



Illinois Free Will Baptist October 2015

Newsletter

THE ILLINI INITIATIVE

We have had a great start to the new school year. The English Corner has maintained a group of about 50 international students for its first month of large group meetings as well as 150 students for conversation groups. Our family held a cookout at our home this past weekend.

We had nearly 20 students over and it was a first time for all of them to be in our home. It was also the first time that most of them had ever tasted a S'more. They were amazed. We also cook our hotdogs right by making them Chicago Style. We went through a lot of dogs that night.

I will be involved in three different international student Bible studies this semester. One will be held in conjunction with English Corner. We are excited to see what becomes of this opportunity. The second is a conversation group I lead over the big questions of life. This was my favorite hour of my week last year. The third study will be a Taiwanese investigative bible study. I ask that you pray for these studies that they will be fruitful and faithfully attended.

I want to thank you for all of your time spent in prayer for our family and ministry, and I want to thank you for the support of what we do here with international students. We have been traveling nearly every weekend to different churches sharing about our ministry. If you would like to have us at your church feel free to contact us at tylerepenn@comcast.net. The Bethel Church spoiled our family during their mission's conference and I enjoyed my time at Hazel Dell with Brother Eric Drake. Again if you are a supporters of ours on a monthly level it would be of great appreciation to make sure that your giving is going to the International Missions agency of Free Will Baptist and no long to the Home Missions agency of Free Will Baptist. You can give them a call at (877) 767-7736. Thanks again and God bless.

Tyler Penn - Missionary to International Students (U of I)

FIRST CHURCH - BENTON

It is fall! God's paint brush will soon color the leaves and we can enjoy them for a little while. We were very fortunate to have Sarah Malone with us on August 23. She is such a special lady! On September 3 thru 5, Darline Zimmerman, Margaret Legendre, and Barbara Spencer (along with our State WNAC President Susan Burgess) represented Illinois at the WNAC National Conference in Murphysboro, Tennessee. We wish every one of our members could have been there to share such a special time. Many of our church family have been able to attend the Adult Camp Meeting. Brother Tim York is outstanding and the music has been extra special - with heart!. It is always very special to attend any group meeting with your brothers and sisters in Christ and to see those you may not see again for a whole year. It was good to see Sarah Malone again before she has to leave the states.

We were privileged to have the Wanda Mountain Boys with us on October 13. Mike cooked the famous Thomas barbecue and we were able to enjoy such a wonderful music service. The trio got to be the first ones to spend a night in the parsonage and they said they were impressed. It is a mission outreach for our church as evangelists, missionaries, etc. are welcome to stay there. We have many prayer requests. Marty Leffler will soon be having surgery - and his recuperation time may be longer than he likes. A praise item for Zeb after his surgery on his knees - one week on his crutches - period! Others we lift up in prayer are the mothers of Linda Erwin, Janice Page, Harold Combs, and Ray MacDonald. We ask if you will remember also, the Gostowskis, Gary and Mary Cook, Georgiana and Gary Miller, Craig Bryan, Dan Leffler, Amy Crawford, and Mary Bauer. While at the conference, one of the cleaning staff at the hotel asked me if I'd pray for her - will you pray with me? Only God knows her name and her needs.

The Good Lord sometimes puts us on our back, so we can look upwards.

Pastor: Kent Dunford

Reporter: Barbara Spencer

HARMONY CHURCH – Rural West Frankfort

It is hard to believe that fall will be here before we know it. It is September, kids have returned to school and the leaves are starting to fall. The hummingbirds will be going next. We thank the Lord for the summer we have had and look forward to see what lies in store for us in the fall and winter.

On August 2nd, we had our youth night with Brother Greg Walker bringing the message. The youth that went to CTS provided us with their talents as well as others from the church. After that we had our birthday and anniversary fellowship.

August 4th was our Sisters of Strength meeting with Sister Ladonna Blades bringing the devotion. Once again we collected non-perishables for the Promise Mission in Marion.

On August 14th several of our youth went to the Back to School Rally at Camp Hope. We thank Brother Kelvin Walker for driving the bus.

We welcome to Harmony our two new members; Jennifer Cook and Sue Bird.

September 1st was our Sisters of Strength meeting with 16 in attendance. Emilee Smith, our Pastor's wife brought the devotion from Matthew 7:11. She read the story of "The Pearl Necklace" which leads us to the fact that God is waiting for us to give up something cheap so he can supply us with something better. We are preparing to have a breakfast for the men of the church to let them know we really appreciate and love them. And our sisters are truly a strength for each other.

