



ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

AUGUST 2022

# NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

## FAMINE IN KENYA – CAN YOU HELP?



Because the famine in Sesia, Kenya is so severe and the need for food so urgent, Missionaries Eddy and Amanda Simmons have already given funds from their ministry reserves to provide food for the Samburu people! Because of their quick action, a three-to-four-week supply of food was delivered to the Samburu people in Kenya on Tuesday, June 21 and the food was distributed on June 22. Wouldn't it be great if Christians could band together to replenish the money given? About \$13,000 was spent to purchase dried corn, dried beans, rice, and cooking oil. The Simmons' were able to provide food for about 2,800 Samburu men, women, and children. Also, if the drought continues, they will need more.

If you are blessed with monetary funds, please give to these people! You can write a check, please make it out to "IM" and write "Eddy Simmons—Samburu" in the memo line! You can mail it to: **IM PO Box 5002 Antioch, TN, 37011.**

## LOVE PACKAGES



Shawn and Samantha Mygatt would like to remind all the churches that they are still a drop off location for Love Packages. "We collect new and used Sunday school material, Daily Bread, WAC material, new and used Bibles, etc. Anything that has the gospel in it, we will take and send overseas to those in need of hearing the gospel. Just because the date on the Sunday school quarterly has past does not make it trash. God's Word never expires.

Thank You to the churches that have been saving their materials. For more information on Love Packages, go to [www.Lovepackages.org](http://www.Lovepackages.org)

Some have asked about Bible drives. These are great events for any age groups. We see some youth groups doing this throughout the year or during VBS. The 'dollar store' type business have paperback Bibles for a very reasonable price." For additional local information (pick up locations, etc.), please contact Shawn and Samantha Mygatt 618-927-7442.

## HOWARD BASS TO PREACH AT OUT ANNUAL CAMP MEETING - SEPTEMBER 11-14

Brother Howard grew up on a small farm near the village of Walnut Hill, Illinois. He graduated from Raccoon Grade School, Centralia HS and Welch College (MM Degree) Howard pastored churches in FL, NC, and TX. He also served as an associate pastor for more than 20 years in VA. He retired to Goldsboro, NC in 2020 where he continues to do pulpit-supply. He and his wife, the former Miss Phyllis Little, have four grown children and ten grandchildren. Howard came to the Lord while in second grade in an after school Good News Club conducted by Mrs. Emma Eggars. Howard grew up in the Pleasant View FWB Church located in his rural community. He has always considered southern Illinois as "Home!" We are happy to welcome him back to Illinois! More Camp Meeting information next month.





## HAZEL DELL CHURCH

**Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk**

Summer has arrived and along with the season comes busy times for all.

This year's VBS was a huge success with around 70 children attending. It was held June 27<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>. From the opening ceremonies, to snacks, to singing, to crafts, to science experiments to lessons, to skits, everything was teaching these kids about the value of life. The offering of over \$1050 went toward helping Free Will Baptist Family Ministries with their pregnancy center, foster care program, children's home, and senior citizen assisted living home.

The Evangels from Welch College were with us on May 26 to present a program.

Our church assisted with the Summer Kid's Lunch program June 6-10. Thank you to all who donated their time to assist in this important outreach.

Jon Paul LeVault's deacon ordination service was on Sunday afternoon, May 22<sup>nd</sup> Brother Jim LeVault, J.P.'s father, presented him with a Bible. Brother Larry Clyatt delivered the ordination message. Brother Curtis gave the charge. The deacons presented him with a certificate. All deacons and pastors in attendance were invited to gather around Brother J.P. to have prayer over him. It was a wonderful service and snacks were enjoyed afterward.

P.J. Kloster was with us on Sunday morning, June 12 to talk about his upcoming "Truth and Peace" trip. This young man has answered the call to preach and he delivered the message during our morning service. He did an excellent job and we look forward to seeing how God is using him. There were several fathers in attendance for Father's Day. They were presented with gifts of appreciation for all their dedication in their roll.

Brother Ed and Sister Rachel Goode were with us on Sunday evening, July 10<sup>th</sup>., to share their work in Champaign. Brother Ed also delivered our evening message. Thank you for the work they are doing for the Lord.

*"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the lord."*

*- Ephesians 6:4*

## MOUNT VERNON CHURCH

**Pastor: Craig Smith Reporter: Linda Polston**

Youthful singing is in the air while many of our churches have been to camp and are getting ready for Bible School this summer. Our church is joining another neighborhood church this year in hopes of reaching more adults thru more kiddies. Our VBS was scheduled for the week of July 11 thru 15th from 6 pm 'til 8 pm. Sister Marcella Smith (Brother Craig's wife) with helpers Lynn Smith and Peggy Ferguson took charge of the food. Turns out it was a great way to serve children. They prepared paper bags filled with the goodies, which made it easy to distribute and gave kids a surprise every evening. For camp on, July 7th we were asked to provide pies, and I am told we provided 15 pies. Don't know if the help ate pie on the way home or not!

On Friday, July 8 we held Ladies' Night Out for an opportunity to visit with our friend, and Missionary to France, Joy (wife of Shane) Davidson.

Our future Wednesday night studies will be in the Book of Joshua with inclusion of Warren Wiersbe's "B Strong" book.

Following Sunday evening service on the last Sunday of each month we serve ice cream and cake for all those who had birthdays or anniversaries. This celebration always also includes their friends, of course.

I ordered a kitchen table with benches recently and Masters' Men, Ed Ferguson and Tommy Stief used their engineering skills to put it together for us. Was also a blessed visit.

