



# Info Central

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

May 31, 2011

## SENIOR PASTOR

One thing is clear even if I am struggling with my eyesight right now. What is absolutely clear is that people in this area are tired, discouraged and full of doubts and even quite a bit of fear. There is so much going on right here that contributes to this "down and out" feeling with which we are all dealing today.

**This is a deep and very dark valley we are traveling these days.** And even though we are grateful that it is primarily "possessions" we here in the Missouri River Basin are in danger of losing, we are still struggling. We feel a bit guilty for being so overwhelmed because many of our fellow Americans have lost loved ones as well as their homes in the tornadoes that have been devastating the Heartland of America. The Japanese are still reeling from the earthquake/tsunami, the Middle East is a powder keg of hatred and killing and rioting. The economy here in the USA is a huge worry to most of us with absolutely no confidence that this Administration is even interested in doing anything realistic to stop the outrageous spending. **This is a deep and very dark valley we are traveling these days.** What do we do in a deep, dark valley like this? Where do we turn?

I know we all know the answer to these questions. We lift our eyes heavenward and we give our attention to the great and awesome God of the Universe. Our God is doing something in this world right now. Dear Friends, if we actually believe the Bible, the prophetic words of the Prophets of the Old Testament and the prophetic words of our Savior and the Apostles in the New Testament are coming to pass right before our very eyes. These are not just unusual weather patterns. These are not just inept people in high government and world leadership roles. Doesn't it strike you as rather strange that one of the smallest countries in the entire world (Israel) is the focal point of world attention? Wouldn't even a casual observer of Global Politics conclude that it makes no sense whatsoever for such a small country to command so much of the world's focus? **PERHAPS GOD IS DOING SOMETHING!** I've been reading Luke 21 in the last couple of days. Jesus was answering the questions His disciples had posed to Him about some things Jesus had said about the destruction of Herod's Temple in Jerusalem. It led to a rather lengthy discussion about the signs of the end of the age (the end of the Church Age). Jesus went through quite a description of all the things that He said are going to take place. It becomes quite clear when you read it in connection with the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Revelation, that Jesus is describing the Tribulation Period (the 7 year period leading up to the actual 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus to the earth). What is so amazing about that description of the events and calamities of the Tribulation Period is that a great deal of it is happening right now. And Jesus' point is that during the actual Tribulation Period, it will become far worse, far more intense, and far more frequent. It will be like the birth pangs a woman experiences in the delivery of a child. The pains get more frequent and more intense as the actual birth of the child gets closer and closer. Jesus then said this: **"Now when you see these things begin to happen, look up and lift your heads, because your redemption draws near."** (Luke 21:28)

Then Jesus gave the illustration of the fig tree (or any tree) budding in the spring, ready to leaf out for the summer. Jesus said the "generation" that sees that happen will "by no means pass away till all things are fulfilled" (Luke 21:32).

Dear Friends, I know we feel tired. I know we wish the rain would stop and the sun would come out. I know we pray for the floodwaters to recede and not overflow the neighborhoods of our city. And as we pray those prayers for those things, let us remember to lift up our heads and look up as well. Let us remember God and His WORD in these days. Let us share the GOOD NEWS about JESUS CHRIST - the eternal life He came to provide in His first coming here to this earth. And let us be encouraged and ready to "meet and greet" Him in the clouds of the air when He descends from Heaven to "rapture" His Bride - the Church of Jesus Christ and we meet Him in the air (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). **This great moment is "any moment."** Talk about our "redemption which draws nigh" with someone today. Let the "hope of Christ and Heaven" fill your weary and troubled mind right now. Think about Jesus' promises and ask yourself which of His promises He won't keep. Then thank Him for His love and faithfulness and grace and mercy and patience. Be encouraged by the TRUTH of the WORD Of GOD that gives you confidence even in these difficult days. By the way, continue to remember Lian and Annie Liu as they are sharing the Savior with their family members and friends in China these two weeks.

Maranatha PTK<><

## PANDAMANIA

**Where God is Wild about You!**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**June 5 - 9 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**4 year olds through 6th grade**

We desperately need elementary school crew leaders.

Please call Nanette at 223-3330 if you can help!

## PRAYER POWER TREE

The Carrie's Kids, Prayer-Power Tree, is decorated with cards. On the back of these cards are specific needs of the homeless in our community. Please take a card from the tree and offer your personal prayer. God knows your greatest gift is prayer. PLEASE HELP! For more information about Carrie's Kids, please visit [www.carrieskids.com](http://www.carrieskids.com)

## STEER OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to join us at our open house picnic as we celebrate a record-breaking year and over one million dollars sent to missions this fiscal year! The open house will be held at the STEER, Inc. Office (1553 N 12th St. Bismarck, ND) on June 7, 2011. We will be serving brats and burgers from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We hope you are able to celebrate with us! R.S.V.P. to 258-4911 or [events@steerinc.com](mailto:events@steerinc.com)

## **WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETING INFO**

- WED - June 1** Hebrew Class, 5:15 p.m.  
VBS Training Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Worship Team Rehearsal, 7:45 p.m.
- FRI - June 3** JOY Club @ McDonalds by Kmart, 9:30 a.m.  
Friday Night Singles, 7:00 p.m.  
Chinese Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.
- SUN - June 5** Adult/Youth Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service/Children's Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.  
VBS, 6:30 p.m.
- MON - June 6** Living Stones Men's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
Fellowship & Caring Board, 7:00 p.m.  
Worship Board, 7:00 p.m.
- TUES - June 7** Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

## *FEFC Student Ministries*

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

### **WOMEN'S SUMMER STUDY-**

**Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks** by Priscilla Shirer

Learn to recognize God's character, language, and tone of voice as you spend time in His Word and understand the role of the Holy Spirit. Includes insightful comments from a variety of respected authors. Sign up at the information desk or call Elaine at 258-9329 to order a book. *Bible study begins June 7 and goes through July 26.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Evangelical Free Church  
205 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE  
Bismarck, ND 58503

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
PERMIT NO. 183