

# MILACA FREE CHURCH NEWS

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Milaca, MN 56353

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## SITTING AT THE FEET OF RABBI JESUS PT. 2

Jesus was unquestionably the best teacher to ever live. Look at the way he used simple stories to explain complex concepts. See him craft his parables so that his followers understood and his critics could not. He silenced the most learned men of his time with a simple question, and drew huge crowds with the good news of his love and personal compassion.

But far greater evidence of the effectiveness of his teaching is the influence it had on the people who followed him. We see fishermen, tax collectors, militant revolutionaries, prostitutes, thugs and farmers transformed and empowered to take his message to the far reaches of the world.

In calling Jesus, Rabbi, the people recognized his authority as well as the power and truth of his teaching. So they came to him and said, "Teach us to pray." In response he used this parable:

<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; <sup>7</sup> and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup>And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

<sup>11</sup>What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; <sup>12</sup>or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The point of the parable and Jesus' explanation is persistence. No, this does not contradict his admonition to, "not heap up empty phrases like the heathen." The difference is that the heathen are trying to impress God with their words, to get what they want from him, rather than seeking to know and obey God. We come to him with passion and persistence when we pray for our families, our friends, our community, our nation and our world.

My prayer is that together we will grow in our persistence in prayer for God's priorities.

*Pastor Dan*

## FROM THE FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

### Healthy Relationships

February is the month when people often think of romantic relationships and many people exchange cards or gifts to express affection for one another. As I was thinking about relationships, I wanted to look into healthy Christian relationships for everyone, not only in the romantic sense. As I searched for information on what a healthy relationship from a Christian's viewpoint looks like, I found "5 Traits of True Christian Friends" by Mary Fairchild. Here is some of what she had to say:

- Christian friends love sacrificially, John 15:13 *Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*
- 2. Christian friends accept unconditionally, Proverbs 17:17 *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*
- 3. Christian friends trust completely, Proverbs, 18:24 *A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*
- 4. Christian friends keep healthy boundaries, 1 Corinthians 13:4 *Love is patient, love is kind.*
- 5. Christian friends give mutual edification, Proverbs 27:6 *Wounds from a friend can be trusted .*

One also thinks of the one-anothering passages from the New Testament, telling us to serve one another (Gal 5:13), to be kind and compassionate toward one another (Eph 4:32), to encourage one another (1 Thess 5:11, Heb 3:13, 10:25), and love one another (1John).

These and the above passages can only be obeyed in loving community. At MEFC, we focus on building community through ABCs, and small groups.

In my position as the Faith Community Nurse, I also have the pleasure of building one on one relationships with people through calls and visitation. During this time of answering questions, prayer and just being with (or talking with) another, there is often a sense of mutual blessing.

If you are someone who would like to build one on one relationships with those in our church body, especially those who aren't able to be with us each Sunday morning, please contact me at 982-1249, or email: nurse@milacafreechurch.com. This is an opportunity to get to know others you might not know otherwise, or maybe have not seen for awhile. It is a time to pray together and a time to encourage one another.

Alison Jergens, Faith Community Nurse

**CPR training course** to be offered Tuesday, February 28th at 5:30 pm. This class may last up to 4 hours. Adult, child, and infant CPR as well as AED use will be covered. There is no charge for this class. Please sign up on the sign up sheet on the Health Cabinet Ministry bulletin board (across from the Event and Opportunities bulletin board) by Sunday, February 19th. Questions, contact Alison.

## **Milaca Area Senior Fellowship**

The first month of 2012 is all most gone, Thanksgiving and Christmas seem like just yesterday. How time flies, makes me think about God coming and soon. We don't have much time so I pray each one of us will tell everyone we come in contact with the good news of God's forgiveness.

This has been a very busy month for a lot of us, so here are some highlights of Senior Fellowship; On the 20<sup>th</sup>, 22 of us met and heard about what Bruce and Jan Johnson are doing in Bolivia. How Jan checks to see if all of the translation is correct and clean for transmission on the radio. Amazing!!!! We saw some pictures of the Radio Station and how it was built, one of a man 300 feet in the air on the radio tower. How interesting and so very dangerous. But God helped put this tower up and another one as well, and kept everyone safe. GOD IS GOOD!! Than everyone had refreshments and had a great time talking with Bruce and Jan.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 of us met at the Senior Diner for dinner and had a great time of fellowship. The weather was not so good so a few were not able to come. After, six of us stayed to play games, well five played, but we had a good time.

