



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
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FEBRUARY 2022

Our Own Backyard BY JOEL SUTTON

Everybody's life mission is unique, and only you can fulfill your life mission. The moment you become a believer, the moment you step across the line and give your life to Jesus Christ, God has an assignment for you.

Many of the parts of your life mission are unique, but there is one part of your life mission that we all have in common.

It's this: God wants you to tell other people about what's happened to you. He wants you to share your testimony, your lifestyle, and your witness.

In other words, He wants you to share the Good News. In Acts, Paul says this to the Ephesian elders, "I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me - the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." (Acts. 20:24). Once I become a Christian, a major part of my life mission is to testify to God's grace in my life.

Jesus said in John 20:21 - "As the Father has sent Me, so am I sending you."

What has He sent us to do?

The Bible tells us in Acts 1:8 - "You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, in Samaria and in every part of the world."

This is a very, very important verse: it not only tells us what we're supposed to do; it tells us where we're supposed to do it.

First, it says, "You will be My witnesses."

Have you ever watched a courtroom trial? You know what a witness is - a witness is somebody who shares from personal experience. "I saw this ... I heard that ... I watched that ..."

Witnessing does not mean you have to be a theological expert. It doesn't mean you have to be pastor or preacher. It simply means you share what God is doing in your life. We are to witness and share what God has done in our lives and what's happened to us since we became believers.

Where are we to do it?

We're told to take the message to four places: "In Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria and in every part of the world."

What does that mean? What's your Jerusalem? It's your family, your friends, and your co-workers. That's your Jerusalem. You start with the people closest to you. You don't have to go somewhere else first. You start with the people in your own backyard.

Then it says you go to Judea. Judea was like the county. What is your Judea? At First Free, we live in Hennepin County, with over 1.1 million people. And many of them still need to hear the Good News.

Then Jesus says you're to go to Samaria. Samaritans were culturally and ethnically different from the disciples. The third place you take the message is to people of a different culture, language, ethnic group than you that live next door to you.

Do you know anybody who speaks a different language than you do? Did you know that the Twin Cities has the largest Hmong, Somali, and Liberian populations in the U.S.? Did you know that we have two teams from the church that work with new immigrants? Did you know that the church has two houses which are being used to minister to a new family from Afghanistan and another family from Mozambique.

My point is - you don't have to go very far to find your Samaria. It's right across the street. It is in our own backyard.

Finally Jesus says go to "the ends of the world." Today, there are many opportunities for believers to go on a short-term trip that leads them to the "ends of the world".

During our Outreach weekend of February 26-27, we will be focusing on the mission in our backyard - our Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. You will hear stories of what God is doing. You will be challenged to step out on mission and get involved.

God is in the business of changing lives - right here it the Twin Cities. He has called us to join Him on mission - to testify to His grace in our lives. We are, as we say here at First Free: "Christ-Centered and Christ-Sent!"

QUARTERLY CELEBRATION

(BUSINESS MEETING)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

ON ZOOM

(Zoom link sent out in the Friday February 4th church-wide email)

If your information has changed recently (address/email/phone number) please contact the office so we can update it in our system.

**OUR MISSION:
TO HELP
INDIVIDUALS
BECOME
CHRIST-CENTERED
& CHRIST-SENT
TOGETHER**

WANT MORE INFO?

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SEE MORE INFO AT:
www.firstfreechurch.org

OUTREACH WEEKEND

February 26-27th

Keynote Speaker

Jordan & Nisaa Borer Nelson
*Foundations Church in North Minneapolis
Recipients of the One Fund*



SATURDAY

On Saturday, at 10 am, we'll feature speakers from New Life Family Services, Damascus Way and Arrive Ministries and will be serving pastries, coffee and juice. Childcare will be available. The event on Saturday will be live-streamed and recorded.

SUNDAY

On Sunday morning, Community Emergency Services will be sharing in Room 105/106 during both hours.

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

DAVE BOELTL

Founder and director of Doing Battle Ministries.

Providing Bible based Christian discipleship for youth and adults through music, athletics and mentoring.

Focusing in four main areas:

Prison and Recovery Discipleship, Native Peoples, Music and Ice Hockey.

David Boeltl has been ministering the Gospel for over 40 years, using ice hockey and music as tools to share the good news of Jesus Christ with Native People of Northwestern Ontario, Canada and in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dave was the founder and director of the Okontoe Sports Ministries and has led over 100 hockey and music outreaches to more than 20 Native Communities in the US and Canada, as well as directed a year round Christ centered hockey ministry in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area.

Dave is now the founder and director of Doing Battle Ministries, based in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dave is also the founder and director

of the Christian Mission band "The Rotators" that use music to minister at correctional facilities, the Minnesota State Fair, The Mall of America, and Native Communities in Minnesota and Canada.

Dave is a member of First Evangelical Free Church since 1998.

What's your favorite food?

Don't have one!!! Yikes.

What's your favorite game to play with your family?

Ice hockey

How have you seen God use you in the last year?

Lots. Mostly with men in recovery from addictions.



TAKEOUT ON CHICAGO

March 5th

For this year's Terrace on Chicago, we've decided rather than hosting a large fancy meal in the church building to offer a takeout-only fundraiser we are calling, "Takeout on Chicago". We will be doing an artisan take-and-bake pizza menu. We'll be taking homemade pizza dough crusts and grilling over an open flame, a technique my wife and I have personally perfected in lieu of having an outdoor brick pizza oven.

After grilling the freshly oiled pizza dough to perfection, we will be topping them with some incredible pizza combinations developed by the minds that have brought you years of amazing Terrace on Chicago experiences. We are having a "Taste Test" of these absolutely

incredible flavors as we rigorously decide and vote on which flavors compliment each other and what adjustments need to be made. These flavors range from foodie-approved classic pizza to some truly unique combinations you might never have thought of putting together on a pizza. Our goal is to offer you the best pizza creations!

Possible options that we're considering include a creme-fresh based smoked mozzarella with a citrus pulled pork, pineapple to offset with just a touch of jalapeno and cilantro. Another pizza option might be a Minnesota inspired tomato base with seasoned ground beef, onions, a blend of mozzarella, cheddar and American cheeses,

dill pickles, roasted sesame seeds and a special sauce. There are more options that we'll be trying as well, but wanted to just give you a little preview of some of what we will be taste testing.

When you pick up your take-and-bake artisan mouth-watering pizza on Saturday, March 5, we will have students giving you a description on the summer opportunities they will be able to participate in by raising funds from Takeout on Chicago. Enjoy these artisan pizzas with your family or have a little mini-party at your home to fellowship with a group of loved ones as you might normally have done in the past at Terrace on Chicago. We hope you will enjoy Takeout on Chicago!



Would you like to receive the newsletter via email?
Contact the office at info@firstfreechurch.org

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- Our condolences to the family of Chad Wentzel who passed away on January 4th, 2022.
- Our condolences to the family of Dee Beckett who passed away on January 11th, 2022.
- Mel Swanson celebrated his 90th birthday on January 13th.