



ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

AUGUST 2021

NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

BRIEF REPORT ON 2021 NATIONAL CONVENTION

MEMPHIS 2021

During the 2021 convention, delegates made some important decisions. The denomination voted to accept two resolutions spelling out important doctrinal stances. Both resolutions are lengthy, but here is a brief statement to summarize each of them:

1. A resolution to define the Free Will Baptist doctrinal stance regarding gender, marriage, and sexuality, including the commitment to: “teach and model a biblical understanding of sexuality and gender in their families and churches, seeking to equip church members and leaders to help them remain faithful to this teaching...”
2. A resolution reaffirming the denomination’s stance on racism and resolving the denomination “root its proclamation, witness, and efforts toward racial equality in language, thought forms, and understandings of justice that emerge from Holy Scripture rather than in language, thought forms, and understandings of justice that emerge from secular philosophical and sociological theory, such as critical race theory intersectionality.”

In addition, delegates approved a slate of recommendations from the General Board, including:

- + Adopt a 2022 Denominational Budget of \$30,100,000.
- + Limit denominational officers to two, four year consecutive terms and commission members to two consecutive five-year terms.
- + Integrate the Manual for Board Members into each National Board’s operating procedures.
 - + Update the nominating procedures in the Treatise.
 - + Update the Treatise statement regarding marriage. (Appendix to Chapter IV, Section1)

Note: The National Association registered 2,764 for the Convention and 2,237 for the Vertical Three activities, for a unique total of 3,318.

Delegates honored missionary Carlisle Hanna for 70 years of faithfulness



Brother Carlisle Hanna served for 70 years in India...the longest missions career for any missionary in any missions organization. Appointed in 1951, he and his wife landed in the country in 1952. Because of his ministry, today there are: 120 church planters and evangelists, 300 FWB churches in northeast India, 13 churches in southwestern India, and 35 churches in Nepal. There are now 17,000 believers with about 5,000 to 6,000 attending their National Conference each year. His wife and daughter died during their time there.

Thank you for your faithfulness Brother Hanna!

ILLINI INITIATIVE

Campus Pastor: Tyler Penn

I am sure I am not the only one who has enjoyed the return of a more normal summer. The kids have loved their time at Camp Hope, we are packing for the National Convention, and English Corner has returned back to in person meetings. These are all things that a year ago we were not able to do.

We are enjoying the process of helping rebuild the English Corner student organization at the University of Illinois. The covid year had a major impact on our number of students that we normally have involved in this organization. The opening meeting in most years is over 100 students. This past fall, our opening meeting had like 9 students on zoom. So it will take some time to get back to normal in the area of our numbers. We started the summer English Corner program with 1 student coming to our Thursday night gathering. The next week there were two. The next week there were a couple of others and the following week 4 more. So we are pleased that we can begin again and rebuild this connection point to the international student population on the campus at the University of Illinois.

My favorite hour in the week is my bible study time with my international students. We have 4 who are currently involved in this study of faith. There has been some great progress in understanding and knowledge. I just ask that you would pray that they would not just know about faith but that they would place their faith in the promise of God that through Jesus they might have eternal life.

The Bridge Church has continued to have good services throughout this year. We usually have about 40 out of the 50 or so people involved with our church on a Sunday morning. On Saturday July 3rd we held a Summer Bash event that brought in over 100 visitors to our location that day to enjoy the food and activities. We were so glad to see so many of our church people come and serve that day. They did it all from cook to collect information to set up games and paint children's faces. We are trying to be faithful to the work the Lord has called us to do. Please be in prayer with us that God would send a church planter to come and lead the church into its next phase of service for His Kingdom.

I know that as the July wraps up more and more focus returns to schools. I would ask that you would pray for our ministry as we enter into another fall semester at the University of Illinois. We will still have to manage some of the restrictions for Covid and not exactly for sure how everything will go. I pray that this year would be another good year of meeting with international students from all around the world and sharing the love of Jesus with them.

