



Illinois Free Will Baptist

March 2016

# Newsletter

**ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION of FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**MARCH 17-18-19, 2016**

**CALVARY CHURCH in SALEM, ILLINOIS**

**THEME: "Ministering With Purpose" - Philippians 1:19-21**

**-PROGRAM-**

**Thursday Evening Seminar by Brother Curt Gwartney: "Transitioning Youth to Active Ministry"**

**Friday Morning Speaker: Brother Jamie Lee – Host Pastor**

**Friday Evening Speaker: Brother Curtis Smith, Pastor of Harmony Church**

**Saturday Morning Speaker: Brother Josh Colson, Ministerial Student at Welch College**

**Hotel Information:** Super 8 Motel: Double bed 63.20 + tax Single bed 67.20 + tax

The rate is under Illinois State Association Meeting at Calvary Free Will Baptist Church.

It will be first come, first serve basis. There are no rooms reserved just the rate is reserved

If you have any questions, contact Host Pastor Jamie Lee: 618-204-0294.

## **CALVARY CHURCH LEADS IN REBUILDING A HOME IN SALEM, ILLINOIS**



Leadership Team (left to right)  
Walter Curry, Bob Donoho, Michele Donoho,  
Tina Stajduhar and Chris Stajduhar

The old Brown Shoe Company factory building burned on September 22, 2015. George and Crystal Shoat's nearby home was severely damaged and they lost most of their possessions. They had no insurance. Michele Donoho told of the Lord speaking so strongly to her about helping the family that she was unable to rest. She asked her friend Tina Stajduhar to pray with her about a solution. The Lord responded: tear down the burned out shell and build a new house. Tall order!!

By the end of November we have a plan in place. Tina's husband, Chris Stajduhar is off work because of recent back surgery. He takes the role of general contractor, funds pour in from the community, churches, and local businesses. All of the money, materials and labor are donated. Demolition of the old house begins December 3<sup>rd</sup> and is completed in three days. Work to rebuild starts December 7<sup>th</sup> and is completed in two months. The Lord has truly worked a miracle!

*...continued on Page 2*

There have been over 25 volunteers providing the labor and thousands of dollars have been given in cash and materials. Lumber yards, supply houses and contractors have been unbelievable in their generosity. The faith based groups involved in the project include Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Pleasant View Free Will Baptist Church, Illinois FWB Disaster Response Team, First Christian Church of Salem, Grace Methodist Church of Salem and the Nazarene Church of Salem.

The leadership team of this work pictured on Page 1 is: Walter Curry, Bob Donoho, Michele Donoho, Tina Stajduhar and Chris Stajduhar.

If the Lord tells you to do the impossible, just step out on faith, do the hard work, and trust Him to provide! These people have. Please pray for the Shoat family, they are not yet believers. To God be the glory!! *(Submitted by Tim Hayes)*

### **FIRST CHURCH – Johnston City**

On January 17<sup>th</sup> we had a very special guest come to speak to the congregation. Mr. Mark King was home on his winter break from being an English teacher in the Tibet region of China. He showed photographs and told some amazing stories of his work in China.

We ask for prayers for the many members of our church who are fighting battles, whether it's an illness, financial troubles or personal struggles.

On the evening of February 7<sup>th</sup> we had family worship time at the home of Pastor Keith and Sara. Football fans were able to catch the end of the Super Bowl. We enjoyed some delicious finger foods and fellowship.

February in our denomination is the emphasis month for Welch College (formerly Free Will Baptist Bible College). We received a special offering at the conclusion of our Valentine's Day service that will go toward scholarships for students at the college. Our congregation has been invited to a dinner in support of the college. It will be held at the Bear Point FWB Church near Sesser, February 20<sup>th</sup>. A music group from the college will perform.

