



# Evangelical Etchings

August 2021

## We are Becoming Disciples

By Pastor Randy Anderson



<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:18-20 ESV)

### "All authority in heaven and on earth...."

This is the authority of Jesus. Jesus possesses all authority in heaven and on earth. This is the authority of the one whom we want to be discipled by – by Jesus. When Pastor Donn reminds us Sunday by Sunday that 'we are becoming disciples,' he means that we are to be becoming Jesus' disciples; and Jesus possesses all authority in heaven and on earth. Infinitely more authority than Fox News. Infinitely more authority than The New York Times. Infinitely more authority than any other possible authority that can be named. To the extent that we are Biblically faithful – to that extent and only to that extent – what we learn from Scripture is backed by 'all authority in heaven and on earth...'

### "Teaching them..."

It is a present tense participle. The sense is the repeated and continuing nature of the activity. Jesus is about teaching – repeatedly teaching – constantly teaching. Jesus tells us here that central to what we call 'The Great Commission' – the greatest commission on earth – is teaching. It seems so mundane doesn't it – the teaching of Scripture that we do here week by week? Sermons. Sunday School lessons. Bible studies. Individual Bible reading. Teaching them. It was at the very heart of the life of Him who possessed 'all authority in heaven and on earth.'

"Teaching them to observe (keep) all that I commanded you..."

As the Puritan Super Star of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, John Owen, once expressed it 'we learn all to practice, and we learn much by practice.' We learn all to practice. We make disciples for the sake of practice – the practical daily following of Jesus – our following being shaped by Jesus' commandments and our obedience to them. The prayer is and must always be that preaching, and Sunday School lessons and Bible studies would be transformational. Not 24 hours transformational. Not 24 months transformational. But rather 24 years transformational. That over a lifetime of hearing and reading and listening and learning we find our lives fundamentally and largely shaped by the words and commands of Jesus. This is what we are to be about – this is what it means to say 'we are becoming disciples...'

### "I will be with you always..."

The words of the Greek New Testament here are Hebraic in formulation. A 'woodenly literal' translation of the phrase would be 'I am with you all the days...' Jesus, who possesses all authority in heaven and on earth promises to walk with His people 'all the days.... forever' That is the idea in the phrase. Jesus with us 'all the days.' Jesus with us on glorious days when we are hiking in a National Park, and Jesus with us on daunting days at the bedside of our father or mother. Jesus with us as we age and approach the end. Jesus with us as we rejoice at the birth of our first child. 'Always = all the days.'

We are becoming disciples.

Pastor Randy

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## **Library Updates**

By The Library Committee

The Summer Reading Challenge is in full swing. Fifty-seven children have registered to participate. It is great to see the library being used by so many new families this summer.

Just a reminder; the Challenge continues until Sunday, September 5th when all packets must be returned. Prizes will be awarded several weeks after the end of the Challenge. Packets may be turned in sooner, but please be sure to give them to a librarian. Be sure to mark the packet with your prize choice.

All books may be checked out for four weeks and audios and DVDs for two weeks. Books may be renewed if they are not on the waiting list. The librarians greatly appreciate the prompt return of library materials as this helps us to be more efficient.

You are welcome to visit the library during the week anytime the church office is open, as well as on Sunday and Wednesday. Thank you.



### **Need to Update Your Information?**

Have you or a member of your home moved recently?  
Do you have a new cell phone or e-mail address?  
Please call the church at 605-338-2077 or e-mail:  
[office@knowinggods.org](mailto:office@knowinggods.org) to help us keep in contact

### **Miss a Sermon? Wish to Hear One Again?**

Please visit: <https://www.knowinggods.org/resources/sermon-audio/>  
to listen to sermons by the FEFC Pastoral Staff! You can search by keyword, date, speaker, scripture, series, or topic.