Thank you so much for continue prayers and support of our ministry here. During the last 2 years our account with I.M. has taken a pretty good hit. We would love for people to be willing to come and be a part of our support team that helps keep us afloat and visible to these students. If you are interested in helping out you can email me at tylerpenn@comcast.net and I will give you the needed information. Thanks so much.

WALTONVILLE CHURCH

Pastor: Mark Wells Reporter: Chris Kuhner

Well, did the last six months go by too fast for you too? Time seems to fly by! We have had a few families gone for vacations and they have said that they all had a great time. We had a great Father's Day and the dads got a little gift. We have some friends that fixed some things up for our mothers and also brought some coffee cups for the dad's. God just keeps blessing us more and more. We have seen some changes in our church and they have all been good. We have a new baby in our church family, River Ray Coggins came in at 8lb- 3oz., 21.75 in on July 2, 2021. He and his mom are doing well. The old devil has played havoc on some of us as well. Please keep Amanda Lynch in your prayers, she has blood clots in both of her lungs. Our Pastor has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and will be having a biopsy on July 21st to determine how to handle it from there. Please keep our church in your prayers as we all go through this process.

PITTSBURG CHURCH

Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel Reporter: Heather Phillips

“Livin’ All for the SON in 2021” Greetings from Pittsburg! One of our summer highlights each year is Vacation Bible School! VBS is a week of outreach, worship, growth, and fun for kids to learn more about God and to worship Him. As this is being written, we are getting ready to open the doors for as many as the Father would send our way at Vacation Bible School. We are so thankful to be able to meet back in person for VBS. Please join us in praying for open hearts, listening ears, relationships to be made, and for our faithful workers. I will report next month about PFWBC VBS 2021!

PFWBC is privileged to hold a once a month praise service called “HE KEEPS ME SINGING.” Usually the service is held on the second Tuesday of the month, but in July, we had a special Freedom service. The theme for July was “Freedom, Yeshua (Salvation), and The Blessed Hope”. We celebrated by giving God the praise for all of our freedoms. We praised God for our Salvation and gave God the praise for that “blessed hope.” It was a wonderful service and we are so very thankful for our Freedom in Christ! The next “HE KEEPS ME SINGING” will be on August 10, in the PFWBC Chapel at 6:30pm. Everyone is always welcome and we love to see new faces!

Back to school is officially upon us and we are praying for the upcoming school year. Join us as we pray for the students, teachers, parents and all involved in the school systems. Let us pray that they may have good health, peace, protection, passion and a productive year. Thank you Heavenly Father in advance for the work YOU are going to do in our teachers and students’ lives this year.

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

We sent several young people to Junior Camp, Primary Camp, and Junior High Camp at Camp Hope in the past month. All of our campers had a marvelous time. We also sent a few counselors and kitchen workers. One day of Junior Camp we took fruit and helped in the kitchen for several hours.

Brother Ernie and Suzanne took a trip to Nashville, Tennessee to attend the wedding of Caroline McDonald and Robert Mann. Caroline is the daughter of Donnie and Ruth McDonald, missionaries to Japan and longtime friends. Robert is from the Gateway Church of Virginia Beach, Virginia. It was a beautiful ceremony. It was good to see several missionaries from Japan who are currently in the U.S..

Brother Ernie was able to attend the East Central District’s quarterly meeting held at the Mt. Vernon First FWB Church. The theme was “Go Global” and several representatives from International Missions and several missionaries spoke. It was an eye-opening experience to involve the churches in missions opportunities and decisions. The Mount Vernon ladies prepared a delicious meal at noon.

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk

Happy summertime to all! Our VBS is scheduled for August 9th -13th from 6:00-8:30 p.m. under the direction of Sister Emilee. The theme is Treasure Island and we are looking forward to an exciting week of worshipping the Lord. If you have any children or know of some who would be interested in attending please send them our way or let us know.

Brother Brian Lewis went to be with his heavenly father on June 20, 2021 (Father's Day). He served as a trustee and Sunday School Superintendent in our church. He was such a great witness for the Lord. Sadly, he will be missed by all who knew him. Please keep Sister Alyssa, Sister Sydney and family in your prayers.