Next month, and put this on your calendars, that's the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, Vern and Aretta Jenson will be giving us special music. I know this will be something everyone will want to hear so come and invite a friend.

**Frank Vetsch**  
President

**“Breaking Free” study by Beth Moore  
for women to begin February 15<sup>th</sup>**

Wednesday evenings, 6:30 p.m.

Will meet in the Church office

Carol Sahlstrom, study leader

- ❖ This interactive study includes 10 weeks of personal, daily assignments and viewer guides for 11 sessions. **This study will meet the first and third Wednesday of each month.**
- ❖ *Breaking Free – The Journey, The Stories* Is Beth Moore’s life message about Freedom in Christ. Through Scriptures you will discover the transforming power of Christian freedom. God intends for you to know and believe Him, glorify Him, experience His peace, and enjoy His presence.
- ❖ If you are interested or have questions, please contact Carol Sahlstrom (320-983-6480). She will need to know how many are coming to have enough study guides available by **Sunday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Room size seats 15. The cost of the study guide is \$16.00.
- ❖ Wednesday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> will be an introductory lesson and the guides will be given out then.

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**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Men’s Wild Game  
Potluck Dinner**

**Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30 p.m.**

**at Milaca Evangelical Free Church**

**Special speaker is Jim Hinson**

*He loves golf, tennis, and armchair 'quarterbacking' most other sports. Hunting has taken up alot of his vacation time for almost 50 years and has covered 14 states so far. Bowhunting deer and elk are at the top of his list. Turkey hunting comes in A close second. And fishing? Well, that's ok too!*

*However, being a husband of 39 years, a father of 7, and a grandfather of 15 are what constitute his real life passions. That, along with serving the Lord as a pastor/teacher are what makes life truly meaningful.*

*He is in his 17th year as pastor of First Baptist Church of Detroit Lakes, Minn.*

**Invite your friends and family! Bring a wild game dish to share!**

**Poster and sign up located on the south bulletin board in the foyer.**

## **Mike Hanson and Doug Ammerman & More in Concert**

Sunday evening, February 12<sup>th</sup>, Milaca EFC

Doug grew up in Roseau, MN, playing hockey and singing the Canadian National Anthem. Mike grew up in Hinckley, MN and learned to play the guitar and sing cowboy music. Southern gospel music brought them together when Doug sang tenor and Mike sang baritone as part of the southern gospel quartet, Sailin' Free. They are both active members of the Hinckley Evangelical Free Church. They perform a variety of music but their focus is on gospel music. Special guests: John Daggett; and Catrina Campbell who adds the sound of bluegrass with her fiddle. You are sure to enjoy their humor and be encouraged by their testimony in music. A freewill offering will be taken. Food and fellowship to follow.

## **YOUTH GARAGE SALE/BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER**

The Annual Youth Garage Sale is coming up Thursday – Saturday, March 8-10.

Your donations will be needed! Items such as clothes need to be clean, sorted and boxed; other items need to be in working condition and suitable for sale. You can bring your donations to the gym at church, Monday – Wednesday, March 5-7

Donated furniture such as couches, chairs, dressers, etc., if not sold, need to be disposed of by the donor. Baked items will again be graciously accepted.

## **COULD YOU HELP?**

Family Pathways is in need of a male volunteer to visit a gentleman living here in Milaca.

Volunteers offer friendly visits, non-medical that enhance a senior's life, and help them to remain living independently. Volunteers can read, play games, reminisce, provide rides to the grocery store, and Dr appointments. Volunteers are paid mileage for these trips.

Would you consider helping this gentleman out? Training is available. Contact Meg at Family Pathways Senior Services (763-631-5025) or toll free at 877-321-7100 or email her at [meg@familypathways.org](mailto:meg@familypathways.org).

## *Elim's Valentine Dinner*

*Looking for a special evening out with your "valentine?" You're covered! Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, Milaca Elim Home and Country Meadows Assisted Living is having a Valentine's Dinner at the Milaca Ev. Free Church.*

*Social hour is at 6 p.m. with a delicious dinner to follow at 6:30 p.m. After dinner, there will be entertainment in the sanctuary by Pati Kachel who will present "Love Stories to Warm the Heart".*

*There will be a free will offering and all proceeds will be used to purchase another therapeutic whirlpool tub for Elim and an awning for the outdoor patio at Country Meadows.*

*If you would like to be a table decorator or host, or would like to attend the dinner, please call Laura or Lora-jean at (983-2185) by Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.*