

INFO CENTRAL

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

July 1, 2008

SENIOR PASTOR INFORMATION

I am very pleased that I attended EFCA National Conference this year. It turned out to be an historic conference. The new proposed doctrinal statement was the focus of the conference. Wednesday of the conference was devoted to dealing with four amendments that had been offered to the proposed revision. Three of the amendments were ones that I preferred and supported. But one of the amendments was another story altogether. It was another attempt to remove "premillennialism" from the proposed revision. If that amendment had passed, I would have voted against the proposed revision. It would have probably created enough of a problem that the proposed revision would not have passed by the 2/3 majority needed to pass it.

None of the amendments passed. Three of the four were rather close. But the one to remove "premillennialism" from the new statement of faith was soundly defeated. I was quite surprised as I listened to the debate and then saw the vote as it was finally taken. For me it was very refreshing and encouraging to sit and listen to the debate and discussion. Sitting there made me remember some of my first EFCA National Conferences as a young pastor. I remember the days of strong debate in the Ministerial Association meetings about the credentialing of divorced and/or remarried pastors. I remember the debates over the nature and character of the resurrection body. I remember coming away from those debates being so pleased and grateful for the privilege of being in the EFCA. But I have not had that kind of sense over the last several years attending EFCA National Conference – until this year. Participating in this conference was much like being part of those conferences of 25-30 years ago. The discussion and debate was passionate but respectful. It was theologically diverse but the sense of commitment to the Scriptures was still clear and evident. When the final vote on the proposed revision was finally taken the vote was 630 "Yes" and 105 "No" – an 86% vote. The 1950, Statement of Faith had 12 Articles of 454 words. The June 25, 2008, Statement has 10 Articles of 713 words. There are several aspects of the "new" statement that I personally consider to be weaker than the "old" one. But there are also a number of ways in which the "new" statement is stronger than the "old" one.

So, we have a new EFCA Statement of Faith. The new statement will be incorporated into all of our FEFC documents as soon as possible. I would like to plan some times for us to openly and publicly discuss the differences between the two Statements and the changes that have been made. It would be a very good discussion for us as a church family to have – especially with our younger members and attendees present. This is a very significant and historic development. In a day and an age when most groups and organizations are weakening or completely dispensing with "Doctrinal Statements", the EFCA has struggled, retained and, in many ways, solidified and strengthened its commitment to "sound doctrine" and biblical carefulness. Many denominational groups

are struggling with questions of whether to ordain openly homosexual clergy or to endorse same-sex marriage. The EFCA is strengthening its commitment to the Bible. For that I am extremely grateful. The fads and trends will pass. The Pendulum of Perspective will continue its wild swinging. But it is the Word of God that will stand forever. Praise the Lord. Jesus said, "Your Word is truth!" (John 17:17).

I am writing this from my son Tim's kitchen table in suburban Philadelphia, PA. He is doing quite a bit better physically and we all thank you for your prayers on his behalf. Dr. Kent Martin will be preaching in my absence this Sunday. God's best to you all.
Maranatha

Pastor Terry Kern <><

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Do you want your life to make a difference... an eternal difference? Then join us in the 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School Service! We can use your help in whatever area God has gifted you... behind the scenes, on the stage, leading the kids, greeting the kids, building sets, painting sets, organizing, singing, acting, teaching... you name it, we can use it... we need YOU! Just call April or Linette.

INDIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Bibles for the World announces that the India Children's Choir will be performing at First Evangelical Free Church on Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. They come from the hills of Manipur and tell the story of their people's transformation from fierce headhunters, only two generations ago, to ambassadors of Christ. The 22 children, ranging in age from 8 - 12 years old, are direct descendants of these former headhunters who live in the remote areas of northeast India. You will truly be blessed.

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Dear FEFC Family, your food contributions to the Backpack Program have been very appreciated. So, please keep bringing more. Here is the food list: *peanut butter, bread, juice boxes, jelly, cereal, granola/fruit bars, crackers, cheese, fruit cups, applesauce, cookies, Chef Boyardee Meals*. Purchase products in plastic containers and in single serve packages.

MEN'S MOTORCYCLE TRIP

The men's motorcycle trip is from Tuesday, August 5th-Sunday, August 10th, 2008. If you are interested in joining us this year, please stop by the Motorcycle Trip display table in the foyer on **Sunday, June 22, 2008** right after the second service. Please contact Rick Janke for details on the trip.

BROTHERS IN BATTLE SCRIPTURE VERSE

But those who seek my life, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; They shall be a portion for jackals.

Psalm 63:9-10

412 Ministries

PRIMETIME

Sunday morning for Jr. High & Sr. High 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

R.A.G.E.

Jr. High (7th & 8th grades)

THE EXAMPLE

Sr. High (9th & 12th grades)

C Life College Ministry

Tuesdays for college students (18 - 20 something) at 7:00 p.m.
at the church in the youth room downstairs.

PRAYER CHAIN INFO

Please call the Phone Prayer Chain Captains and e-mail
your requests to Laurie Grosz at the e-mail address
below to activate your prayer requests.

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN INFO

prayer@firstefree.com

PHONE PRAYER CHAIN CAPTAINS INFO

DAYTIME : Catherine Grosz

EVENING : Doris Ann Van Beek

WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETING INFO

- THU - July 3 Motorcycle Run Super Express @ Exit 161; 6:30 pm
Young Adults; 7:00 pm
- FRI - July 4 Joy Club @ Mc Donald's (Country West by Burnt
Boat Drive); 9:30 am
- SUN - July 6 Worship Service; 9:00 am
Sunday School; 9:00 am
Fellowship; 10:15 am
Power of Prayer; 10:20 am
Worship Service; 10:45 am
Children's Church; 10:45 am
- MON - July 7 Men's Bible Study; 6:30 am
Fellowship & Caring Board; 7:00 pm
Worship Board; 7:00 pm
- TUE - July 8 Women's Bible Study; 6:30 pm
- WED - July 9 White Cross; 10:00 am
All Church Prayer; 6:30 pm
412 R.A.G.E.; 6:30 - 8:30 pm
412 The Example; 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Men's Softball @ Cottonwood #2; 6:30 pm
Men's Bible Study; 7:00 pm
Worship Team Rehearsal; 7:45 pm

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**First Evangelical Free Church
205 43rd Avenue NE
Bismarck, ND 58503**

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