

# FIRST FREE CHURCH

Minneapolis

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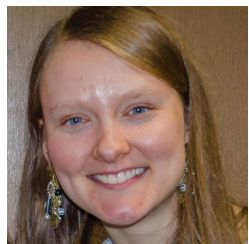
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# FIRST WORD

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

OCTOBER 2014

## OUR TEAM WORLD VISION



### **Elise Riveness**

Running Since: 2013  
**Why are you running for Team World Vision?**  
I ran the 2013 marathon for TWV because 1) the cause tugged at my heart and 2) I wanted to complete the challenge of running a marathon. This year it's even more personal because collecting water is the task of my World Vision sponsor child, Doreen.



### **Priscilla Riveness**

Running Since: 2007 (off and on)  
**Why are you running for Team World Vision?**  
I am running with TWV because it combines two of my loves: to run and to be involved in world change, be it ever so small.



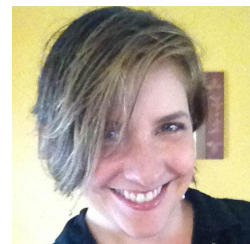
### **Heather Stacey**

Running Since: 2014  
**Why are you running for Team World Vision?**  
I am running for Team World Vision so every step has purpose for something greater than my own personal goals.



### **Shane Stacey**

Running Since: 2014  
**Why are you running for Team World Vision?**  
Running a half or full marathon was on my bucket list. But, I had no motivation to complete this goal. Running for my own health PLUS the health of others gave me just the motivation to go for it.



### **Kari Taylor**

Running Since: 2009  
**Why are you running for Team World Vision?**  
I started out running because I was curious to see if it was something I would be able to do. With God's strength, I became stronger and more capable each week. The truth is, I don't want to run a marathon just for my own sake, I would rather run it for a greater cause.

## *Gracious and Salty Speech* By: Pastor Joel

When was the last conversation you had with your neighbor? Becky and I love to connect with our neighbors. Years ago, in our former neighborhood, we joined forces with several of our friends to hold a "Welcome to Spring" BBQ every May. Then in October we would have a "Fall festival" — complete with a fire pit, apple cider and smores. It was always a lot of fun. Our goal was to get to know those who lived around us.

In Colossians 4 the Apostle Paul tells us as believers, "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders, make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

In other words, Paul is suggesting that we get in such close contact with our neighbors that we are able to speak to them with gracious and salty speech and answer their questions. If you wish to introduce people to the God who created them, who loves them, and who longs to save them, you must get near them. You must develop friendships with people far from God.

*Pastor Joel's article continued inside....*

### **CURRENT SERMON SERIES:**

**LAMPOST: LETTING CHRIST SHINE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

Oct. 5 – Lamppost: Service

Oct. 12 – Lamppost: Hospitality

Oct. 19 – Lamppost: Time

Oct. 25 & 26 – Outreach Weekend: Jeff Sorvik Speaking

## **OUTREACH WEEKEND: OCTOBER 25-26, 2014**

In Acts 19, the work of the Apostle Paul and his team in Ephesus shows the gospel can transform whole regions, reproducing disciples and churches. The theme for our Outreach Weekend at the end of October is "Transformational Discipleship". We are excited to hear how God is transforming lives and cities all over the world and how we can play a part.

Jeff Sorvik serves as the Church Multiplication champion for the EFCA national ministries. Jeff has planted multiple churches throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. He will be our keynote speaker on Sunday morning.

### **Sunday Community Groups:**

- G.P. and Nancy Foote work with Cru International Students at Iowa State University.
- Roy and Sue Haglund serve with Missionary Aviation Fellowship. Roy is a pilot and they ministered both in Central America and Africa and are currently serving at the MAF headquarters in Idaho.
- Phil and Cindy Read recently returned from serving with Navigators in Asia.

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

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

Check out our website!

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

Visit our Facebook page!  
First Free is now on twitter  
@FEFCMpls

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

**GRACIOUS & SALTY SPEECH CONTINUED...**

Over the years, I have run across the misconception that people think, "Well, sure, it is easy for you to be in relationship with people who need God. You're a pastor!" But understand, I am surrounded by church people all day! For me getting close to people who need Christ is harder than you think. It takes intentionality.

Jesus was intentional when he called Zacchaeus to come down from the tree and invited himself over. Jesus was purposeful when he met the Samaritan woman at the well and asked her for a drink. Jesus was deliberate when he ate supper at Levi's house with all of Levi's "sinful" friends.

As I have often shared, I love to play tennis. In the past couple of years, I have gotten back into playing tennis on a more regular and competitive basis. This conviction, that I have to intentionally find ways to develop friendships with irreligious people, drove my decision regarding what tennis team I would play with this past year—a group of guys that are from this community.

