



FIRST
EVANGELICAL
FREE
CHURCH

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In The First Place...



FEED ON THE WORD: THE NECESSITY OF SCRIPTURE

When I challenged our congregation to read through the Bible in 2010 I was encouraged by the response. We estimate that over 100 people in our congregation are currently endeavoring to read through the Bible this year (or in two years). For those of you who have made that commitment I want to encourage you to persevere. If you have already fallen behind or stopped altogether I want to challenge you to keep on. If you never made the commitment, it's not too late! You don't need a new year to begin reading your Bible. Regardless of where you're at or what plan you follow I want to encourage you to read God's Word daily. This isn't just some pep talk; this is necessary!

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).

There are many spiritual disciplines in the Christian life, but one rises to the top – feeding on the Word of God (read it, hear it, study it, memorize it, and meditate on it). We *need* the Word for our spiritual vitality like we need “bread” for physical vitality. Are you alive? Do you have a “life” in the Word?

Our life is dependent on the Word of God; it is *necessary*! God's Word is necessary for salvation (Rom. 10:13-17); necessary for maintaining and growing in our lives as Christians (Deut. 32:47; 1 Pt. 1:23-25; 2:2); and necessary for understanding God's will for our lives (Deut. 29:29; 1 Jn. 5:3). God's Word is necessary to having a growing relationship with God. There is an inseparability between God and his Word. How you relate and respond to his Word *is* how you relate and respond to God himself.

In the coming months I intend to write a brief piece in this newsletter to encourage you to feed on the Word of God by showing you what the Bible says about itself. I believe understanding the nature of God's Word will help motivate us to know it better. In coming months we'll explore other aspects like the inspiration, authority, clarity, usefulness, and effectiveness of Scripture. Until then I encourage you to feed on God's Word daily, not just because it's a good idea, but because it is necessary for your life!

Pastor Josh

**food packaging event for haiti
saturday, march 27**



**feeding
the
hungry
2010**



**donate and sign up at the table
in the courtyard on sundays.**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



In just a few weeks, on March 27, we'll be gathering together to assemble meals through the Numana organization. The meals will be shipped to Haiti and served to children in Salvation Army sponsored schools. We are already over a third of the way towards making our financial goal of \$30,000 which will allow us to prepare 100,000 meals for children. What an exciting opportunity for our church to come together to benefit those struggling in Haiti.

Children are troubled, as we are, when they see the suffering and devastation in the news. What are some ways to help children process the images and the realization that many in this impoverished nation have lost everything in the earthquake?

- Assure children that God does not sleep and He knows what the people of Haiti are going through.
- Assure children of God's great love for every person in the whole world.
- Admit that there are things that happen in the world that we don't understand, but there are things we can do to help people who are suffering.
- Talk with children about ways they can help: pray for them, give money to groups who can help, stay alert and be open to other ways of helping as time goes on. There will be ongoing needs for the people of Haiti and for other suffering people in the world.

One reason this Numana project is so special is that families can come together and do something tangible to help children in Haiti! Here are some ways for your family to get involved:

- Pick up a 'We CAN help Haiti' label at the Numana table in the Courtyard; put it on a can at home as a collection container for your family's spare change.
- Register your family to work at the Numana event on March 27. It will be a great experience! Register by emailing Donna Logan.
- Sign up for the Numana March Meal on March 3. We'll prepare a simple meal of beans, rice, tortillas and the Numana food product for you (or you can bring a brown bag supper, if you prefer). All money collected that evening will go directly to the Numana project at First Free.
- Remember, 30 cents feeds one person a meal! Every little bit helps a lot.

If you have other questions call Maggie Black.

Judy Hollander

MOMMY & ME

Mommy & Me meets twice a month from 9:00 - 10.30 a.m. All moms, babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers welcome!! Contact Jill Yowell for information.

March 10: Towne East play place (lower level outside Sears). Enter any mall entrance. Bring your own coffee and kid snack.

March 24: First Free Shine! Wing Room 202 and playground (if the weather permits).



Micah and Becca Hoelscher
announce the birth of
Chloe Leigh
on February 8, 2010

Abel and Rachel Winn
announce the birth of
Peter Marshall
on February 9, 2010



Dear First Free Family,

Thank you for the peace lily plant that you sent to us in honor of Greg's father. You showered us with cards, phone calls, meals, and kind words. We so appreciate that you have been the hands and feet of Christ to minister to us.

*In Him,
Greg and Myra Waldo and family*

*To our Brothers and Sisters in Christ - The First Free family,
Thank you for the lovely plant that you sent in Dad's memory. His memorial service was a wonderful celebration of Dad's life and we rejoice in the knowledge that he is now at peace with his Lord and singing with the heavenly choir. Please know that the many prayers that have been lifted on our behalf have been a comfort to us during this sad time. At times like these, friends that come alongside are a blessing and a source of strength. Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness and prayerful support during this difficult time.*

*In His Care,
Cindy and Stan Davie*



DAY OF PRAYER
Thursday,
March 4

Come to the Chapel any time that day between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to pray.



STUDENT MINISTRIES



I have been working at the church for 6 months and it has been awesome so far. This is actually the longest I have ever worked at the same place. I realize that sounds ridiculous, but it's true. This is also the first full-time job I have ever had. Needless to say I have been learning a lot, ranging from how to properly prepare a sermon to how to build skate ramps. Each day is different in youth ministry and you never know what is going to happen. I have meetings planned on different days with things I want to go over. However, there are a lot more meetings that are unplanned and have no agenda. (I like them better). Because of this you have to be flexible.

I interned at a church in Topeka a few years ago and the youth pastor frequently told me that flexibility is a key to life, especially in youth ministry. Nothing is ever going to go quite as it was planned, so you have to change it on the fly and not get frustrated or stressed about it. It doesn't matter the order that events happen as long as the outcome is the same. If a game fails in an epic fashion, laugh it off and move on (while making a note to never play it again). Be flexible and willing to change in life as long as the end goal is accomplished. I will have a great opportunity to practice this at Spring Retreat the first weekend of March.

Lucas McGarity

MARCH MEALS

March Meals will be served on 4 Wednesdays this month between 5:30 and 6:15 p.m. in the gym. Except for the 2 fund-raising meals, the cost is \$2.50 a person, 3 years old and younger eat free, maximum of \$10 per family. Sign up sheets with more information are at the Welcome Center.



March 3 - Beans and Rice (Haiti fund raising) prepared by Children's Ministry Team. Donations to go toward the March 27 Numana food packaging event for Haiti.

March 10 - Chili, baked potato, and hot dogs (fund-raising meal) prepared by YoungLives. Donations will assist YoungLives mothers to go to summer camp.

March 17 - (no March Meal)

March 24 - Chinese Cuisine prepared by the Chinese Congregation

March 31 - Spaghetti and salad prepared by Student Ministries

MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The monthly breakfast for First Free men is Saturday, March 13, at 7:30 a.m. in the gym. Join others for this time of food, fellowship, and prayer. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated.

First Free Women

SCRAPBOOKING CROP!

Fri., March 5, 5:00 - 11:00 p.m. (free)
Sat., March 6, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (\$3)
 Bring your photos, supplies, food and drink. To reserve a spot, pick up a registration form at the Welcome Center or contact Nancy McCollum.

FIRST FREE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, March 25, at 7:00 p.m.

We will meet at Diane Martin's home and discuss *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult and then watch the DVD.



On April 15 we will have a special evening with Kansas author Deborah Raney. Watch for more information.

Contact Helen Finley with questions.