

# INFO CENTRAL

**A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND**

**July 20 , 2010**

## SENIOR PASTOR INFO

I've been reading the Old Testament Prophet Amos in my personal devotions in the last couple of days. Wow! What a message this southern kingdom farmer/rancher (he was from Tekoa which is near Bethlehem in the territory of Judah in the south) preached to the people of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. I have been struck by so many things as I read and study his message. I find myself thinking how impressively relevant his message is today, even though it was actually delivered to the people of Israel 2750 years ago. About 35 years later, Yahweh DID what He had told Amos to tell the people He was "about to do." Yahweh used the horrendously evil and cruel Assyrian armies to "express" His righteous wrath over the unholy ways of His people. In 722BC the Assyrians invaded the Northern Kingdom. They were one of the cruelest and most violent people in the history of the world. Yahweh used them as His tool to chasten His own people.

I am impressed in Amos' prophecy by many things. I mention just one thing here: PREPARATION. I am impressed by the fact that Yahweh doesn't operate on "our" timeframes. Amos prophesied 35 years or so before Yahweh actually acted. Sometimes Yahweh takes 2000 years, or 200 years or 20 years to fulfill His words. The book of Amos even speaks about how "unwelcome" his message was to the people who heard it. They told Amos to "shut up." They didn't want to hear it. And it took 35 years for Yahweh to act. So, only with the "Longterm Perspective" would you be able to "connect the dots" of Amos' message and the Assyrian invasion of the Northern Kingdom. It impressed me that the writer to the Hebrews said, "...without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)..." (Heb 11:6). Faith is what takes God and His Word seriously. Living in those years between Amos' message and the Assyrian invasion, the people of the Northern Kingdom had a choice. Either they would believe that Yahweh sent Amos to preach and prophesy and they would "seek Me (Yahweh) and live" (5:4,6) or they would ignore Amos' message and continue to live as they had been living. How do we translate that into today's time? It seems so obvious to me that these are days when God is doing something very dramatic in this world. I would hope God's people are going to the Scriptures like never before in their lives. I would think that God's people would be sincerely asking the Lord to show them whatever it is about our lives that is displeasing Him. I certainly would hope that God's people would take Him more seriously (exercise faith) than they ever have in their lives. I am excited about this coming weekend. I am looking forward to having Jeremy and Jessica Oakland and their children here with us candidating to become our Associate Pastor of Student Ministries. Please make time to meet them and just to get to know them a bit. I feel confident that you will be pleased and impressed with the Oaklands. Let's also be praying for them that the Lord will give them the strength and stamina to "endure" a hard weekend of ministry and "scrutiny" of candidating. Jeremy is coming off a week of ministry at camp too, so he needs our prayers for strength.

So, I am looking forward to seeing you this weekend. Maranatha  
PTK <><

## CANIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES

Jeremy and Jessica Oakland will be here the weekend of July 23-25. The following is the scheduled events for this weekend to allow as many students, parents and interested friends opportunities to meet and visit with this outstanding young couple. Please try to make time during your busy summer schedule to meet and interact with the Oakland's:

- Friday - July 23 Youth/Staff Bonfire Party 7:00pm
  - Saturday - July 24 Adult Ministry Staff 6:00pm
  - Parents and Youth Game Night 7:00pm
  - Sunday - July 25 Jeremy & Jessica give testimonies @ 9:00/10:45 services
  - Jeremy teaches Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class
  - Soup and Sandwich noon lunch for all interested members
  - Questions and answer time with Jeremy to follow.
- Please be in prayer for this very significant time in the life of our church.

## CHILD DEDICATION

The next dedication service is on Sunday, August 1, 2010. If you would like to dedicate your child, please contact the church office at 223-3330, by July 25th. Thank you.

## CARING MINISTRY...

How does the loss of a loved one affect the person grieving? This will be included in the education ministry events planned for the Fall

Experiencing the loss of a loved one encompasses the person's whole being. Some physical aspects might include inability to sleep, concentrate, make decisions, forgetfulness, and/or extreme fatigue. The person may also experience anger, depression, despair, fear of the future, or that life will never be the same again. These are just a few examples. The training this Fall will address how to minister to the person experiencing a loss.



## ANNUAL MENS SPORTING CLAY SHOOT

Aug 22 @3:30 pm At Capitol City Sporting Place Cost is \$21.00  
Bring your own gun and 3 boxes of shells  
BBQ to follow.  
PLEASE RSVP to troy.shirley@uscm.org

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING! AUGUST 1ST AT 12:00 NOON

One Worship Service		
Sept. 5	Labor Day Weekend	10:00
Nov. 21	Praise Gathering	10:00
Dec. 26	Christmas	10:00
Jan. 2	New Year	10:00