We are planning another church in the park Sunday on October 4th. Starting time is 11:00 with preaching, singing and good fellowship. We also will be celebrating our Birthday and Anniversary fellowship at this time. So if you are free and want an awesome experience, come and join us this day or any of our Church times. Brother Curtis continues to teach on Wednesday evenings on our church doctrine and Treatise. We are currently studying the Holy Spirit.

Sunday, September 13th was a busy day for Harmony. Sisters of Strength presented Emilee Smith, a bouquet of flowers for her birthday. We appreciate what she means to us and what she does for the church as well as supporting her husband. Kyle and Autumn Ridlen were then baptized in Dick Smith's pond in the afternoon. We then had to rush to attend the service at Camp Hope at 6:30. All in all it was a great day.

The women are looking forward to hosting a breakfast for our men on the 19th of September.

We are looking to have a revival in the near future. Details to follow.

Now we continue to pray for those who are sick and unable to come to church. We know God is truly in control and we thank him for his mercy and grace.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." - Psalms 121:1

Pastor: Curtis Smith

Reporter: Alice Barron

RESCUE CHURCH – Rural Whittington

We send greetings from Rescue Church. It has been a very busy time for us with Youth Camp, Vacation Bible School, National Convention, Walking with Christ and many other events. This is just a part of the many ways of growing for Christ.

In our VBS, "Blast To The Past", can you believe the 39 kids who attended raised a total of \$900? That is a blast! The offering was given to Camp Hope and we give a big "Thank You!" to everyone who helped.

We also want to thank Brother Walter Freeman who was the speaker at our church while Brother Bryant Harris was attending the National Convention. Several of our families also attended.

The Mater's Men met on August 1 and on August 2 we had our VBS Commencement program, then on August 9 the WAC had "Dessert Sunday" to raise money for missions.

How saddened we were to hear of the passing of Brother Clifford Hicks. He has been such a part of the Rescue Church family and served as our pastor for several years. He was with some many of us and our loved ones during hard times and sad times. Brother Clifford will be greatly remembered and we send our condolences to Sister Maxine and all his family.

"What an awesome God we serve!"

Pastor: Bryant Harris

Reporter: Donna Harmon

HERITAGE CHURCH - Springfield

July, August, September

Summer closes its hot muggy days deprived of seasonal rain—a long dry season with only promising spurts, dabbled thunder, and thin flicks of lightning. Thankful nevertheless, we are praying for the farmers and the latter rains.

Held in July, the Heritage Vacation Bible School, set in Australia introduced local Youth to images of wombats, crocodiles, kangaroos. These crafted by the hand of Tom Hay, the VBS director, who festooned in full Outback accoutrements; hat, shorts, utility vest and binoculars; taught attendees to crafts canteens, decorate boomerangs, build rain sticks, and fold soap bearing kangaroo towels.

After VBS, Pastor Marcellus and Elizabeth vacationed in New Orleans to return two weeks later to Poison Ivy and an allergic reaction encountered in the family garden. Heritage's little church garden yielded summer's modest bounty to us and visitors. Our garden needed summer's rain. While Pastor traveled, August 9, Tom Green preached "Atonement," During the season, Tom Hay preached July 12, "God's Direction" and August 16, "Forgiveness." On July 23, Gary Pierce preached, "Ordinary People."

Pastor's sermons this season were July 5, *Representation Without Salvation*, (Joh 8:31 & Gal 5:1 & 16-6:2; Jul 19, *Dust or Joy On Your Head* (Ps 132, Jos 7:6, Isa 51:11); July 26, *What Are You Here For?* (Joh 18:47 & Ps 40); August 2, *Bruised Reeds, Smoking Flax? He Will Lift You UP* (Mat 12:20); August 23, *Faith or Faint: Hope or Nope* (Heb 11 and Gal 6:9).

We were blessed three weeks to offer worship space to the Bible Chapel Congregation when their roof collapsed.

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." - Galatians 6:7

Pastor: Marcellus Leonard

Reporter: Marilyn Guthrie

BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Greetings from Bear Point. Trusting all are enjoying God's blessings and the nice fall weather.

On August 14 some of our youth along with Shawn and Samatha attended the back to school rally at the Ina Church. Shawn shared devotion.

Sister Sarah Malone shared with us in services Sunday morning August 16. It is always good to hear about her work and travels.

Congratulations to Dale and Annette Branch who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on August 22. Also congratulations to Sonny and Marj Bunton who celebrated 60 years of marriage on September 5.

Sympathy and prayers to Sister Ceola Benedict and her family. Her husband Herb passed away on August 27.

