

ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

MARCH 2023

# NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

## ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS TO MEET AT THE INA CHURCH IN INA, ILLINOIS – MARCH 16-17, 2023

*Theme: "Forever His, Surrendered"*



**BROTHER EDDIE DONELSON**  
Pastor: Pittsburg Church



**MRS. CAROL REID**  
Randall House



**BROTHER DANIEL MANN**  
Pastor: Living Hope Church



**BROTHER ILIAN PEREZ**  
Pastor: Palabra de Vida Church

## Program

### Thursday Evening, March 16 – 6:00 PM

Welcome: Host Pastor Brad Ryan  
Remarks: State Moderator: Curtis Smith  
Recognition of Standing Delegates  
District Reports  
Appointment of Business Committee  
State Treasurer's Report  
Auditing Committee Report  
Executive Board Report  
Partial Report of Nominating Committee  
Promotional Secretary Report

### C.E. Board Seminar-

**Speaker: Mrs. Carol Reid**

National Executive Office Report  
C.T.S. Board Report  
Partial Report of Business Committee

### Friday Morning, March 17 – 9:00 am

Board Reports: Illinois Missions, International Missions,  
North American Missions and FWB Foundation

### Morning Worship Service –

**Speaker: Brother Eddie Donelson**

### Friday Afternoon Service – 1:30 pm

**Speaker: Brother Daniel Mann**

Board Reports: WNAC, Master's Men, Christian Education,  
Camp, Welch College, Randall House  
Final Report of Business Committee  
Election of Delegates to National Convention  
Final Report of Nominating Committee  
Final Committees chosen  
Report of Registration Committee

### Banquet and Moderator's Message

### Friday Evening – 7:00 pm

Report of Obituary Committee  
Announcements and Adjournment

### Evening Worship Service – Speaker Brother Ilian Perez

## **BENTON CHURCH**

**Pastor: Phillip Kennedy**

January is often one of our least busy months but it was a good month. We have continued Student Hangouts and things are going better and students are returning. We have Student Hangouts the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Some from our church attended the quarterly meeting at JCity Church and Pastor Phillip preached. On January 29th we had our Aday Bday celebration after morning worship. We did a Taco bar and Mexican food.

We had our monthly business meeting after Bible study on February 1. On February 3 we had an Open gym night and had over 30 people come out. Our Next Open Gym night is March 3rd from 6p.m to 8p.m. All are welcome. The ladies of the church had a fellowship time on February 4th. Pastor Phillip attended the monthly Pastors breakfast. On February 12th we had Missionary Taylor Pate with us in the morning worship service. Please pray for her and the work in Japan. On February 13 we had our Monthly Fellowship with the Pastor. Our next one is March 13th at 9A.M. All are welcome. Our Annual business meeting was on February 15th. In our Children's church they have been learning about our different missionaries and the countries they minister in and how to pray for them.

Please pray for us as we strive to be faithful to the Lord in all things. Pray for our Outreach as well. We are praying for you all as well.

## **BLUE PONT CHURCH**

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

Our teens enjoyed their annual bowling trip to Salem Bowl after church on the Sunday evening before Martin Luther King's birthday. After eating at McDonalds the group enjoyed bowling a couple of games. Our Connect group for teens sponsored a 'Parent's Night Out' in the Link on a Saturday night.

Brother Ernie and Suzanne attended the East Central District meeting in Decatur. Brother Ernie also attended the Pastor's Breakfast at the Bonnie Café at the Mt. Vernon airport. That same evening he returned to Mt. Vernon for the Executive Board meeting. He also traveled to the Harmony Church in West Frankfort so the Camp Hope books could be audited.

We sponsored a grocery giveaway in the Link for seniors age sixty and over. The Tri-State Food Bank of Evansville provides a tote bag of non-perishable items, as well as a plastic bag filled with assorted produce.

We hosted "Team Sunday" for Cisne High School basketball players, cheerleaders, and their coaches. They were all introduced in the morning service. Afterwards we fed the students and their family pizza in the gym. While visiting a hospital patient in Champaign, Brother Ernie and Suzanne were able to have supper with Ed and Rachel Goode and Tyler and Kellie Penn.

Brother Ernie taught a three-week membership class to a large group of individuals. At the conclusion of the class, nineteen individuals joined the church during a Sunday morning service.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Betty McCord, a long-time member of our church who recently passed away. Brother Ernie preached the funeral and we fed the family afterwards.