Our choir has been very active in the past few months. Easter is just around the corner and we are already preparing some beautiful music

**Pastor: Keith Fletcher**

**Reporter: April Randolph.**

### **CROSSROADS CHURCH - Effingham**

Greetings from Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church in Effingham! God has blessed us immensely, and we are so very grateful. Thank you for your prayers for our pastor, John Hollis, who had a second heart by-pass surgery in December and continues to recover; he began preaching again January 31. We really appreciate Brothers Luther Ganieany, Tyler Penn, Steve Futrell, Johnny Hollis, and our deacons, Mike Crabtree and Mike Altgilbers, for filling the pulpit in his absence. Mike and Robin Crabtree, Charlie King, and Rodney Logue attended the East Central District Meeting at 1st Free Will Baptist Church in Decatur on January 9. We really enjoyed Mark King sharing his work in Tibet with us on January 24. Our annual Bear Hugs for Missions project sponsored by our Women Active for Christ was held Sunday, February 14. We ask you to especially pray for Mike Altgilbers, Marie Simonton, Rodney Logue, and Elizabeth Reynolds.

**Pastor: John Hollis**

**Reporter: Vickie Hollis**

### **ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs**

Average Sunday School attendance during January was 85. A group from our church attended the FCA Day event at SIU. The Salukis lost to Wichita State, 83-58. Angel Needham, 15, in an auto accident on January 10. She was a granddaughter of Harold and Joan Smith. Condolences to this family. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on January 13. Several from our church attended the South Central District Meeting at Alexander on January 23. Mark King shared about his ministry on January 24. Our 5th Sunday evening song service was held on January 31. Skate Night was held on February 1 at Emery Brothers in Marion. Linda Eason joined our church on February 7.

*"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;  
but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." - 1 Corinthians 1:18*

**Pastor: Ivan Ryan**

**Reporter: Buddy Parks**

## HAZEL DELL CHURCH - Rural Sesser

Blessings to you during this winter season. Hope you are enjoying the beauty of the new fallen snow!

Brother Rusty Miller is working on presenting an Easter Cantata this year! He is asking for all interested and willing to spend time rehearsing to be present for the practices to be held on Sunday evenings at 5:30!

The Peppy Calebs met for lunch at the church on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Brother Jim and Sister Peg LeVault hosted and provided fried chicken. There were 17 in attendance. A good time of food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Congratulations to Doug, Diana and Molly Harrison on the birth of Zackary Eugene who was born on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Proud grandparents are David and Karen Harrison and Penny Ross. Congratulations also to great grandparents, Bob and Donna Harrison and Jean Ragland.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast group met on February 2<sup>nd</sup> for their monthly meeting.

*"This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you." - John 15:12*

**Pastor: Eric Drake**

**Reporter: Diana Kirk**

## OAK V ALLEY CHURCH – Rural Geff

The winter is going fast with a lot of activities.

Brother Richard was able to make it to the East Central District Meeting at Decatur on January 9th in a snow-ice time. Our church services were called off the next day. Some of our evening services have been called off also due to bad weather.

We were privileged to have Brother Mark King speak at our morning service, January 31<sup>st</sup>. A basket dinner was enjoyed following the worship service that morning.

Wesley and Roxie Henley brought their newborn son, James, born January 28<sup>th</sup> to services Sunday, the 31<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations go to the Henley's. James is welcomed home by 1 sister and 2 brothers.

A baby shower was given Laurel Pennington-Mason Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday evening, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, ladies of church made cookies and packaged them. On Sunday evening, February 7th the cookies were taken to Brookstone residents and songs were sung for their Valentine's Day special.

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, Brother Jamie Lee was with us to share his starting a new church in Champaign, Illinois.

*"A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance." – Proverbs 14:13a*

**Pastor: Richard Brown**

**Reporter: Marie Rutger**

## BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Happy Spring! It will soon be here!

We are still studying the book of Mark on Wednesday evenings and the series on Believe on Sunday evenings. These have been very informative and encouraging to help us grow in our Christian walk.

On Sunday evening January 31 we had fellowship and watched the movie War Room. This was a very touching movie and made you take a look at your prayer life and asking God to help make some changes in how we pray.

Sympathy and prayers for the family of Butch Endersbe. Brother Butch passed away on February 6.

Congratulations to Eric and Tiffany Powell and big sister London. Nash Eric Powell was born February 13<sup>th</sup>. Grandparents are Alan and Kelley Hicks.

On February 13 there were twenty who went to The Edge in Belleville. This is a laser tag event and all reported a fun time. Thanks to Shawn and Samantha Mygatt for taking them.