Brother Craig came home all excited after his Ministerial Alliance meeting in Woodlawn with Ryan Spradin. 29 attended the meeting and told the group of ministers that he has been called to preach. A young man wanting to preach these days should excite us all.

We not only praise Our Lord on Sundays, but we are thankful that nearly every day of the week provides a different opportunity for us to gather at church.

*"Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones." - Proverbs 16:24*

## **BENTON CHURCH**

**Pastor: Phillip Kennedy**

I hope the summer has brought many blessings to your churches! We have definitely had a very full summer! As I type this, we are getting ready for our 5-day Club which is like VBS but put on by child evangelism fellowship! I look forward to letting you know how it goes in the next newsletter!

On June 15th it was our day to serve in the kitchen at Camp hope and to bring desserts! We brought homemade frosted brownies! Camp season came and went so fast but each year it is definitely a blessing. Joshua Kennedy and Pastor Phillip Kennedy went to 5th and 6th grade camp. Pastor Phillip did a little bit of the preaching. We also had one from our church attend 3rd and 4th grade week (Jace Poracky) and finally James Kennedy attended 7th and 8th grade week. We had a great Father's Day Sunday and enjoyed celebrating the Heavenly Father! Every man was given a gift. On the Wednesday before 4th of July we enjoyed a fellowship time at our church with Mike's Barbecue and then some of us went out and enjoyed the camp hope fireworks! Our boys enjoyed being a part of the FCA Power camp that was hosted here in Benton.

The ladies of our church met on the first Saturday of July. Jackie Kennedy attended the Ladies Night Out at the Mount Vernon Church on July 8th. On July 10th the Portell family was with us and Darren Portell spoke in the morning worship service. On July 11th we had "Fellowship with the Pastor" at our church and enjoyed a time to hangout and eat donuts!

We have also participated in passing out free lunches for kids at the Benton/West City Ministerial Alliance.

We are looking forward to the National Convention and before we know it school will start back up! Keep Faithful to God and do the Work!

## **BEAR POINT CHURCH**

**Pastor: Gowdy Cannon Reporter: Mona Lappin**

Summer is very busy and Bear Point is buzzing!

Emily Petty was with us in May and Shane and Joy Davison were with us July 10th. It was exciting to hear about their different ministries and we are praying they will be fully funded and ready to serve in their mission fields soon.

Brian Laur was also with us this past month to share about his work with FCA. Brian is a well-known member of the Sesser-Valier community and we are very blessed that he is sharing the gospel with local youth through athletics. Pray for the ministry of FCA.

On Father's Day we honored Jim Dean as our eldest father, who at 90 is still going strong. John Hollis had the most family and Tim Crawford travelled the farthest. Thank God for our Godly fathers.

We had our annual Watermelon Social on July 3rd at the church pavilion. Bear Point's week for the summer lunch program was July 5-8th, with Pastor Gowdy, Brother Johnny, Sisters Vickie, Mona and Janie helping out.

Sister Chrissy and gang are gearing up for a MONUMENTAL VBS-where kids will explore the **vastness of God's power and depth of his love for each of them**. Pray for the workers, and the families that might be reached through this ministry.

*"How deep the father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure"*

## **ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH**

**Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks**

Average Sunday School Attendance during June was 76. Joel and Lydie Teague, Missionaries to France, shared with us on June 5. Some from our church brought and served fruit at Camp Hope on June 6. Barry Simpson shared about the FWB Foundation on June 12. River Doss, Noah Lannom and Josie Tanner attended Senior Camp. Youth Pastor Shawn Bolley brought the Evening Worship Message on June 26. VBS was scheduled for July 10-13. Theme was, "Go Fish."

Linda Adams, 78, passed away on June 25. Condolences to her family.

Chuck and Angie Mausey hosted a July 4th Fireworks Show complete with Food Trucks.

William Earl Parks, Jerry Norris, Jerry Upchurch, and Allen Marks were presented "Quilts of Valor" on July 10. Thanks to each of you for your service and sacrifice. Steve and Robbie Dwyer hosted a potluck dinner and time of fellowship and fishing on July 13. *"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 5:3.*

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Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists  
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

*The deadline for articles to be published in the September Newsletter is August 15<sup>th</sup>. Send all correspondence to: [davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org](mailto:davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org)*

## BLUE POINT CHURCH

**Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis**

We have sent several more campers and workers to the last several weeks of youth camp. We also sent some kitchen helpers and some fruit for one day. A large group from our church made the trip to St. Louis to see the Cardinals beat the Phillies on an extremely warm day.

We were able to have Mark King for a Sunday morning service. He shared about his upcoming plans to minister in Vietnam with English Language Institute. Suzanne attended the "Ladies Night Out" at the Mt. Vernon Church. Joy Davison of France and Ashley Kettemen of Japan were able to share about their ministries. Games, snacks, and fellowship were also enjoyed.

Brother Ernie and Suzanne were able to attend the East Central District meeting at the Calvary Church. Mark King of Vietnam, the Davisons of France, and the Kettemans of Japan were also in attendance.

Our Homecoming committee is making plans to celebrate our 125th anniversary in October. Christian comedian Johnny W will do his presentation on Friday night, October 7th. Jeff and Sherry Easter will host a concert on Saturday, October 8th. Jason Taylor of the Vertical Church in Yuma, Arizona will be the Sunday morning speaker.



## IM WORLD MISSION OFFERING – AUGUST 28

*"The load is lighter when MANY people give...are YOU in?"*