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#### REMINDERS:

Please turn your cell phone ringer off or on vibrate. If you have to answer a call please exit the room quietly.

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

The food drop doors will be open again this session. Look for the "D" marked doors.

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

Lord,  
I pray that you would give my child a heart that desires to obey you. Turn his heart toward me, as his mother, to enable him to obey me and his father so his life will be long and good.

# Dwelling Well

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2008

## Handfuls of Dandelions

Spring is here! I hope so, at least. This is such a great time of year! The grass is finally green again—now it just has to be mowed. The spring flowers are all blooming soon to see the summer blossoms—and the abhorred dandelions. I have received multiple handfuls of the dreaded dandelion but when they come from your child's precious little hand how can you not love them? I even recently received a handful of tulips picked from my very own garden! That took a lot of patience and grace on my part to look down at my four year-olds proud face and accepted them. I had to remind myself that he was just trying to make me happy and not ruin my beautifully blooming garden. I remembered that he, as well as my other two boys, are still young and have to be taught most of the "ins and outs" of life. They don't just know what to do. For instance, we were at the library a while back and there was a man there who was in a wheelchair because he had lost part of his leg. As Elijah walked towards him he says out loud for all to hear, "What happened to that man's leg?" I replied quickly, "He's lost it." hoping after he heard my answer that he'd drop the subject and I gave the gentleman a quick "sorry" smile and picked up the pace.

### 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,**

Of course with a four year-olds subjects are rarely just dropped and he replied, "Where'd he lose it at?" By this time we were past the gentleman in the wheelchair but not out of ear-shot. Later, as we got into the car I explained as best I could that some people lose body parts because of disease or in a war but what is most important is that we don't stare at people who look different because that is rude and God makes people of all shapes and sizes and He loves them all. Apparently, my les-



son worked because we were at the airport the other day and we walked past a man who was quite different looking and Elijah just gave him a quick glance and kept on walking. No pointing or questions. I had a little prideful moment. We have to teach our children mostly everything. We have to teach them how to be kind to one another, how to not pick mommies "special" flowers in the

garden, how to tie their shoes, how to behave properly in a restaurant, how to use a zipper, how to speak properly, how to obey us and how to love God. These things don't just come naturally. They have to see us doing them and we have to teach them how to do it. We have to lead by example. If they don't see us treating others kindly or obeying authority they will not do it either. And our kids are generally not allowed on things that you don't even realize that you do! I heard Rylen, my 2-year-old, the other day yelling at one of the dogs to get out of his room (our dogs are generally not allowed in the boys bedrooms) just like I had the other night. The bible says, "Train a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6. The *Life Application Study Bible* expounds: " 'In the way he should go' is literally, 'according to his, the child's, way.'" We need to know the special strengths and weaknesses that God has given our children and teach them accordingly. If we do not teach our children our beliefs then the world will. "For the wisdom of the world is foolish in God's sight..." *1 Corinthians 4:19*

we ask you to **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 web site  
at  
[www.firstfreewomen.org](http://www.firstfreewomen.org)

“...he lives  
with you and  
is in you.”  
John 14:17

I love  
mondays  
@ first  
free! Every  
Monday night  
during the  
summer  
Women's  
Ministries is  
having a  
ladies night  
from 7-9pm.  
See Web for  
details!



DWELLING WELL

## Children Learn What They Live by Dorothy Law Nolte, PHD

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.

If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.

If children live with pity, they fear to feel sorry for themselves.

If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.

If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.

If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.

If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.

If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.

If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

If children live with recognition, they learn to have a goal.

If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.

If children live with honesty they learn truthfulness.

If children live with fairness, they learn justice.

If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.

If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves, and in those about them.

If children live with friendliness, they learn the world it a nice place in which to live.

Jesus said, “*And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.*”

Matthew 18:5

## What Do We Do Now That MOPS Is Over?

MOPS will still have several scheduled activities during the summer! We will be meeting at a park every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10am until whenever during the months of June, July and August. Pack a lunch for yourself and your kids and bring some cool refreshments and join us at the park! In June we will meet at Aberdeen Park near the corner of Orth Rd. and Olson Rd in Belvidere on the 10th and 24th—bring some sunscreen for the kids and sand toys for the sand pit! In July we will meet at Hunter Park on Spring

Creek Rd just east of First Free on the 8th and 22nd—bring a puke bag just in case your child gets sick on the tire swing (like last year)! In August we'll meet at the activity filled Alpine Park on Alpine Road south of E. State St. on the 12th and 26th—remember those sand toys again!

Another activities available at First Free for all women is the “i love mondays @ first free” the evenings events are from 7-9pm every Monday except July 7th and will include book discussions, Loving Well Retreat workshops and a

movie night.

I also encourage you to get outside this summer! Go to the pool, the beach, go camping, play in the sand, go for bike rides—just enjoy the weather because winter comes all too quickly and this past winter was a long one. Contact new friends you've made this year at MOPS and get together with the kids to simply “hang out”. Have a wonderful summer, I look forward to seeing you all at the park!

## Why I Love MOPS @ First Free

When I first moved to Rockford I had no family or friends in the area. I had just had a new baby and was feeling alone. Someone told me about this MOPS group here at First Free. So I came to check it out. I have to say I was overwhelmed at first. There were so many women I felt a bit lost. Being the newest one in the group, the youngest mom with the youngest child I thought I'd never get to know anyone. Fortunately, I came back because my discussion group leader invited me back and

she invited me to attend a church service. My husband and I had been looking for a church to become involved in, tried a few but really felt lead to stay put at First Free. Now we know God really wanted us here. We got *involved* - Sunday School, small groups, bible studies, MOPS leadership, etc. Through all of my involvement I have made all of my friends through First Free. It is a large church and easy to get lost in but I heeded my sister's wise advice, “Don't get lost just going to Sun-

day church service—get involved!” she told me. So I did and I have grown so much spiritually here—more than I would have ever imagined and I look forward to all of the other opportunities God has for me. If you'd like to get involved here, at First Free, please feel free to contact me anytime. Erin phone: (815) 543-6543 or e-mail [erinhildreth75@msn.com](mailto:erinhildreth75@msn.com)