Our youth did a great job in the services on February 14. Brother Judson preached and afterwards we had an appreciation dinner and surprise baby shower for him and Sister Kayla and Baby Jude. Also, a love gift was given them from the church. They will be leaving us the last of February. We wanted to let them know how much we appreciate them and all they have done for the Lord and our church. We love them and will miss them but pray God's blessings for them as they continue to serve Him wherever He leads.

We have four young men who are serving our country: Tim Mabrey and Dallas Lively in the Army, Dustin Hicks and Dustin Payne in the National Guard. We appreciate their service and please remember them in prayer.

**Pastor: Larry Cook**

**Associate Pastor: Judson Phenicie**

**Reporter: Linda Cook**

## The ILLINI INITIATIVE – University of Illinois

“A cold wind blows on the mountain tonight and not a footprint to be seen,” Okay so maybe there is no mountain here in central Illinois but there sure is a cold wind blowing. During these winter days there may not be much going on outside but we are having a great time inside. The semester is back in full swing and so are all of our activities with international students. We are excited this semester to try for the first time a cooking group at our home. We have 8 students signed up and thankfully this a group led by both Kellie and myself.

We have enjoyed some exciting moments already this semester. I was able to spend 10 days in Alabama, speaking at churches for their annual missions conference. We had the joy of having one our own missionaries, Mark King, here with us a few days to start off February. It was fun having him around to get a taste of what we do here on campus with these students. We had a great turnout for our Super Bowl Party at our home. It was a unique night. One of our student’s mother was in town and taught us how to make homemade Asian dumplings. This was in celebration of the Chinese New Year. She didn’t speak a lot of English but I think everyone rubbing their tummies and making the yum sound still communicated what we thought of her dumplings.

I have already had a student contact me about wanting to know more about religion. She is seeking the truth of the bible and of Jesus. We have had one meeting and I pray she will be inclined to meet regularly. This is always amazing to me that God directs people from all around the world to this place and I get to share with them the truth of who He is and His love for them through His Son, Jesus.

We thank you for your continued support, prayers, and interest into our ministry. We are super excited for the year 2016 as it brings building blocks together to accomplish the initiative, to reach a community, to reach a student, to reach the world. We are thrilled that Jamie and Heather Lee will be coming here later in the year to begin the difficult task of establishing a community Free Will Baptist church. We are also excited about the news of a summer intern coming to spend 10 weeks with us, learning and exploring what we do with international students.

Last night our small group study was on Ephesians six, the Armor of God passage. Ephesians 6:19 reads, “and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.” Thank you for praying for us. – **The Tyler Penn Family**

### FIRST CHURCH - Benton

The weather has certainly played out the old "idiom" of "if you don't like Southern Illinois weather, wait and it will change. I know February can be a snowy, icy month so please be extra careful when walking or driving.

Ben Barcroft was the first member of E-team to visit our church and was well received. We're praying that all the team members will be touched by their missions. Another young man will visit us on February 21, and yet another on March 6. Seems as though our prayer list gets longer as we mark one person off for recovery, another is placed on the list. Please remember Melody Franklin and Judy Holloway as they lost their sister Pam during the last few days.

On March 5, the WAC will welcome the members of Loyal Workers District of Illinois WNAC. Please remember the following in your prayers - Jean Warren, Johnie Dallape, Jim Hale, Curt Warren, Jessica Harmon, Gary and Mary Cook, the Gostowskis, Edith Taylor, Maxine Naylor and the mothers of Harold Combs, Ray MacDonald, and Janice Page, Bill Thomas and Paul Leffler. We offer sympathy to our former pastor Larry Clyatt in the loss of his mother. We've had several missing services due to viruses. Our thoughts also go to those American young people who will travel to the Olympics and the mosquito that is so dangerous.

I, personally thank all for their prayers while I was having such problems with my leg, and it works now, even if it wobbles.

This time of month when Lent is being observed reminds me that Easter Sunday is not far away. Many will observe Sun Rise service, that beautiful time of watching for the sun to break through and remembering our Savior who died and rose again.

**Pastor: Kent Dunford**

**Reporter: Barbara Spencer**



# Happy Easter!

## PITTSBURG CHURCH - Pittsburg

At the time of this writing, the group heading to Israel are just a few short days from beginning their adventure!! The countdown is on and excitement is high! What a journey this will be....