That is what happens when you get serious about letting the light of Christ shine through you. Loving your neighbor will mean you have to be purposeful in your relationships. It means you have to get into close proximity with those people right around you—many who are living rather far from God. It will involve intentionally getting to know their stories. As Paul reminded the Colossians: you will have to earn the right to be able to speak to your neighbors with gracious and salty speech.

My prayer is that you will take the risk and be a lamppost in your neighborhood . . . allow Christ's light shine through you!

**OCTOBER 12:**

Andy & Lorna Gilbert, missionaries from Japan, will be having an informal gathering at 3:00 p.m. at Mark & Sherie McClun's home to talk about their time working with earthquake and tsunami victims in Northern Japan.

**OCTOBER 25 & 26  
OUTREACH WEEKEND**

**DETAILS OF THE WEEKEND:**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 25:**

Join us for brunch and hear from a panel of missionaries from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and get to know them and their ministries.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 26:**

Missionaries will be speaking in Sunday classes at 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.

**9:15 a.m.:** G.P. & Nancy Foote (Campus Crusade): Faithbuilders  
Roy & Sue Haglund (Missionary Aviation Fellowship): Youth Church  
Phil & Cindy Read (recently returned from Asia): Life Builders

**11:00 a.m.:** G.P. & Nancy Foote (Campus Crusade): Agape  
Roy & Sue Haglund (Missionary Aviation Fellowship): Children's Church  
Phil & Cindy Read (recently returned from Asia): Seniors and Embark/Real Talk

**UPCOMING @  
FIRST FREE**

**EXPRESSIONS – OCTOBER 5TH & 19TH FROM 3:30-5:30 P.M.**

For those struggling with chronic illnesses or pain, join us from 3:30-5:30 P.M. in room 103.

**TWIN CITIES MARATHON – OCTOBER 5TH @ 7:00-10:45 A.M.**

From 8:30-10:30 a.m. we will be gathering to welcome neighbors and be cheering for the Twin Cities Marathon runners as well as our own Team World Vision runners! Join us for coffee and donuts as we cheer and connect with our neighbors on Sunday, October 5th. **Join us afterwards for our 11:00 a.m. service.**

**CPR/AED TRAINING – OCTOBER 5TH**

On Oct. 5th, after second service there will be a certification/recertification of CPR with AED training. All those who work with children, youth, and adults in the church are welcome. A light lunch will be served at 12:15; the class will end at 2:00. Please RSVP to the church office by Oct 1st.

**CLASS 101 – OCTOBER 12TH @ 4:00 P.M.**

Interested in becoming a member at First Free? Check out our Class 101, October 12 at 4:00 p.m. to learn more about what it means to be a First Free member.

**SOULSHARE – OCTOBER 18 @ 9:00-10:30 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. This month's discussion: Intimacy with God.

**THE DEEP – OCTOBER 22ND @ 6:30 P.M.**

Come, be refreshed and encouraged in worship and prayer. Join us for The DEEP on October 22nd at 6:30 p.m.



*Operation  
Christmas  
Child*

Creekside Clubs are partnering with Samaritan's Purse to send Christmas gifts to children all over the world. Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. We are collecting donations October 12–November 12. On Wednesday, November 19th, the boys and girls will work together to pack as many shoeboxes as they can. Helpers are needed for set up and at packing stations on November 19th! Let Beth Brown know if you are available.

Donation ideas can be found at:  
[www.samaritanaspurse.org](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org)

Questions? E-mail Beth Brown:  
[beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org)

*Church Family News*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Gabe & Abbie Holm on the birth of their son, George Louis Holm! He was born on September 15th weighing 7lbs. 4oz. and 20.5 in.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Ben & Janielle Nordell on the birth of their daughter, Esther Grace Nordell! She was born on September 19th at 8:56 p.m. weighing 8lbs and 20.5 inches long.

**HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY** to Morris & Mary Kay Brown! They were married 40 years ago on October 25th and will be hosting a celebration party here on October 18th from 1-4 p.m. It is an open house, so those who attend First Free are welcome to come!

**WHY ARE WE CHEERING AT THE TWIN CITIES MARATHON?**

On the first Sunday of October you will find our church family down standing down on Minnehaha Parkway cheering the runners from the Twin Cities Marathon. Afterwards, at 11 am, we will join together for a single worship service!

Why? Why are we cancelling our 9:15 worship and all our Sunday morning classes? To bless and serve our community.

At First Free, one of our values is a "Missional Mindset, where we are compelled by God's love to reach our community and world for Christ." On Marathon Sunday, not only will there be 60 plus people from First Free who are handing out refreshments to runners, but we will also be offering coffee and donuts to our neighbors as we together cheer the runners on!