

FIRST EVANGELICAL
FREE CHURCH

2008-2009
MOPS
STEERING
TEAM

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REMINDERS:

Please turn your cell phone ringer off or on vibrate. If you have to

Babies 3 months and younger are welcome during the meeting. Older

The food drop off doors will be open again. Look

Services at First Free:
Saturday: "Alternative"
Borderlands @ 5pm
Sundays: Traditional
@8:30am and Contemporary
@10:15am

Dear God,
Help my child to see and understand that the world is a big and diverse place and you have a different and unique plan for each of us.

Enjoy The Ride!

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

TUESDAY, OCT. 14, 2008

Live Loved!



We had a good time in Texas and learned a lot at our Mops International Convention and I thought I would share some of the knowledge with all of you. Elisa Morgan the CEO of MOPS spoke to us first, challenging us all to "Live Loved." Eph. 3:18, being our theme verse, Elisa described how God's love is so long and high and wide and deep that there is no end to it. God's love is for everybody and when "we grasp God's 4D love, that is when we get it." She went on, "When we hold unto what we've been given, we take it to the next place." I loved how she told us that grasping and knowing God's love changes us and helps us to live loved. Elisa informed us that, our love can't fill the wounds our kids have. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love." 1 John 4:18. Another speaker we had the privilege to hear was Erwin Raphael McManus. He encouraged us to never stop dreaming and that maybe there are dreams inside of us that are haunting us because they're dreams God placed inside of us. He taught us that our greatest life is waiting for us on the other side of

our greatest fears and that what we fear establishes the limits of our freedom. He described how he was an actor in a short film and had to jump off a building and how he had to have faith to do that; much like the faith we need to just "jump" and start living our dreams. It is only then that we totally trust God and start living the dreams that he has for us. I also went to a workshop called, "Leaving Heart Prints For Our Children." Debbie Alsdorf was very motivational as she suggested that our children were not given to us to make us happy; we have been given a great challenge to raise them. I hope you find what she had to say as reassuring as I did; she said that God has not called us to be perfect moms, but that he has called us to follow him. "Each of us as moms have influence over the children in our lives." Debbie said, "We all have been handpicked to leave heart prints for our children." "When a difference happens it's when a difference happens in us first." I Struggle sometimes with just dealing with the day to day issues with my kids, you know, discipline, sibling rivalry, laundry, dinner, lack of time to accomplish everything. Well Debbie reminded us all that we need to look at the "big picture" of motherhood. Someday we will see what that is and

she compared it to a puzzle, how we shouldn't focus on the pieces of the puzzle so much. It is only when the puzzle is complete, mothering is complete that we see the whole picture. The times when we see our children living out what we've taught them maybe or telling us thank you for instilling certain things within them. Our greatest challenge is to love, "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him." Coll. 1:16. We received little buttons when we arrived at the convention which had 5 letters on them; SDVWSC. Any guesses? I thought it meant, Sure Don't Want Six Children; I was wrong as Elisa Morgan resolved that it meant, "She Did What She Could." What if we all did what we could? She used the story in the Bible of Mary when she used a whole bottle of expensive perfume to wash Jesus' feet and how she did what she could. We as mothers shouldn't try to always do "all" that we can but "what" we can. Salvation, is the result of being changed and living loved. My prayer is that we all as mothers and women can grasp that truth that is so graciously offered to us daily.



Moppets Information

If you have a child 0-18 months we ask you to bring a box or refill of wipes for their classroom. If your child is 18months—5 years please bring a bulk snack item (ie. a big box of goldfish or bag of animal crackers). Please NO individual packages for snacks. All nametags will continue to be kept outside your child's room until the new system is put in place. We all know we are in the midst of flu season. To keep all of our children healthy, I cannot stress how important how

important this is, we ask you to please wash your child's hands with soap and water before entering their room. All children and staff are asked to refrain from attending when ill. Children should not be admitted into class with any of the following symptoms and/or illness; fever or vomiting in the last 24 hours, impetigo, runny nose (unclear), rashes, skin infection-boils, ringworm, measles, mumps, conjunctivitis, diarrhea, coughing/croup, head lice ,including

the presence of eggs or nits. Remember to label all diapers, bags and sippy cups or bottles. If you ever have any questions or concerns., please see one of your steering team members or Teresa Hubbard. FYI - we have a pager system. If you'd like to use it is located in the baby room. Just leave your keys. If you are needed the childcare workers will page you!



