will attend again this year.
- For dedicated childcare workers.
- For a unified leadership team.



MOPS MINISTRY

MOPS is ministry for Mothers Of Preshcoolers (children from birth - kindergarten age). We seek to uplift, renew, and help all mothers connect with one another and connect with God.

Please Pray...

- That our steering team would stay focused on serving God and serving moms.
- For the many new moms this year who are from our community, that they would come to know Christ if they do not already.
- That our speakers would be relevant and uplifting.
- That our steering team members and other moms would be welcoming and encouraging to new moms.

September **Are You Looking For A God...** Sermons

- September 5 - “...Who Is Glorified?”
- September 12 - “Undeniable Prayer” - James 4:1-10

The Quest: How Can I Be Right With God?

- September 19 - “Breaking News” - Romans 1:1-7
- September 26 - “Living Unashamed” - Romans 1:8-17

If you would like to receive your First Word via email, please contact the church office!
olivia.lueth@firstfreechurch.org

FALL AT FIRST FREE

WOMEN’S NEIGHBORHOOD BIBLE STUDY - SEPT 8, 9:30 AM

KICK-OFF SUNDAY - SEPT. 12

FULL CHILDREN’S PROGRAMMING

ADULT BIBLE FELOWSHIPS

BACK TO TWO SERVICES

ZION YOUTH GROUP BEGINS - SEPT. 15

MOPS - SEPT. 17, 9:30 AM

GROUPLINK: A CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS AT FIRST FREE THROUGH ABFS AND SMALL GROUPS! - SEPT. 19

CREEKSIDE CLUBS BEGIN - SEPT. 22

MINISTRYLINK: A CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN SERVE AT FIRST FREE! - SEPT. 26

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

Pray For FEFC Ministries...

Children's Ministry

The Creekside Friends Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings provides wonderful places for children to belong, have fun, and grow in their faith. Nursery care is available the entire morning for infants through age 2; Preschool classes meet the entire morning for ages 3 through 5; and during the 1st hour the Kindergarten through 6th graders meet by their grade level for Bible Time. During the 2nd hour, the K-6th graders join their family for the first part of the worship service and then they're dismissed for Creekside Kids Church (K-3) and Junior Church (4-6).

- Pray for the ever-growing nursery. Pray that all the babies and toddlers would feel happy and loved and that their parents would feel this is a safe, loving place to leave their children. Pray that the many caregivers would enjoy their time serving in the nursery.
- Pray for the very busy preschool thru 6th grade teachers. Pray that they would show the light of Jesus, be full of joy, and be prepared as they teach the boys and girls in their classes.
- Pray that the children would desire to come to church and that they would grow in their relationship with God and understand that God's Word is true.
- Pray for the parents. Pray that they would grasp their role as the spiritual leaders of their children and that they would put God as #1 at home and read their Bibles with their children.



The Creekside Friends Creekside Clubs meet on Wednesday nights for children in 1st through 6th grade. Godly men lead the boys in the Christian Service Brigade and godly women lead the girls (1st-3rd and 4th-6th graders separately) for Girls Rock! They have a blast meeting in small groups, playing in the gym, doing woodworking & crafts, and learning about God.

- Pray for the leaders. Pray that they would be on-fire for the kids and that they would be prepared each Wednesday night.
- Pray for the boys and girls. Pray that they would come and have a fun time at church, would feel loved, and would want to invite their friends!
- Pray for the kids to grow to be strong believers in Jesus and God's Word.
- Pray for parents. Pray that they would grow in their relationship with God and would encourage their children to do the same!

Worship Arts Ministries

- That our vision of God is ever clear (Is. 6).
- That we become true worshipers in Spirit and in truth (John 4:23).
- That worshipers have clean hands and pure hearts (Ps. 24:3-4).
- That arts teams will be filled with the Holy Spirit to create God honoring and transforming moments (Ex. 31:1-6).
- That arts teams will develop genuine fellowship amongst themselves (John 13:34-35).
- That young & old artists will develop in their skill and understanding of God's mercy (1 Chr. 25:6-8, Ps. 33:3, Rom. 12:1).
- That Pastor Eric and the worship commission will have wisdom in working with band, vocal, technical, choir, orchestra, and creative teams (James 1:5).
- That church leadership has wisdom in the completion of the *Challenge 2012* Sanctuary/Foyer upgrades (James 1:5).

Pray for FEFC Ministries...



Connection Ministries

- That those who serve as ushers, greeters, and welcome desk workers would have renewed vision for serving those who walk through our doors each week (1 John 1:3).
- That God will equip existing and future small group leaders and hosts to shepherd His people (Ps. 78:72).
- That groups will further develop genuine fellowship among themselves (John 13:34-35).
- That Pastor Eric and the small groups team has wisdom to coach and support the process of connecting people into small groups (James 1:5).
- That First Free will be wise in its interactions with non-Christians and newcomers, seizing opportunities to be gracious (Col. 4:5).

Youth Ministry

Youth Leaders, other than the Holy Spirit, are the backbone of Zion Student Ministry. These leaders commit their time and talents to make Student Ministry happen. They are the real youth pastors of our Students—the ones who know them so well. They pray, contact, go to events, care for, and build up our Students on a personal, one-on-one level.

- Pray that they would have a strong connection to God through prayer, their time in the Word, and relationships with other believers.
- Pray that they would be given wisdom and understanding to lead Students well.
- Pray that their families would be healthy and whole relationally, spiritually, and physically.

Wednesday Youth Group meets from 6:30-8:30 PM. The Junior High meets at FEFC and the Senior High meets offsite at a church member's home. This is a great place for Students to connect with other believers and to come to even if they have no faith

background. A lot of our Students are bringing their friends, who are then coming to know the power and goodness of the Good News.

- Pray that Wednesday Youth Group would continue to be a place and people where kids feel comfortable enough to bring their friends.
- Pray for wisdom and direction on how we can reach Washburn High and Field Middle School with the love of Christ.
- Pray for God-empowered relationships of love, discussions of depth, and fruitfulness in students' lives beyond what we can ask or imagine.

Sunday Youth Church 7th -12th graders meet from 9:30-10:30 AM to learn from God's Word, connect with each other, to encourage, and to pray.

- Pray that as we teach through the book of Acts, we would become people that can only be explained by the power of God working in and through us.



- Pray for those who will be teaching and leading small groups. Pray that God would speak through them directly into the deepest, hardest to reach places in Students' souls.
- Pray that Students would come prepared to learn, to grow, to share, and to minister to one another.

CoRe is First Free's theology, biblical worldview class for Students going into 9th -12th grade. This class meets 20 times throughout the school year on Sundays from 4-6 PM. The goal is to help Students understand the foundational doctrines and begin to apply these truths to their everyday lives.

- Pray that we will line up all of the right teachers for each session.
- Pray that Students would sign up and commit to be at CoRe every week.
- Pray that Students would be filled with wonder and awe as they learn about God and His work in the lives of mankind.