



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH  
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## *The Guide* BY JAY POUND

For a normal person in 21st century America—or anywhere else—the first book of the bible makes for excellent reading. Genesis has solid storytelling, compelling characters and if some of the events seem fantastic, they are largely understandable and interesting. The next book carries on in much the same way, with a dramatic narrative that to this day provides a rich source of material for media of all kinds. In other words, these are the kinds of literary work that we know, enjoy, and recognize today. In these books we find insights into the character of God, the nature of humanity, and state of the cosmos that we can understand and believe.

But then, roughly halfway through Exodus, the story bogs down. The fast-paced narrative gives way suddenly to rituals, commands, and oddly specific dietary laws and chapters of detailed instructions for constructing an elaborate tent of worship. The narrative is still there, breaking through now and then, sometimes with moments of human drama and sometimes with battles and accounts of stunning divine intervention. But then the action will pause for more regulations, more instructions, and sometimes (see Deuteronomy) hundreds of the same instructions repeated all over again.

At this point, even the faithful Christian reader, saved by grace alone through faith alone in

Christ alone, begins to wonder what we, on this side of the cross and resurrection, are supposed to do with the law? We are caught in a conundrum that goes back all the way to the apostle Paul: we know we are no longer “under the law,” know that the law was fulfilled in Christ, but we still believe that all scripture is “God-breathed, useful for preaching, teaching and training in righteousness” (Romans 6:14; Matthew 5:17; 2 Timothy 3:16). So what are we to do with the Law today?

For a start, it might be better to turn that question the other way around and ask, “What is the law trying to do with me today?” We often imagine the law to be a large and elaborate fence, closing off certain behaviors, ways of life, and means of worship. And while this gets at something true, it leaves out more than explains. The problem with viewing the law as a fence is that the goal becomes staying where and as you are. Righteousness, in the fence analogy, is simply not messing up—not jumping the fence.

But this does not do justice to the law, and certainly is not the way either Jesus or Paul understands it. The law was never a fence, it was a guide. Yes, a good guide will try to keep you from dangerous and self-destructive paths. But unlike a fence, the purpose of a guide is not to keep you where you are, but to move you toward a destination. The law, from the

beginning, was given to move the people of Abraham toward a way of life that revealed and reflected their God, to turn an ordinary, nomadic people into a nation of priests for the world. That would of course require staying away from certain behaviors and certain forms of worship, but it also required movement: toward rest, toward relationship and partnership with God, toward whole and holy worship, and toward right relationships with others. And the law was meant to be their guide, given to help them move in that direction.

We are members of a new covenant, living at a different time and place in the story of God and creation. And while that means we are no longer under the law in the same way as ancient Israel, the law is still able to provide trustworthy guidance as we seek to live as God’s people today. Now, as then, if we will read it carefully and faithfully, the law can still point us in the right direction: toward Jesus, toward a right relationship with God and others, and toward mission. Join us on Sunday morning this fall as we explore the Old Testament Law together in our new series, *The Guide*.

*Curious about membership?*

# DISCOVERING FIRST FREE

**OCT 27 & NOV 3 @ 9:00 A.M.**

*Sign up at [firstfreechurch.org/events](http://firstfreechurch.org/events) or  
contact the church office*

*Would you like to receive the newsletter via email?  
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## Our Mission:

TO HELP  
INDIVIDUALS BECOME  
CHRIST-CENTERED &  
CHRIST-SENT TOGETHER

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## PRAYER TEAM

### By Melia Ives

Prayer Team Member

In April, Pastor Jay and I dreamed about what God might want to do in the First Free community through prayer. We both desired to see more opportunities for our body to experience the blessings and power of it. A well-known author has written, "If we truly love people, we will desire for them far more than it is within our power to give them, and this will lead us to prayer."

We individually prayed for 3 months before meeting again, and in response to what we believe God laid on our hearts, a new Sunday prayer team has been formed that will be available in the sanctuary after the sending prayer on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. The purpose will be to pray with any individual who desires it in confidentiality and in love, with no advice or counsel offered. For those who desire a longer time of quiet listening and deeper prayer, I will be available for prayer appointments to confidentially come alongside you to seek God's heart. We look forward with you to see God's power at work!