## **HAZEL DELL CHURCH**

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

Greetings from all of us at Hazel Dell. We had a youth outing on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at R & J Tactical Lazer Tag at the Times Square Mall in Mt. Vernon. There was a good number in attendance.

Our Teen Sunday School Class is collecting items for Pregnancy Matters. Items were collected through the month of February. Baby items were donated and placed in the Pack-N-Play in the church foyer.

Sister Emilee held a VBS informational meeting to begin planning for our summer VBS. Volunteers may let Sister Emilee know of your willingness to help out.

The Master's Men group met for their monthly breakfast meeting on February 12th. There were 11 in attendance. Brother Rusty Miller gave the devotion.

On February 17, we had our Valentine's party at the Bonnie Café in West Frankfort.

Senior meals began again on February 27. We will be starting D-groups (small Bible study groups) in March.

There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for any who would like to participate. There will be men's groups and women's groups. *"Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him." Proverbs 30:5*

## RESCUE CHURCH

**Pastor Bryant Harris Youth pastor Ryan Payne Reporter: Donna Harmon**

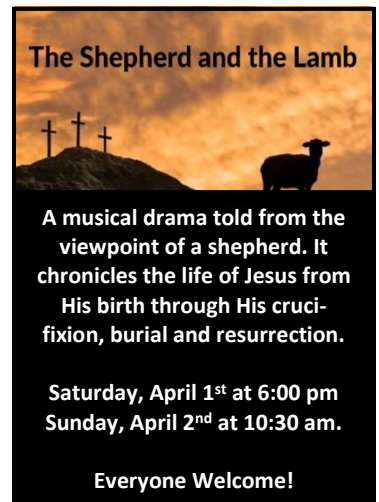
December 18th Brother Ryan gave a Christmas story and right after they went Christmas caroling. Then, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, he had the youth group Christmas party at camp hope. Brother Bryant had his Christmas service on December 15th at 10:00 a.m. January 1: morning service 10:00 a.m. and no service on Sunday evening. January 8<sup>th</sup>: monthly business meeting. January 10<sup>th</sup>: Tuesday School resumed. January 18<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday night visitation. January 21<sup>st</sup>: Rend Lake District Meeting was held at Rescue Church. February 5<sup>th</sup>: monthly business meeting. February 19<sup>th</sup>: annual business meeting. A few words of praise from brother Bryant: the new fellowship Hall and classrooms should be in the dry within the next couple weeks. After that we will finish the interior. Brother Ryan is doing a great job with the youth. Here is a great thought to brighten your February blues. When the sun is shining again look around there is God's creation popping out from the leaves. What a blessing to remind us God still in control. What an awesome God we serve!

## INA CHURCH

**Pastor: Brad Ryan Reporter: Katie Williams**

Hello from the Ina Church! For quite some time, we have had a Concert of Prayer one Sunday night per month. We spent January 1st praying in the new year. On January 24th, DJ and Megan Bergholtz welcomed daughter Adley Grace. Though they have moved due to military relocation, they are still very loved by our church.

On January 29th we enjoyed hearing from PJ Kloster, one of the young men in our church. On February 5th, our Ladies Friendship Circle had a successful Bake Sale to raise money for missions. Our elementary students enjoyed a pajama party on February 11th, hosted by Brother Jason Janus and our teens. Another fundraiser on February 12th, "Treats for Your Sweet", raised money for CTS. That night we enjoyed hearing from Taylor Pate missionary to Japan. **We are looking forward to our Palm Sunday choir and drama production of "The Shepherd and the Lamb".** Blessings!



**The Shepherd and the Lamb**

A musical drama told from the viewpoint of a shepherd. It chronicles the life of Jesus from His birth through His crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm  
Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 am.

Everyone Welcome!



## LETTER FROM DENNIS and CAROL TEAGUE

Greetings in the name of Jesus,

These are pretty hectic days for us over here in France. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 16:9, these are days of many opportunities to share the Gospel, but, yes there is much opposition. Much of this opposition is coming from a very aggressive program of laws recently issued by the French government dealing with all religious expressions in France. They have occupied much time and taken a lot of energy. Yet at the same time, the Lord just keeps sending us new seekers. People who do not know the Lord, but think they might find the answers to

their questions at our churches. They come with all sorts of needs, and we have seen lives truly transformed. But likewise, they take a lot of time and energy.