Visit our Website @
www.firstfreewomen.org

FUNNY THINGS MY KIDS SAY:

- Paige calls a french manicure a “fake Manicure”
- I finally am able to grow long nails thanks to a great nail strengthener and Noah says, “Mom you really need to cut your fingernails.”
- After running the garbage disposal it made a weird gurgling noise; Noah said, “it burped after eating all of that food.”
- Paige once said, “rub my pimples instead of temples.”
- Noah asked me to get his blanket and milk, I asked him why I had to get it...he said, “Cuz you’re the mom.”
- Noah’s best friend moved away and when he saw the new people moving in he said, “There stealing Logan’s house!”
- Noah said “you want to know what’s special?” were like what? He grabbed his hockey medal and said, “that’s special.”
- Noah used to call birthdays “dirt days.”
- Paige asked after soccer practice, “Can we get dessert?” we said “no.” she then exclaimed, “but I saw you smiling at me during practice!”
- In the middle of a soccer game Paige said that she was going to play really good to show her old coach who was there, that her new coach was better.

“...how wide
and long and
high and
deep is the
love of
Christ...”
Eph. 3:18



FUN FALL ACTIVITIES

- Find a lollipop. Hide a wrapped lollipop under a leaf pile. The first one to find it keeps it.
- Stuff a scarecrow. Break out an old shirt and overalls and stuff until firm. Complete with a pumpkin head.
- Make a sun catcher. Using a low setting, iron a leaf between two pieces of waxed paper with a sheet of plain paper on top. Hang in a sunny window.
- Play name that leaf. Go out into the neighborhood or local park and have players collect five unusual leaves. Back home, try to identify the trees they came from using guidebooks.
- Rake them into a huge pile and jump in!
- Preserve a leaf. Bring a mixture of 2 parts water and 1 part glycerin to a boil in a pan. Pour the solution into a heat-proof container. Drop in a few brightly-colored leaves and gently submerge with a wooden spoon. Keep the container in a cool, dark place until there is a light change in the leaves’ tints. Then remove them and blot dry with a paper towel. Instead of turning brown and crumbly, the leaves will retain their brilliant hues.
- Walk a leafy labyrinth. When leaves cover the lawn, rake a twisting pathway through them. Copy a classic maze for extra credit.
- Go to an apple orchard and pick fresh apples.



Better Moms Make A Better World.

I believe that who we are as moms really does shape our world in such a huge way. What we instill in our children will continue to be instilled in our children’s children. We have a opportunity to leave a legacy with our children. I think about my mom and the values and morals she instilled within me and now I can in turn give that to my children as well. It is so rewarding and fulfilling to see our children begin to possess those values and characteristics that are pleasing to us and most of all God. When we

truly realize who we are as women and mothers we can make a better world. I love that MOPS International exists to encourage, equip, and develop every mother of preschoolers to realize her potential as a woman, mother, and leader in the name of Jesus Christ. I remember when I first came to MOPS and I was very hesitant to come because I only knew one person. I enjoyed the speakers and the friendly people that were here. I have met a lot of people over the years here at

MOPS. I think that God has used MOPS in my life to help me to realize my potential, and also to increase my confidence as a woman and mother and a leader. MOPS helps us to realize that were not alone in this Adventure Of Mothering. We are all on the same ride so to speak and we need to hold on and not let go of our faith that keeps us moving. Andrew Murray said, “The secret of home rule: first being ourselves what we want our children to be.”