Another journey that our church will be taking is the building of a new sanctuary. At our special business meeting on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> the congregation overwhelmingly voted to move forward with the building proposal. Plans are moving forward to get the ball rolling. No groundbreaking date has been set yet. Our prayer is that many lives will be changed by this decision, but if only one soul gets to spend eternity in heaven with Jesus, it was all still worth it!

March is shaping up to be a busy month for us. We will be having our bi-annual Blood Drive on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-6:30pm. There are appointment times available if anyone would like to come and donate. Just call the church to get scheduled 618-982-2230. Also we will have our Youth Fundraising Meal from 4:30-6:30pm that day. The end of the month, of course, is Resurrection Weekend. We have our SonRise service scheduled for 6am with a fellowship breakfast immediately following. Our Sunday School classes will be canceled that day as well as our evening services. However we expect a packed house for our morning worship that begins at 10am. What a great day to gather in His house and bless His name!

*"Honor the King in 2016!"*

**Pastor: Eddie Donelson**

**Pastor: Keith McDannel**

**Reporter: Christina Wilcox**

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## SUMMER MISSION TRIPS PLANNED

This is the list provided by International Missions of the young people who are planning mission trips this summer. You may support them with prayers and contribute to their account by contacting our missions department at FWBGO.COM

### **E-TEAM 2016:**

- \***Jonathan Hill** - Blue Point Church: E-Team **France**
- \* **Ben Barcroft** – Calvary Church: E-Team **France**
- \***Gabby Boomer**- E-Team **Panama**
- \***James Gibbs** – Bethel Church: E-Team **Japan**
- \***Isaiah Penn** – Crosslife Church (Indiana): E-Team **Cuba**
- \* **McGwire Portell** –TDF: member of a missionary family from Illinois. He is going to **Panama** and may be funded through GoFundMe <<https://www.gofundme.com/vha86gr8>> as well as sending money to his account at International Missions.

### **CMP (College Missions Program) 2016:**

- \* **Esther Smith** is a member of New Hope Church. She is a freshman at Welch College and is going to **Bulgaria**. You may contact her at: [smithesther728@yahoo.com](mailto:smithesther728@yahoo.com) or cell phone: 618-895-4805.
- \***Emily Petty**: a student at Welch College and is going to Brazil. You may contact her by phone: 217-994-6274 or go to [FWBGO.COM/student-missions](http://FWBGO.COM/student-missions), search her name and get more details and even donate online.

### **ELIC**

- \***Dalton Alvis** is going to **Cambodia**. He is a freshman at Welch College and may be contacted by going to <[www.elic.org/donate/give](http://www.elic.org/donate/give)>, click *Support An ELIC Teacher*, type in "Alvis", then click on his name.

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Check out our new website

[WWW.ILFWB.ORG](http://WWW.ILFWB.ORG)

You can search: History, News, Obituaries, Churches, Boards, and a full Calendar of Scheduled Events



Illinois

State Association of Free Will Baptists

# Illinois Free Will Baptist March 2016 Newsletter

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists  
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*Reporters: Please send articles for the April Newsletter to David Shores: <davids@mffreewillbaptist.org> by March 15*

## SCHEDULED EVENTS:

**March 26:** The First Church of Hoopeston will present an Easter Program entitled, “WHY” on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Pastor Keith Maynard extends an invitation for you to attend. The church is located at 522 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Hoopeston, Illinois.

**April 22-24:** The Harmony Church is hosting a Spring Church Conference with Brother Terry Pierce as the evangelist, Apr 22 – 24, 2016. Services are scheduled for 7:00 pm on Friday and Saturday evenings. The services on Sunday are scheduled for 10:30 am and 6:00 pm. The church is located at 14715 Harmony Church Road, West Frankfort, Illinois

**May 7:** The Illinois Women Active for Christ will have their State Meeting at the New Hope Church located at rural Ina, Illinois. The theme for the meeting is, “Tree of Life” and will feature Joel and Lydie Teague as the speakers. The meeting begins at 9:00 am and will close with a noon lunch. Susan Burgess serves as president of the ILWAC.

*Note: You may post scheduled events of your church and other news on the new ILFWB website by simply going to [www.ilfwb.org](http://www.ilfwb.org) and clicking on “click here to submit your news item” – there is a place to fill in your name, e-mail address and your news and announcements. It will then be posted on the website.*

