

# FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Minneapolis

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MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55417

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## BE CAREFUL TO NOT WALK ON BY BY PASTOR JOEL

Who are the people God wants to use you to reach for Him?

Think about them for a moment. Who are they? Where do you meet them? Do you know who they are?

They may live next door, in your building, or down the street. They may have children in the same school or classroom as your children. They may be co-workers who you share stories with on Monday mornings. They may be the ones who pour your coffee or serve your table at the restaurant you always frequent. They may be relatives or even live in the same house you do.

Be careful not to walk by them.

Jesus once told a story that involved some who passed on by. It involved a man who was beaten up and left to die on the side of the road. And the question Jesus asks is who is going to stop and help. Not a priest. Not a Levite. They walked on by.

The one who stopped was the least likely. The one who noticed and helped was the ungodly person. The Samaritan was careful to not walk on by (Luke 10:25-37).

Jesus' point? Open your eyes. Recognize those God has brought into your lives. They are the ones with whom you can serve, help, and share Christ's love. Be careful not to walk on by.

One of the problems we sometimes have in the church and as believers is that our world of non-Christian relationships tends to shrink. The longer you and I are believers, the more we tend to surround ourselves with those that have the same interest, values and beliefs we do. The problem is not that we don't care about sharing Christ with those who don't know Him. We just don't have relationships with non-Christians.

This month's First Word focuses on our mark of "I am investing in and inviting the lost." The weekend of February 21-22, we will be exposed to several ministries we support that God is using in our city of Minneapolis; Salem church in the Powderhorn-Phillips neighborhood, China Outreach Ministries on the U of M campus, and Community Emergency Services in Ventura Village. My hope is that as we are exposed to ministries around us that are making a difference, our eyes might be opened.

The world is full of hurting, desperate people who need to know Christ. The solution:

Open your eyes. Pray for your mission field. And be careful not to walk on by.

### CURRENT SERMON SERIES:

### A CHURCH RENEWED

Feb. 1	Intimate Marriage	1 Corinthians 7:1-8
Feb. 8	Should I Get a Divorce?	1 Corinthians 7:10-16
Feb. 15	Gifted!	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Feb. 22	Outreach Weekend	Jimmy Grosz Preaching
Mar. 1	Unity in the Diversity	1 Corinthians 12:12-31

## OUTREACH WEEKEND: *Serving in Our Community*

**Our mission is to help individuals become Christ-centered and Christ-sent together. So then, where are we sent to? Do we see the needs right in front of us? Come and see the weekend of February 21 & 22.**

### OUTREACH WEEKEND: FEBRUARY 21 & 22

Keynote Speaker: Jimmy Grosz (Youth for Christ: Palm Beach County, Florida)

### MISSION ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED:

- China Outreach Ministries: Welcoming Chinese students and scholars (Tom Lindstrom)
- Community Emergency Services: Providing food and services to the needy (Karen DeClouet)
- New Salem (Iglesia Nueva Salem): Ministering to the Spanish speaking community

### EVENTS:

#### Saturday, February 21

**10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.:** Join us for brunch and come and hear from a panel of people about their ministries. Childcare will be provided.

**3:00-4:00 p.m.:** Jimmy Grosz will be hosting an informal gathering to share about his ministry in the Juvenile Justice System as well as schools in Florida. **The meeting will be hosted at 7520 Cahill Road in Minneapolis. Please park in the guest parking and ask for the party room.**

#### Sunday, February 22

**Worship Services: Jimmy Grosz will be speaking at both services**

#### Community Group Speakers:

<b>9:15 a.m.:</b>	Living Life Faith Builders Youth Church	China Outreach Ministries Community Emergency Services New Salem
<b>11:00 a.m.:</b>	Agape Seniors Real Talk/Embark	Community Emergency Services China Outreach Ministries New Salem

*First Free's Mission – To help individuals become Christ-centered and Christ-sent together.*

## BEING CHRIST-SENT IN OUR COMMUNITY

An interview with those who serve in our community



**Gail Marchand:** Serves with Tapestry

A few weeks before I retired in the fall of "2002" from the V.A. as a Med tech, a former co-worker who had retired earlier called and said she heard I would soon be retiring. She went on to say that she was volunteering at a pregnancy counseling center close to me, which had just started a weekly prenatal clinic. She asked if I would consider helping cover the lab duties. I said I would, and two weeks after retiring I started. I have now taken over and cover weekly.

consider helping cover the lab duties. I said I would, and two weeks after retiring I started. I have now taken over and cover weekly.