We had our Friend Day on August 30 with outdoor services and dinner on the grounds with good eating and fellowship. Congratulations to Brittany and Brendan Montgomery on the birth of Brantley Ross on September 9. Also to grandma and grandpa Trisha and Danny Webb.

Congratulations to Jesse and Mallory White who were married on August 22 and Andrew and Lescee Whitewho were married on September 12.

We are thankful to our church family for the birthday love gift presented to myself and Sister Kayla for our birthdays.

Our homecoming will be October 25 with Brother Ivan Ryan preaching and Gospel Messengers special singing. Services begin at 10:30 A.M.

Our annual Country Store will be held November 7 from 9 A.M. To 2 P.M at the church.

Pastor: Larry Cook

Associate Pastor: Judson Phenicie

Reporter: Linda Cook

BETHEL CHURCH CONTINUES SEARCH FOR A PASTOR AND A PRINCIPAL

Bethel Church is accepting resumes for a Pastor. Bethel Christian Academy needs a Principal for the 2015-2016 school year. Applicants for the principal's position should have a Bachelor's degree (minimum), preferably in Christian Education/Administration or comparable field. Please send resume to Bethel Church (pastor) or to Bethel Christian Academy; (principal) 1417 Herbert Street; South Roxana, IL 62087 or Contact Don Federle dfederle@charter.net

PITTSBURG CHURCH - Pittsburg

We are entering into our busy, busy time of year! We want to thank all the Pastors in our Quarterly for laying down their lives as being living sacrifices for the Lord. It is a huge responsibility that requires so much time, effort, patience, and work. **Happy Pastor Appreciation Month!**

The first weekend in October is when we have our annual Homecoming celebration planned. This year on Friday, October 2nd our very own PFWBC Praise Band will be leading us in our worship service. We are so excited!! The service will begin at 6:30pm, is FREE, and open to anyone who would like to attend. On Sunday, October 4th we will celebrate our 108th Homecoming. Immediately following our service we will have our fellowship meal. It is going to be a great weekend of fellowship and worship!

Our bi-annual Blood Drive and Youth Meal are scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th. We are looking forward to being able to literally provide life to others! It will be from 3:30-6:30 pm if you would like to come and participate. Our Family Fall Festival is just around the corner too! Sunday, October 18th right after morning service we will be going to Breezy Hill Farms and spending the afternoon fellowshiping and spending a day on the farm. There is something for everyone! We will also be having a Silent Auction that the Women's Group will be hosting. We are looking forward to all the goodies to nicely fight over (ha ha)!

Down the line we have our Church Closet scheduled for Saturday, November 14th from 7am to noon. This is our free giveaway that we do twice a year where we give away clothing, toys, household items, food and more. If you know someone who could benefit from this let them know to mark it down on their calendar.

We hope you have a great fall season!

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Pastor: Keith McDannel

Reporter: Christina Wilcox

HAZEL DELL CHURCH - Rural Sesser

A Back-to-School Service and fellowship was held on August 16th under the direction of Youth Director, Hunter Sample. A good time was had by all in attendance.

The Peppy Calebs met for a noon meal on Thursday, August 27th at the church.

The Women Active for Christ is sponsoring the Operation Christmas Child project again this year. This is a world-wide effort to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After the children receive their gift-filled shoe boxes, many are disciplined through a Bible study course, The Greatest Journey, where they learn to become faithful followers of Christ. Anyone who is interested in filling a box for a child can pick up the shoe box at the church. Filled boxes will be collected in early November to ensure delivery by Christmas.

The Men's and Women's groups met for their respective monthly meetings on September 6th.

We are looking forward to our Homecoming service on Sunday, October 11th. Brother Mike Sample will be the speaker for this special service. We would welcome any who would like to attend to join us in a great day of worship and fellowship. Great food will be served following the service.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for report, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." - II Timothy 3:16

Pastor: Eric Drake

Reporter: Diana Kirk

PLEASANT VIEW CHURCH – Rural Walnut Hill

Hello from Pleasant View Church! In September, we celebrated 121 years of ministry here. Praise God that His light and truth are still going out from this place. Another celebration took place last month for Bert Hiltibidal's 90th birthday. His daughter Patricia Simpson invited the church to a party for him, and instead of gifts, accepted donations for Mark and Khristi Shores ministry. Everyone enjoyed visiting with Bert on his big day.

In August, Brad Hayes traveled with Master's Men Disaster Relief to Woodhaven Lakes to clean up after a tornado.

Susan Burgess traveled to Tennessee for the National WAC Retreat, at which she was a speaker.

