

INFO CENTRAL

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

Sept. 2, 2008

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES

Do you want to believe? I mean, really want to believe? That's the question the latest "X-Files" movie poses. It's in the title – "Do You Want to Believe?" and, of course, 'believing' in the X-files world covers a multitude of 'difficult to believe in' things like alien abduction, crazy government conspiracies, shadowy smoking dudes and even your run-of-the-mill creepy crawly monsters of the week.

It's a dark and disturbing film and was released on the heels of yet another dark and disturbing film, "The Dark Knight." But, of course, that's just my opinion. Because even though - as the X-files series proclaims - 'the truth is out there,' there is no absolute truth, so everyone's 'truth' is just opinion, right?

See if this sounds familiar: "That may be true for you, but it's not true for me." Sure - when we're talking about what Starbucks drink we like the best or what we like on our massive burritos at Pancho's. Those are 'truths' that you can put under the category of opinion. But no absolutes? Anywhere? The whole logical problem with 'there are no absolutes' is that's an absolute statement about the non-existence of absolutes!

Whether or not absolute truth exists is not a question of how we feel. I may feel like I don't want gravity to exist so I can fly to work and save on gas; but when I jump in the air, I will absolutely kiss the pavement. We can ignore the claims of Christ and the principles in the Bible but that will absolutely get us into physical, spiritual and eternal trouble.

Here's the deal. As humans, we have limited knowledge. And with limited knowledge, we simply cannot make absolute negative statements. For example - 'there is no God.' To absolutely affirm that, we would have to know everything, have been everywhere, seen everything, etc. Again, to absolutely know there are no absolutes, we would have to have absolute knowledge, which then would create a category of absolute truth and defeat the very concept we tried to prove.

Whew! Does your brain hurt? Mine does - so let's get down to why I bring this up. I believe in absolute truth because Jesus did. Check out these three extremely clear statements: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6). Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." (John 8:31-32). And my personal favorite: Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. (John 17:17).

First, Jesus not only claims that absolute truth exists but also that He is the truth! He speaks the truth and acts out the truth. In fact, Jesus makes the statement 'I tell you the truth' over 70 times in the gospels. So if absolutes don't exist, then Jesus is a liar.

He also is referring to Himself when He says, "You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free." What Jesus means is that we must abide in His Word, which is necessary for true discipleship. Abiding opens the way to knowing the truth more fully; to the point of being set free through it. Finally, Jesus calls the words of God 'truth.' Since the Bible is the inspired word of God, we have 774,746 words of absolute truth!

I get where some people are coming from. They think it's arrogant for a limited human being to say their beliefs and interpretations about life are absolutely true and should be shared by everyone. I don't think this makes us arrogant; it makes us confident.

So, if you're like me, you want to believe. And we can, because the truth really is out there. Let's open our Bible and talk to the Savior - because He will tell us the truth...the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

I'm really looking forward to worshipping with you and hearing General Georges Sada this Sunday. Please join us for what is sure to be a remarkable experience!

Pastor Jamie Hamblet

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL POP UP SUNDAY

This Sunday, Sept. 7 at 9:00 a.m. the 2 year olds to 6th graders will "pop up" to their next age group or grade level for Sunday school. Two year olds to five year olds will go directly to their classrooms: 2 yr. olds Rm. 203; 3yr. olds Rm. 200; 4 & 5 yr. olds Rm. 202. The kindergarten to sixth grade will meet in the Community Room at 9:00 a.m. After large group time they will go to their classrooms: kindergarten Rm. 201; 1st grade Rm. 104; 2nd grade Rm. 103; 3rd grade Rm. 102; 4th grade Rm. 101; 5th grade Rm. 105; 6th grade Rm. 204. The 2 yr. olds to 2nd grade can be picked up in their classrooms at 10:15 a.m.

COMING THIS FALL...COOKS NIGHT OFF

Starting Sept. 10 we will be having a home cooked meal every Wednesday from 5:00-6:00! The cost will be only \$2.00 per person with a \$10.00 per family maximum! Our first meal will be sloppy joes, chips, fruit and dessert. Come hungry and ready to enjoy great food and fellowship! Please sign up at the information center this Sunday!

MOPS NEEDS

If you would like to donate some snacks to the Moppets, that would be wonderful. We could use snacks for children ages 1-5 and, because of allergies that some of the children have, we have a list we need to follow. The snacks we are looking for are: cinnamon, honey or chocolate Teddy Grahams (not the generic kind please); Old Dutch or Rold Gold pretzels; Ritz Crackers or the Wal-mart brand; Club Crackers or the Wal-mart brand; any brand of corn chips; Barnum's Animal Crackers; and all fruit snacks as long as there is no yogurt on them or in them. Another great food item that we use a lot of is juice, any kind is fine. If you choose to donate any snacks to Moppets, please label the snack for Moppets and put them in the kitchen. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

CRAFTMANIA!

Our next Craftmania is scheduled for Friday, September 12, 6-11 p.m. and Saturday, September 13, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. From scrap booking to jewelry making, there's always something fun to do! Whatever your crafting passion may be, this is the place to share your talents and learn from others. Come join the fun! We will be working on fleece blankets for the Children's Advocacy Center on Saturday. Please contact Kathy Vander Vorst if you have any questions.

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 - Sept. 4 Young Adult Bible Study; 7:00 pm
- FRI - Sept. 5 Joy Club @ Mc Donald's (Country West by Burnt Boat Drive); 9:30 am
- SAT - Sept. 6 Motorcycle Trip to Mobridge; 10:00 am
- SUN - Sept. 7
 - Worship Service; 9:00 am
 - Sunday School; 9:00 am
 - Discover FEFC I - 9:00 am
 - Fellowship; 10:15 am
 - Worship Service; 10:45 am
 - Children's Church; 10:45 am
 - Discover FEFC I - 12:30 pm
- MON - Sept. 8
 - Men's Study; 6:30 am
 - Education Board; 6:30 pm
 - Fellowship & Caring Board; 7:00 pm
 - Worship Board; 7:00 pm
 - Stewardship Board; 7:00 pm
- TUE - Sept. 9
 - Women's Bible Study; 9:00 am
 - C-Life College Ministry; 7:00 pm
- WED - Sept. 10
 - MOPS; 9:00 am
 - Cooks Nite Out; 5:00 pm
 - All Church Prayer; 6:30 pm
 - Awana; 6:30 pm
 - 412 R.A.G.E.; 6:30 pm
 - 412 The Example; 6:30 pm
 - Women's Bible Study; 6:30 pm
 - Men's Bible Study; 6:30 pm
 - Worship Team Rehearsal; 7:45 pm

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