Tapestry is a Christian center, which is evident on our website. We serve a very diverse clientele, including several Somali that have chosen us for their care. The people who work at Tapestry are committed to showing those we serve that Christian love. I have had so many patients that tell me that they feel loved and accepted when they come. I am thankful that I have been given the chance to serve.



**John Symington:**  
Serves with Urban Homeworks

John has been serving with Urban Homeworks for about 3 years. He initially heard about Urban Homeworks when a gentleman came to a men's breakfast and gave a presentation about the organization. He shared he felt called to get involved.

Urban Homeworks is a Christian organization that is focused on redemption. The mission of Urban Homeworks is: "To perpetrate the hope of Jesus Christ through innovative community development that produces dignified, equitable houses, a strategic network of good neighbors, and the redemptive development of real estate." They purchase distressed properties in strategic neighborhoods to rebuild not just the home, but connect and build community with those in these neighborhoods. They also partner with local professionals to work in the community so that the money they earn is invested back into the community.

John shared with us that one of the ways he has seen God work in and through this ministry is seeing the beginning of tearing out windows and walls to a finished home for a family. You see how proud they are of owning this new home—you see such joy that makes it all work it.

### Church Family News

**MOSES AVI KIDRON** was born to Olivia Clayborn & Matanya Kidron on January 12 at 6:09 a.m. weighing 7 lbs, 10 oz., and 20 in. Congratulations!

## UPCOMING @ FIRST FREE

### MEN UNITED — STARTING FEBRUARY 6TH @ 6:15 A.M.

Men United exists to train men to be who God designed them to be in their homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods through Biblical teaching, accountability, and a closer connection to Christ and each other. Men, join us Friday mornings at 6:15 a.m. starting February 6th. Together we encourage each other and hold each other up in prayer.

### CONNECTED FAMILIES: PARENTING WORKSHOP — FEBRUARY 6TH FROM 6:30-8:30 P.M.

Be inspired and equipped with this parenting workshop for parents and grandparents with children ages 2-18. Join us on Friday, February 6th from 6:30-8:30 p.m., be encouraged to bring the love of Christ alive in the nitty gritty of everyday life.

### EXPRESSIONS — FEBRUARY 8TH FROM 3:30-5:30 P.M.

A time of journaling for those dealing with chronic illness or pain, join us from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in room 103.

### QUARTERLY CELEBRATION — FEBRUARY 9TH @ 7:00 P.M.

Join us as we celebrate what God is doing at First Free! Join us for our Quarterly Celebration on February 9th at 7:00 p.m.

### MEN'S SOULSHARE — FEBRUARY 14TH @ 9:00 A.M.

Men of all ages are welcome to join us for breakfast and fellowship on various Saturday mornings from now until May 2015. Contact Ross Olson with any questions at 612-824-7691.

### THE DEEP — FEBRUARY 25TH @ 6:30 P.M.

Come, be refreshed and encouraged. Join us for a time of worship and prayer at The DEEP, February 25th at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

### CONNECTIONS — GET CONNECTED IN MARCH!

The Connections Community group meets for four weeks on Sunday evenings for a potluck style dinner at Pete and Erica Lehner's house from 5-7pm. There you will get the chance to know others from First Free, as well as learn about the different opportunities to get connected. If you are looking to get connected, try Connections this coming March 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th by signing up via welcome card or calling the church office.



## SERVING ACROSS THE GLOBE: KIDS ALIVE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Ever feel called to go and serve across the globe? Ever feel a tug to serve in a community by doing work projects?

First Free will be leading a trip from April 18-26 in Constanza in the Dominican Republic to work on a new kitchen addition to the school on the Kids Alive rescue compound. The cost for this trip will be \$1,700. Because First Free joyfully supports the work done with Kids Alive, we want to encourage you to consider this great opportunity to serve with a team, being Christ-sent across the globe. If you have any questions or are interested in going, please contact the church office at info@firstfreechurch or John Symington at jsymington@earthlink.net. To hear more about this opportunity, join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, February 1st at 12:15 p.m. in Room 103.

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FIRST FREE:  
OUR MISSION  
IS TO HELP  
INDIVIDUALS  
BECOME  
CHRIST-CENTERED  
& CHRIST-SENT  
TOGETHER

Want more info?

Visit [www.firstfreechurch.org](http://www.firstfreechurch.org)

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