## AWANA Updates

By Craig & Chris Herman



We are in the planning stages for the new AWANA club year which will begin **Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** for the clubbers. We had a smaller club this last year with fewer clubbers and leader's due to the pandemic. Several families chose to do club "at home" and many chose to forgo club for one year. With all that being said, we are anticipating that we will have some of those families back, along with a few new ones. We have already had emails of families wishing to get registered.

We are so grateful for those of you who commit to discipling these children that come each week. In years past, **we have averaged around 200 children each Wednesday night** from ages 3 years old through sixth grade.

To be able to do ministry effectively it takes about 60 people helping throughout all the grade levels. If you have a desire to help children memorize God's Word and teach them how to love and serve Jesus, please contact us. It is not necessary if you've had previous experience in AWANA. We will have a training session for all those involved in the program on **Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>** at 6:25 in the fellowship hall.

We have been so blessed to have such a great group of directors and leaders each year.

All for His glory,  
Craig & Chris Herman  
AWANA Ministry Leaders

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

**Galatians 5:13**

## First E Free: Social Media

 [Facebook.com/knowninggods](https://www.facebook.com/knowninggods)

 [Instagram.com/fecc\\_youthministry](https://www.instagram.com/fecc_youthministry)

 [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_3eb2t6TelxxO-oIIWNYPw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_3eb2t6TelxxO-oIIWNYPw)



## Women's Ministry News

By Mary Lynne Johnson

The Women's Ministry leadership team has been at work this summer planning for the remainder of the year. Studying God's Word together is the heart of Women's Ministry. We love to gather weekly to learn and grow together. There are two opportunities for you to join us.

- Thursday mornings from 9-11 AM starting September 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be studying the book of *God of Deliverance: A Study of Exodus 1-18* by Jen Wilkin. The cost is \$17. Childcare will be provided through age 5.
- Tuesday evenings at church from 6:30-8:30 PM. We will wrap up *Son of God Vol 1* (Mark 1-8) on September 7<sup>th</sup> and then we will meet every other Tuesday evening starting September 14<sup>th</sup> for the study *Son of God Volume 2 (Mark 9-16)* by Keri Folmar. The cost is \$10.

You may register online or email Mary Lynne at [marylynne@knowinggods.org](mailto:marylynne@knowinggods.org). Please consider joining us for one of these studies for learning, fellowship, and prayer.



## Volunteer Opportunity

Do you ever have that feeling that you'd like to do more? Maybe you would like to get plugged in but don't know how? Maybe you only have a couple of hours a month to spare? You don't have to go to another city, state or country to be of service...we can use your help! Women's Ministries provides free childcare for our moms with kids during Thursday morning Bible study. Because of laws put in place to protect children, we are obligated to provide at least two helpers for each classroom and nursery. We want the moms who come on Thursday to be able to attend the study, which means we often don't have enough volunteers to provide the necessary coverage. Are you retired and available? Do you work shifts that would enable you to hold babies one Thursday morning a month?

Here are ways you can participate:

- **Pray:** Please be in prayer for this ministry.
- **Give:** We accept donations to cover the cost of the paid workers.
- **Work:** We would love for you to join us in caring for the next generation of faithful followers of Christ. Even if you are only able to volunteer once a semester your help will be a blessing to these young moms and our ministry. We will fit you into the schedule at your convenience.

Questions or comments? Please email Women's Ministries at [marylynne@knowinggods.org](mailto:marylynne@knowinggods.org) or call the office at 605-338-2077.

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Love one another with brotherly affection.  
Outdo one another in showing honor.

**Romans 12:10**



## Earnest for a Plentiful Harvest

By James Swanson



Out of his compassionate heart for the lost and shepherdless people, Jesus exhorts his followers to also manifest an earnest heart of prayer for more laborers to be sent into the plentiful harvest. This passage encourages those of us who follow Jesus to participate with Him in this Gospel harvest work.