Several people of our congregation were able to attend services at Camp Hope during the week of Camp Meeting. It is always great to worship with believers from other churches.

Pastor: David Burgess

Reporter: Holly Hayes

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs

Average Sunday School attendance during August was 86. Congratulations to Jason and Brittany Damron on the birth of Archer Maxwell Damron on August 6. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on August 12.

Maxine Whitehead, 84, passed away on August 14. Patty Galik, 78, passed away on August 29. She was a sister to former pastor Gene Parton. Condolences to these families.

Tammy Haseker recently made a public profession of faith, and was baptized on August 16. Our 5th Sunday evening song service on August 30 was a blessing. Mike Burns gave a report on his recent mission trip to the Philippines. Several members attended the student-led prayer service at Crab Orchard High School on September 6.

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16*

Pastor: Ivan Ryan

Reporter: Buddy Parks

BETHEL CHURCH – South Roxana

Brother Don Federle has notified the Illinois Newsletter that Bethel Church is still searching for a pastor following the resignation of Pastor Rick Ham. Resumes may be sent to Bethel Free Will Baptist Church; 1417 Herbert Street; South Roxana, Illinois 62087. Please send to the resume: c/o Pastor Search Committee.

Also, Bethel Christian Academy which is housed at the Bethel Church needs a Principal for the 2015-2016 school year. Applicants for the principal's position should have a Bachelor's degree (minimum), preferably in Christian Education/Administration or comparable field. Please send resume to Bethel Christian Academy; (principal) 1417 Herbert Street; South Roxana, IL 62087 or Contact Don Federle dfederle@charter.net

FREE WILL BAPTIST FAMILY MINISTRIES



Some time ago, we introduced a wonderful and unique opportunity to expand our services into Western Arkansas. You may recall our announcement in late March 2014, Rev. Jeff Holland of First FWB Church in Charleston, AR, was given the gift of a former extended care facility by its owner, Fred Schaffer. Pastor Holland then contacted Family Ministries and asked us to consider taking over the 15,000 sq. ft. building and turning it into a child care facility. "Maggie House" was soon born, named in honor of Maggie Schaffer, mother of the donor and the original owner of the property.

Renovations were soon underway, and we are in the home stretch of completion of the project. We hope to be ready to accept children by Nov. 1, 2015. Our goal is to serve individual children as well as sibling groups. Despite living at the Maggie House, we will do everything possible to mirror a family atmosphere and structure. House parents will be employed to serve as surrogate parents for the children. This structure provides an example of what the family and the home was designed to look like.

The story of the Maggie House is not simply about a building being renovated. Instead, it is a story about a movement, a Holy Spirit movement, and the effects of that movement on those who chose to be moved. To date, we have received enormous response from individuals, corporate donors and faithful churches in our fundraising efforts, but are still in need of contributions to complete the project. Prayerfully consider what role God would have you play in providing for these hurting children. Please earmark your gifts "Maggie House Project". We THANK YOU and praise God for His faithfulness through your prayers and financial support!

**In His Service,
Frank Woods, Executive Director**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Note to Reporters: The deadline for articles to be published in the November edition of the Illinois Newsletter is October 15.
Please send all articles to: David Shores . 25 Edgewood Road . Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864 or e-mail to:
davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org*

ILLINOIS ADULT CAMP MEETING

The Camp Meeting held last month at Camp Hope was a blessing to those who had the opportunity to attend. Thank you to the people and churches which supported it. Special thanks to the Ina Church for hosting the Leadership Breakfast and allowing us to have a Tuesday morning service at the church.

Thank you also for the generous offerings received during the meeting. The Adult Camp Meeting is not funded by the State Association, but by the giving of those individuals and churches who support this ministry. The offerings exceeded our budget for this year's meeting.

Brother Tim York delivered messages each of the four evenings that were both encouraging and challenging. Rusty Miller and David Mishler did a wonderful job as they shared the responsibility of leading the music with Doris Wallace serving as our pianist. It was a time of revival and renewal for several people.

The Camp Meeting Board is to have their first meeting on October 13 to make plans for 2016. We are asking you to pray for these men as they confer and pray with one another. The board will be contacting an evangelist, singers, etc., for the next Camp Meeting.

You may help in this process by sending your suggestions for the 2016 camp personnel. We welcome your prayerful suggestions and you may contact one of the board members listed here: Brad Ryan, Ivan Ryan, Curtis Smith, David Burgess, Larry Cook, Pat Henry, Phillip Kennedy, Josh Colson and David Shores.