**We will be coming back to the US for a short time in March, April, and May of this year.** We will be attending the Illinois and Oklahoma state meetings. Carol will be sharing at the Illinois State WAC the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. **Our dates for Illinois are: March 15-20, April 5-14 and May 6-9**

We would be more than glad to be with any group that wants to meet during those days. Not just Sundays, but likewise Wednesday night meetings, small groups, youth groups, prayer meetings, whatever. We will also be trying to have as much time as we can with as many pastors and state leaders who would be available.

The most efficient way to contact us is through our IM email addresses:

Dennis <[dteague@iminc.org](mailto:dteague@iminc.org)> Carol <[cteague@iminc.org](mailto:cteague@iminc.org)>

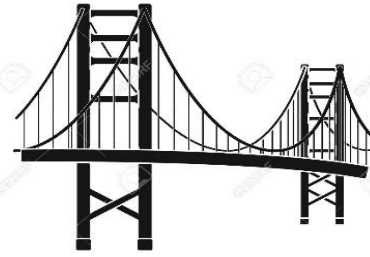
Thanks,

Dennis and Carol Teague

## JCity Center for HOPE and RENEWAL

*"Rebuilding Bridges to a Better Life"*

A Nonprofit Community Development Organization  
504 East Broadway Blvd  
Johnston City, Illinois 62951 Telephone: 618-952-1272



The center is led by Brother Keith Fletcher who resigned as pastor of the Johnston City Church to become Director of this new center. If you know people in your church who are dealing with grief, trauma, depression, anxiety, marital/relationship issues, etc., counseling sessions are now available. Please have them call the office. Also, any information you may need, or questions you may have concerning the new center, please feel free to call the office. They are there to assist you.



**WELCH COLLEGE**  
INVITES YOU TO THE  
ILLINOIS "IGNITE THE FLAME DINNER"  
at INA CHURCH  
MONDAY, MARCH 20 at 6:00 pm.

*If you plan to attend this dinner, or need additional information, please contact Pastor Brad Ryan 618-316-4123*

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT CAMP HOPE



- May 6<sup>th</sup>: Youth Fishing Tournament – 9:00 am
- May 31 – June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Leadership Camp
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>: Junior/Senior Camp (Grades 11 – 13)
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>: Freshmen/Sophomore Camp (Grades 9 - 10)
- June 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>: Junior Camp (Grades 5 - 6)
- June 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>: Primary Camp (Grades 3 – 4)
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>: Junior High Camp (Grades 7 – 8)
- September 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>: Camp Meeting
- September 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>: Master's Men Retreat



### NOTE:

Brother Ryan Payne has been hired as  
Camp Caretaker.

Please pray for him and his wife as they take on this responsibility.

## CTS COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 28 – 29

### at the INA CHURCH



The theme for Vertical Three for this year is, “**Suit UP – Ephesians 6:10-20**”. It is important that we all equip ourselves with the armor of God so we can be victorious over Satan. Young people need to be taught this as early as possible. We want you to encourage your young people to get involved in your church. CTS will help encourage using their spiritual gifts and talents.

We wholeheartedly believe in the value of church training and this annual competition. Each year, we look forward to seeing your young people exhibit their God-given talents in a way that is pleasing to our Lord and Savior. Our youth are not only the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today!

This year the fees have been raised to \$40 per participant. You may go to our Illinois FWB State website: <[www.ilfwb.org](http://www.ilfwb.org)>, click on “Boards”, click “CTS Board” and find housing options, registration and schedule for the activities. As you prepare for the competition, please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you. Contact any member of the Illinois CTS Board: Allen Bigley, Kathy Hayes, Jennifer Meacham, Emilee Smith or Tommy Lewis.

# TRAIN TEENS IN THE GOSPEL

+ Love and discipline them wisely  
(Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:21).

+ Teach purity (Daniel 1:8), to  
honor God with the body  
(1 Corinthians 6:18-20),  
& the importance of  
work (Ephesians 6:5-8).

+ Train in spiritual  
disciplines: Scripture,  
prayer, church life (Daniel  
6:10; Psalm 119:9-16).



NAFWB

Illinois Free Will Baptist

March 2023

# NEWSLETTER

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists  
P.O. Box 1 Bonnie, Illinois 62816-0001

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Reporters: Please send all correspondence for the Illinois Newsletter to [www.davidshores37@gmail.com](mailto:www.davidshores37@gmail.com)  
The deadline for articles for publication in the April Newsletter is March 15th



*You are invited to our Dedication Service*

## **EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

549 Cimarron Road  
HAMEL, ILLINOIS 62046  
Sunday Afternoon, March 26 at 3:00 pm