Still today, He beckons us to pray earnestly for more Gospel field workers to be sent to the lost around us and the world. He implies that we were "harvested". Someone prayed and the Lord sent another to point us to Himself as the Good Shepherd.

We need Jesus' words to fuel our passion for His eternal harvest through prayer for more workers and our own work as we love the "harassed and helpless" in our lives.

Over the past year, the Lord has sent us three new laborers (chaplains) to work in *Corporate Care's* marketplace field. Justin V. serves two hundred employees at Fey Industries in southwest Minnesota. Pastor Christopher cares for eighty employees at Auto Body Specialties in Sioux Falls.

Most recently, the Lord provided Pastor Fred to provide gospel care for the forty employees at Weisser Distributing-North Las Vegas. What great joy that the Lord of the harvest opened the door for Corporate Care in Las Vegas! We are very grateful for the many lives that we get to help and reach out to through our partnering businesses.

And it is a Matthew 9:38 result of the Lord's faithful response to your earnest prayers! We are very grateful for the many lives that we get to help and reach out to through our partnering businesses.

Last January, Andy Jorgenson (owner of Fire Bros), Bob Weisser (founder of Weisser Distributing) and I travelled to Uganda to encourage and be encouraged by Tendo Ministries' gospel work that the Lord has sent us to partner with for the last three years. During our trip, God allowed us a glimpse of His work in the schools, the local church, with the motorcycle taxi drivers, and in many other ways. This is further evidence of Jesus sending an assortment of workers for His harvest in southeastern Uganda.

*Corporate Care* is blessed to labor for Jesus' kingdom in the marketplace. Thank you for your important role in sending us out with your gifts of encouraging words, earnest prayers and generous financial support. We are encouraged as we labor alongside you in God's great harvest field. We look forward to future harvesting to add to what the Lord has already accomplished to the praise of His glorious grace!

Working together for the Lord of the harvest,

Founder – Corporate Care



## Missionary Update

By Kevin & Leslie Friesen

How much do I care for those around me and to what lengths am I willing to go in order to see the will of God done? During the last several months I have been contemplating the concern and care that I have for those I love and am responsible for. There is an emotional, physical and financial toll we experience as we expend ourselves for our youth to prepare them for the future.

This past year has brought some heavy burdens as we strive to guide and provide for them and point them to the One who can bring them purpose, hope and joy. In reflecting about the difficult journey that we are currently traveling, I have also been pondering Romans 8:32; what God the Father did for me in the spiritual realm does not compare to the physical burdens that I am currently carrying for my kids. God's compassion for me involves so much more than just providing salvation and I probably won't know the extent of it until He explains it all in heaven.

My struggles may seem overwhelming but He did so much more for me! We continue to pour our lives into our kid's lives, praying and desiring that they will follow Jesus whole-heartedly. Have you pondered what Jesus has done for you and the cost that He sacrificed for you?

In looking at the SEND calendar this last month, it would seem that the pandemic would be behind us (as compared to what we hear on the news regarding the COVID delta variant). There were requests for airport runs moving people here and there, training session setups and teardowns, and time to connect with appointees and missionaries coming through town.

This last week we also moved the belongings of the other two residents living on campus to their next homes - leaving our family as the last remaining residents. This month's calendar brings two more groups of people into town for training: missionaries going through some final training before leaving for the field for the first time and a group of missionaries just returning from the field looking to report out to supporters about what the Lord is doing in their areas of the ministry. These are all exciting, busy activities that are squeezed into the normal work that needs to be accomplished of tackling next year's budget and preparing the accounting system so it is ready for the audit that is only a few months away.