The fathers were recognized with gifts of appreciation for Father's Day.

Brother Mitchell Bulla preached the message on Sunday, July 11th. The message was from Psalm 119:9-16. The subject was "How to Stay on the Path of Purity". Brother Mitchell is the son of Brother Tony and Sister Sherry Bulla, and he grew up at Hazel Dell. What a blessing to see how God is using this young man!

It seems that our remodeling project may finally be underway. We look forward to the new makeover in the Sanctuary and parking facilities. Thank you to all who have helped out thus far.

"This is the day that the LORD has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!" - Psalms 118:24

HARMONY CHURCH

Pastor: Bruce Thurman, Reporter: Cody Alstat

Greetings from Harmony! We all hope you are having a great summer. On June 20th Some of our ladies of the church prepared breakfast for the men of the church, we had a great attendance and the women did a great job. We had our annual Birthday/Anniversary Meal the last Sunday of June.

Please keep our Pastor in your prayers, a few days ago he fell and ended up going to the hospital and having to stay there for a few days. We hope everyone had a safe 4th of July this year. On July 11th we held our Vacation Bible School Kick-off, we had a total of 80 in attendance with 40 of them being kids. Our Bible School is being held the rest of this week and we will report attendance numbers in the next Newsletter. We hope everyone is staying safe and have a fun summer vacation.

"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one." - John 17:15

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Sunday School attendance during June was 69. Camden Doss and Josie Tanner attended Leadership Camp. The Women Active For Christ Meeting was held on June 9. The Auxiliary is collecting gently worn and new shoes as a service mission project to help support CASA of Saline County.

Arnold View was responsible for putting up and taking down the Flags in Crab Orchard for Flag Day. Some from our church took fruit and worked at Camp. Linda Eason, 63, passed away on June 13. Condolences to her family. Our Men's Group enjoyed a meal and a video at Arnold View on June 12. Daniel and Angela Michael shared about their Small Victories Ministry on June 20. Our Men's Group also attended a Southern Illinois Miners game on June 25. The Miners lost to the Evansville Otters 14-4. Brother Shawn Bolley brought the Evening Worship Message on June 27. Chuck and Angie Mausey hosted a fireworks display on July 2, with sandwiches, chips and drinks provided. VBS is scheduled for August 2-5.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." - Luke 1:37

**FREE WILL BAPTIST CAMP MEETING
CAMP HOPE - EWING, ILLINOIS
SEPTEMBER 12 – 15**



SPEAKER

DR. EDDIE MOODY

Executive Secretary, National Association of Free Will Baptists

Dr. Moody oversees the operation of the National Offices Building and promotes the entire denominational family along with all agencies and programs. He serves as denominational liaison with government agencies, is editor-in-chief of *ONE Magazine*, arranges for the annual national convention and leadership conference, and champions stewardship through The Together Way Plan and other methods of proportionate giving.



**MEN: PLAN TO ATTEND
ANNUAL
MASTER'S MEN RETREAT
CAMP HOPE
SEPTEMBER 16 – 17 - 18**

Illinois Free Will Baptist

August 2021

NEWSLETTER

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

*The deadline for news articles for publication in the September issue of the Newsletter is August 15.
Please address all correspondence to davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org*

OAK VALLEY CHURCH

Pastor: Richard Brown Reporter: Marie Rutger

We are having services every Sunday morning and although Covid-19 hit us pretty hard, but we are trying to build up our attendance.

July was a busy month for us. On July 11th Brother Tyler Penn spoke to us about his ministry to foreign students at the University of Illinois. Then on the 17th, our church helped with the food distribution at Geff Hope Ministries. Our VBS was held July 29-31 with “Rocky Railway” as the theme.

Back on June 6th we had our annual Church and Sunday School Picnic at Sam dale Lake and on June 20th our church had a special service and gifts for our fathers on Father’s Day. We had five young people attend Camp Hope and our church provided desserts one day plus three helpers in the kitchen.

We look forward to hosting the East Central District Meeting at Oak Valley Church in October.

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” – Mark 16:15

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