

INFO CENTRAL

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

March 16, 2010

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF ADULT INFO

There are so many distractions in the world today that it is hard to keep focused on what is really important and to keep moving forward with what we are to be doing in our lives that God has given us to do. There is everything from the internet to texting to so many things that we can be doing that it really makes it hard sometimes to prioritize and to focus on the things that do matter to us. But these other distractions at the time get in our way of thinking and before we know it our time has vanished and we find ourselves not really accomplishing the things that we truly want to be doing or growing in the areas of our lives that we want to as believers in Christ. As a Christian, our focus is to be on Christ and to always be putting our faith in Him, no matter what we may be going through. But with the distractions come times when we just get off focus and lose our sense of what we are to be doing and who we are to be living for. I came across the story of a track team that was actually pretty good, and they were getting ready for another big race. Each runner on the team would run a quarter mile. As the race started, the first runner took off and ran an incredible opening quarter-mile leg of the race and then passed the baton to the second runner. The second runner received the baton and took off, taking the lead in the race. The baton was then passed to the third runner who took off like lightening around the first curve and down the back stretch. Then the unthinkable happened. He stopped suddenly, walked off the track, and sat down on the grass. The members of the team ran over to him, thinking that maybe he pulled a hamstring or some other muscle or maybe was even sick. When they got to him, he was not in any pain, and didn't appear to be sick, and so they asked him what was wrong. To their surprise, he responded, "I don't know-I just didn't feel like running today."

Sounds absurd, but it happened, and it happens to us from time to time. We all have things that we want to accomplish and we set our priorities with what we think are the most important things to be doing, but sometimes these priorities get lost in the mix of life and we find ourselves not doing what we need to be doing and we feel lost and want to give up. Maybe along the way we stopped pursuing a deep, loving relationship with Christ and sat down to rest in our own self-righteousness and the ease of what is around us. But our love for the Lord demands a lifelong commitment. As Christ Himself said, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God"-Luke 9:62. It could be other very well intentioned goals that we have set for ourselves, but we get distracted by the world and find ourselves as not far along as we hoped we would be. The apostle Paul understood the importance of priority for himself. His relationship with Christ was the most important passion in his life-Philippians 3:10-11.

If we struggle with sticking to our priorities, and we feel bad that we have fallen short of where we want to be, we can be encouraged by Paul and what he tells us in Philippians 3:13,14, "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching

forward to those things which are ahead. I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." If an athlete competing in a race stands any chance of winning, he must focus on the finish and ignore the distractions along the track, the other competitors, and even the crowd. May each of us concentrate on what is important to us and the priorities that we have set for ourselves. And may our greatest goal be that of becoming more and more like Christ in all that we do! See you this Sunday in church. God Bless, Pastor Kevin Lardy

PART TIME JANITORIAL POSITION

A part-time janitorial person is needed at the church. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact Pat at the church office.

CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Our church has a condominium for sale. It has two bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, a small laundry room, living room, dining room, kitchen, two small decks and a single garage (1,128 square feet). All appliances, stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer are included. Please contact Pat at 223-3330 for more details.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Adult and high school instrumentalists: we would like to put together a group of brass, violins, flute, clarinet for our Easter service. We will be rehearsing Sunday, March 21, at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested, please email/call Barb at barb@firstefree.com or 223-3330.

PALM SUNDAY & EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010 we will be presenting CTL for our church family at 10:00 a.m. This is not a ticketed event.

The Sunday Schedule for Easter Sunday will be as follows:

8:45 am - Youth Service

9:45 am - 412 Ministries Carmel Roll Fund Raiser

10:45 am - Worship Service

NP DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The 2010 Northern Plains District Conference will be hosted by Bethel Church of Fargo on April 8 - 10, 2010. The conference theme is "Understanding the Times: Knowing what the Church Should Do" with guest speakers Pastor David T. Olson, Director of the American Research Project. The world is changing. The culture of America is changing. That change influences how the gospel is communicated. In his three sessions, Pastor Olson will help us learn how to build cultural connections, create authentic passion for ministry and help our churches focus their energy on their strengths. Registration forms are available at npd.efca.org or at the Information Center at the church.

Annual Meeting
April 12 at 7:00 pm

412 Ministries

PRIMETIME: Sunday for Jr. High & Sr. High @ 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT : 6:15 – 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 - Mar 18** First Place 4 Health - 6:00 pm
Escape the Coming Night Men's Study - 6:30 pm
Baptism Class - 7:00 pm
Young Adult Bible Study - 7:00 pm
- FRI - Mar 19** JOY Club @ McDonalds by Kmart - 9:30 am
- SAT - Mar 20** First Place 4 Health - 9:00 am
- SUN - Mar 21** Worship Service/Sunday School/Primetime/Adult Community/The Growing Years - 9:00 am
Fellowship - 10:15 am
Worship Service/Sunday School - 10:45 am
CTL Full Rehearsal - 3:00 pm
Easter Instrumental Rehearsal - 6:00 pm
- MON - Mar 22** Men's Living Stone Study - 6:30 am
CTL Full Dress Rehearsal - 6:00 pm
- TUE - Mar 23** Women's Bible Study - 9:00 am
Women's Bible Study - 6:30 pm
CTL Tech & Scene Changers Rehearsal - 6:30 pm
Men's Study Group - 7:00 pm
- WED - Mar 24** MOPS - 9:00 am
CTL Full Dress Rehearsal - 6:00 pm

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