### We are so thankful this month for:

- Several short-term and mid-term missionaries who are scheduled to depart for the field in the next month,
- Our new landlord is gracious and easy to work with.
- Noelle is making progress in her program.
- For wisdom for SEND to clearly see where the Lord would have us locate next,
- That God would guide our family decisions to know where to live that would fit in our budget and to find appropriate school options that would prepare our youth for graduation/life.
- Two co-workers in the office who are struggling and need healing with serious health concerns,
- Guidance for the doctors to find a solution that would help Michael through the problems he has just experienced.
- That our teens will hunger and thirst for righteousness; desiring to know and live for Jesus.
- For our ongoing financial needs to be met and that God would touch more hearts to prayerfully and financially partner with us in this ministry. We are grateful that we have people like you who have been praying and supporting us. Your partnership is essential to this ministry of upholding the financial activities of over 500 missionaries who share about Jesus around the world and equip others to do the same.

Thank you for being part of our journey and praying for us; we are praying for you also as you face difficulties as well. We would love to know how we can pray for you specifically. Thank you for your support and encouragement!

In His service,

*Kevin & Leslie Friesen*

P.S. Is there someone you know who is passionate about missions and desires to either go or support missions that you could introduce us to? We would love to work with you making the connection to further God's kingdom!





## ...Continued from P. 4: Women's Ministry News!

### Fill the Freezer

Join us for a night of cooking to refill the freezer! Did you know that FEFC has a freezer ministry? This ministry provides a meal to anyone in our congregation in need.

**What you need to know:** This ministry is in place to provide a frozen homemade meal for anyone in need—a simple way to show love and support to those in our congregation.

**Who are the meals for:** Yourself or anyone you know in our church that may be in need of a homemade meal. A meal can either be delivered by a volunteer or picked up from the kitchen freezer at church.

#### How you can be involved:

- Join us on a "Fill the Freezer Night" when we gather as a group to prepare meals. It's a perfect service project for a community group as well.
- The next "Fill the Freezer Night" will be September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Watch the bulletin for more information. Sign up online or contact Kimberly Caldwell at [schollkj@gmail.com](mailto:schollkj@gmail.com).
- Help by making us aware of anyone who needs a meal, either for your own family or someone else.
- Join the list of volunteers interested in either preparing a meal for the freezer or delivering meals to those in need.

**Who should I contact:** Kimberly Caldwell by phone at 605-651-9843 or by email at [schollkj@gmail.com](mailto:schollkj@gmail.com). If urgent and unable to reach Kimberly, please call the office or Mary Lynne Johnson at 612-209-0578.

### Women's Fall Conference

Mark your calendars! Change is good, right? This year the Women's Ministries fall conference will be a one-day event on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 AM-2:30 PM at FEFC. Our own Cathy Hofer will be leading us as we consider the powerful impact of prayer in our lives.

The conference is meant to be a time set aside from our daily activities and responsibilities for personal refreshment, relationship building and spiritual growth. We know you won't want to miss this opportunity for teaching and connection.

If you have questions or want to be involved, please call the church or email Women's Ministries at [marylynne@knowinggodsf.org](mailto:marylynne@knowinggodsf.org).



"*Evangelical Etchings*" is a quarterly newsletter of First Evangelical Free Church in Sioux Falls, SD. It is mailed to regular attenders and others upon request by contacting the office by email at [office@knowinggodsf.org](mailto:office@knowinggodsf.org) or by phone at 605-338-2077.

"Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another"

**1 Thessalonians 4:9**

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## Upcoming Events at FEFC

### August

- 1 All Church picnic: McKennan Park at 6pm
- 4 Youth Group at Valley Fair
- 5 Women's Ministries: Gathering Night at FEFC
- 8 Communion Sunday
- 8 Second Sunday Potluck
- 29 All Church picnic: McKennan Park at 6pm

### September

- 5 Youth Group Pancake Fundraiser
- 6 Labor Day | Church Office is closed
- 12 Fall Kick-Off
- 12 Communion Sunday
- 19 New Member Class
- 26 New Member Class
- 29 Women's Ministries: Fill the Freezer Event

### October

- 3 New Member Class
- 10 Second Sunday Potluck
- 17 Communion Sunday
- 23 Women's Ministries: Fall Retreat at FEFC