For prayer appointments or more information, contact Melia at [niceandcozy@gmail.com](mailto:niceandcozy@gmail.com)



## OUR MISSIONARIES

### By Joel Sutton

Senior Pastor

God is interested in the entire world!

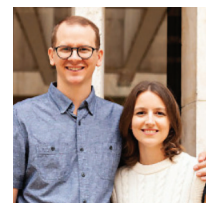
He always has been. In Genesis, God made a covenant with Abraham, promising to not only bless him but through his descendants to bless all families of the earth. When Jesus walked the earth, he showed how God loved all people. Jesus had compassion for a Roman centurion, a Canaanite mother, and a Samaritan woman. Then he commanded his disciples to "Go and make disciples of all nations". And in Acts, the disciples go. They stepped out of their comfort zone of Jerusalem and Judea, moved to Samaria and finally to the ends of the earth. Telling all people about God's love for them in Jesus Christ. And God is still interested in the entire world! So do you know where in our missionaries serve in this world?

Get to know our Missionaries! Join us this weekend at our Outreach Weekend, Oct. 5-6.



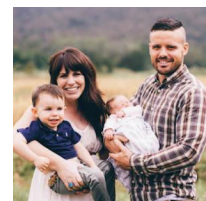
#### GUY & BARB HUGO

Reaching Native Americans in the U.S. and Canada through Friendship Evangelism.



#### JOSH KRATO

As a Reach Global missionary, Josh is a city church leader and pastor in Prague, Czech Republic.



#### MATT & AUDREY POUND

In Chiang Mai, Thailand, they serve the poor and vulnerable children by operating a children's home.

## OUR MISSIONARIES



#### KATIE DUDGEON

Equipping other believers to share Christ in the post-Christian city of San Francisco, California.



#### RICK & BECKY MACKEY

Helping Dominican Christians grow healthy churches in the rural mountains of the Dominican Republic.



#### DENNIS AND NICOLE DEBRUYN

Disciple making, evangelism, leadership development and church planting in Berlin, Germany



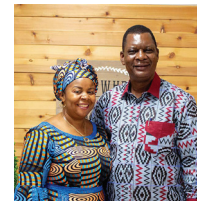
#### GLENN & TERESA KENADJIAN

Reaching Chinese college students studying in the U.S.



#### DAVE BOEHL

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



#### NUBAKO & CLAUDINE SELENGA

City Team leaders developing strategic partnerships in Kinshasa City, Democratic Republic of the Congo



#### ROCKY & RACHEL BLISS

Information Technology Specialist & Southeast Asia Advocate at Global Fingerprints.



#### ENRIQUE AND BECKY FERNANDEZ

Latin America Training Network (LATN)—Providing training and teaching to Christian leaders in Latin America and the U.S. through use of the internet.



#### JOHN & WENDY GERHARDT

Director of Urban Impact Ministries in the inner city of New Orleans.



#### GRACE STOELZING

At the University of Wyoming with Campus Ventures, Grace disciples students, runs events, and serves on the staff team.



#### ANDY & LORNA GILBERT

Andy and Lorna have been involved with planting churches in Japan through Reach Global.



#### TOM & JOY HARRIGER

Long time missionaries with Cru, investing in the lives of teenagers throughout the world.



#### HEIDI TUNBERG

Provides care for missionary kids who have returned to the U.S.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- Our condolences to the family of Joyce Longfield (mother of Lynn Longfield) who passed away at the age of 91.
- Our condolences to the family of Frederick Dittmer (son of Bryant & Hannah Dittmer) who passed away at the age of 3 months.
- Congratulations to Olga Tymovch and Geoff Rogne on their marriage on September 1!
- Congratulations to Nancy Kolb and George Comb on their marriage on September 25!
- Congratulations to Patrick and Melissa Melrick on their marriage on September 27!