

INFO CENTRAL

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

Sept. 1, 2009

SENIOR PASTOR INFO

I think an apology is in order. I violated one of the most basic rules of preaching this past Sunday in order to save time. I knew with the number of announcements planned for the service that time for the message portion would be very tight. So, I made an "assumption" and it was a foolish thing to do. I know better but I did it. After the service, in our usual fashion, my wife (Sandie) and I discussed the service and the message. She told me very pointedly, "Terry, you didn't tell us what 'the Rest' is. You talked about 'the Rest' throughout your whole message on Hebrews 4 but you never defined it. I was wondering what 'the Rest' actually is the whole time." I didn't take my wife's word on it immediately (another mistake I make fairly regularly) and decided to ask our entire church staff at our staff meeting on Monday morning what they thought "the Rest" of Hebrews 4 is. I had spent the entire message seeking to give hope to every Christian (as per Hebrews 4) that "the Rest" is still available to Christians and that the promise of "Rest" remains a wonderful source of strength and hope as well as an incredible motivation for holy and faithful living. Well, not even one staff member had any idea of what "the Rest" is. So I do apologize. Please forgive my "assumption."

"The Rest" of Hebrews 4 is the rewards that are promised to all those who live their life on this earth in faithful obedience to the Lord. These rewards are enjoyed to some degree for all of eternity but especially during the Millennial Kingdom of Christ (Romans 8:17, I Cor. 6:2-3, II Timothy 2:12, Revelation 20:4 – see also parables of the Talents & Minas in Mt. 25:14-30 & Luke 19:11-27). "The Rest" of Hebrews 4 is something that CAN BE "lost." Obviously, the writer is using the Old Testament Israelites and their "loss of entrance into the Promised Land (Rest)" as his example and as his warning to Christians NOT to follow their example of disobedience and refusal to take God as His Word. What do Christians have danger of losing? Well, some Christians think it is their salvation. I certainly don't believe that is what we can lose. Eternal Life is "Eternal" Life. But clearly, all through the Bible, God's people have been (and continue to be) unfaithful to the Lord and disobedient. Especially in the New Testament, it becomes very clear that the thing Christians are in danger of losing through unfaithfulness and disobedience is the promised rewards of the Millennial Kingdom. If I do not "finish the work" (using another word picture from Hebrews 4) that God has called me to do, I will still have the gift of eternal life, but I will lose reward that is promised to all those who faithfully serve the Lord with their life here on earth. I Corinthians 3:12-15 is just one passage that spells this out. Romans 5:10-12 & I Cor. 5:9-11 are just two more places that confirm that idea. But there are many, many more. Hebrews 4:11-13 is just another place where the Holy Spirit confirms to us that if we constantly allow the Word of God to help us lead a holy and faithful life we will not be like the disobedient Israelites who were not allowed to enter "the Rest." Instead, we will surely "inherit the Kingdom" and enter "the Rest" that the Lord has wonderfully promised and is prepar-

ing for His faithful children. "Let us therefore, be diligent to enter that rest..." (Hebrews 4:11).

REMEMBER!!! This Sunday there is only ONE WORSHIP SERVICE (10:00 A.M.) and there is no Sunday School. This Sunday's service is planned for the entire family and I am very excited about it. There has been a great deal of planning and preparing already and you will not want to miss it. I do hope to see you this Sunday and I do look forward to worshipping, studying God's Word and fellowshiping together with you this Sunday, D. V. Maranatha, Pastor Terry Kern <><

**One Worship Service
September 6 at 10:00 a.m.**

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSALS FOR PRE-SCHOOL

The preschool children (ages 2 – pre-kindergarten) will open the Children's Christmas Program with their special Christmas songs. The kindergarten and first graders will follow with their selection of Christmas songs. The preschoolers will practice during their music time in Sunday school. The kindergarten and first graders will practice from 10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

We are rolling down the runway and will soon be lifting off for a soaring adventure. All kids second through sixth grade are invited to join us as we begin learning a Christmas musical entitled "The Plane Truth About Christmas."

Stop by the terminal in the foyer and sign up. Auditions and rehearsals will begin September 27th and the performance will be December 13th. If you have any questions, please contact Anita Lardy at 751-2723 or e-mail me at anita@bis.midco.net. There is a seat reserved for you on the Plane Truth Airlines.

JANITORIAL POSITION

A part-time janitorial position is available at the church. Flexible hours available. If you are or someone you know is interested, please contact Pat at the church office at 223-3330 or email him at pat@firstefree.com.

WHITE BIBLE STICKS

If you requested a Bible stick to purchase you may pick it up at the Information Center on Sunday. There are a few extra left for purchase.

FFFEAST FUNDRAISER

We will be having a fundraiser for our new FFFeast program on September 6th after the family service. Because this is a new program for our church, we do not have a budget for it. Please come and help support this new and exciting change. For more information on FFFeast, please check out the church's website.

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)



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.

E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN INFO

prayer@firstefree.com

PHONE PRAYER CHAIN CAPTAINS INFO

DAYTIME : Catherine Grosz

EVENING : Doris Ann Van Beek



EMAIL INFO CENTRAL

The church office is looking for ways to help save costs. If you have an email account, we would sure love to put you on our email list for the newsletter. If you do not have an email account, we would love to keep mailing you the newsletter. To start receiving Info Central via email, please email Wendy Backman at wendy@firstefree.com.



If you no longer wish to receive Info Central, please contact the church office at 223-3330 or email Wendy Backman at wendy@firstefree.com.

WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETING INFO

- THU - Sept 3 Young Adult Bible Study - 7:00 pm
Orientation for First Place for Health - 7:00 pm
- FRI - Sept 4 Joy Club @ McDonald's (by K-Mart) - 9:30 am
Friday Night Singles - 6:30 pm
- SUN - Sept 6 Family Worship Service - 10:00 am
BBQ FFEEAST Fundraiser - 11:30 am
- MON - Sept 7 Labor Day Church Office Closed
- TUE - Sept 8 Women's Bible Study - 9:00 am
Motorcycle Run @ Clark Station Exit 161 - 6:30 pm
- WED - Sept 9 MOPS - 9:00 am
412 R.A.G.E. - 6:30 pm
412 The Example - 6:30 pm
All Church Prayer - 6:30 pm
Men's Study Group - 7:00 pm
Worship Team Rehearsal - 7:45 pm

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