

Illinois Free Will Baptist Newsletter

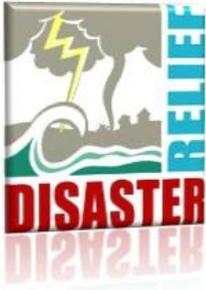
October 2016

PASTOR LEO GRIDER WITH THE LORD

Leo Kivett "Pete" Grider, 90, of Marion went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, August 30, 2016. He was born February 26, 1926 and on January 12, 1946 he married Joyce Ardelle Ehner. She preceded him in death on September 1, 2000. Together they shared 54 years of marriage. Brother Grider was a bi-vocational minister, working as a journeyman lineman, serving in the United States Navy honorably during WWII. He was a member of the Freedom Free Will Baptist Church south of Marion. He was an ordained Free Will Baptist Minister for over 50 years. He is survived by 13 children, 29 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Please pray for his family during this time.



Funeral services were conducted on Saturday, September 3, 2016, at Pyle Funeral Home in Johnston City, Illinois with Brother Ivan Ryan and Brother David Mishler officiating.



THE LOCAL CHURCH RESPONSE TO A DISASTE

Presented by Illinois Free Will Baptist Disaster Response Unit

The information herein is compiled from ten years of observation, beginning at Hurricane Katrina. Understanding the purpose and function of Illinois Free Will Baptist Disaster Response Unit (DRU) will help validate the points of this presentation.

DRU's goal is to Glorify the Creator, show the Love of Christ and spread the Gospel by helping hurting people cleanup from the aftermath of a disaster. DRU is a volunteer group sponsored by Free Will Baptist churches who pay our travel and equipment expenses. We operate under the authority of Illinois Free Will Baptist Master's Men Board. In a disaster the property owner is responsible for removal of debris. For example if a tree falls on your home the insurance company will pay to remove the tree and repair the house. However if that tree falls in the yard it is your responsibility. In disasters the local, state, and federal (FEMA) municipalities only accept that responsibility after the debris is moved to the curb. DRU fills that gap in the recovery. Our goal is to help families return to normal after the chaos of a disaster. Dr Jim Phillips Licensed Clinical Counselor says "The loss of a home by sudden disaster has the same emotional trauma as a death in the family." Therefore the opportunity and responsibility for ministry are numerous and varied. We depend on the local church to guide us to the people who need the help, those who cannot do the work and cannot afford to hire the work done.

Here are some of the ways the local church can be effective in disaster response.

Offer the church-owned property for a command center for local authorities. This would include Emergency Management Services, local police, and State police. Communicating with these agencies before a disaster to let them know your willingness to help is important.

The use of church facilities by disaster response groups is an opportunity to make your church the hub of the response. These groups need a place to set up their headquarters, house, and feed workers. They will have a leadership team who has the capability to manage hundreds of volunteers. Examples of large faith based groups are Service International, Samaritan's Purse, City Impact, and Operation Blessing. There are also good non-faith based groups who function much the same way, examples are Rubicon and Americorps St Louis. Some of these groups only require a grassy area to setup their tents and equipment. When a disaster hits you can contact these groups for help. They most likely will send in scout teams to assess the need and make necessary arrangements. For Free Will Baptists the first contact should be Ken Akers. He is the director for the National Free Will Baptist Disaster Response Team.

There are pit falls to avoid. If you experience personal property or church-owned property losses Satan will try to derail your ministry. We have observed individuals who had all of his spiritual energy and most of his time consumed by contentious negotiations with insurance adjusters. There are some adjusters who have made their mark by saving the company claim dollars. ...continued on Page 2

...continued from **Page 1** The question could be asked how is the best way to handle the loss of property. This is where the disclaimer comes in. We are not giving legal advice.

One may appoint someone to document the loss by taking pictures. Property should be secured as best as possible. Example being, if your roof has a hole in it it should be covered before the next rain. The insurance company should be contacted. Allowing an attorney to handle the negotiation with the insurance company is often the best answer. This will allow you to take care of ministry. Be patient. Reminder: it's the Lord's property. If He wants His money out the insurance company He will get it. A great example of a church not being derailed by Satan is the Generations Free Will Baptist Church in Joplin MO. The property was completely destroyed by the infamous 2011 tornado. The congregation removed the debris from the parking lot, setup tents, began serving food to disaster response workers and the displaced. Clothing and supplies were donated and distributed through the church property. Generations FWB Church was focused on ministry, not self-pity.

Some final thoughts. When your community is struck by a disaster, it may be a once in a life time opportunity to minister. Don't miss out on this opportunity and responsibility. Every passing day after the disaster your opportunity to minister is diminished exponentially.

If you have any questions about local church response in a disaster or want information on how to go about setting up a disaster response team please feel free to contact Tim Hayes, Illinois Free Will Baptist Disaster Response Unit Coordinator. Cell (618-322-8174) or tkhayes@hotmail.com

OAK VALLEY CHURCH – Rural Geff

Greetings from the Geff area. We are thankful the rains have let up and fall is on its way. We pray all the farmers have a safe harvest time. We are busy with the festivals - Johnsonville Days was nice, the Cisne Reunion was rained out at their parade, and we are prepared pies and other things for Geff Frontier days September 9th and 10th.

Brother Roger Bennett spoke during the morning worship on September 18th. Also, that weekend Brother Richard and Sister Valerie attended an Awards Luncheon in Peoria honoring historic churches organized in Illinois 150 years or more. Our church was organized in 1854 and has a continuous ministry until this day. We are proud and blessed to have this history.

Our annual Homecoming service was September 25th. The "Wilson's - All in the Family" sang at 10:30 that morning and we had a fellowship dinner at noon. This was our 162nd Homecoming.

On August 14th we began a study of "Is It Warfare?", a study of the Book of Ephesians, by Kay Arthur and led by Sister Peggy Barnard on Sunday evenings.

We also have in place a visitation with people in our community, letting people know we are here and we care. Hoping that everyone has the opportunity to meet with Jesus.

On October 9th, author and evangelist Rodney Burton is going to speak in our morning service. We are praying for God to use him to stir our hearts and speak to us.

"This is to my father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples". - John 15:8

Pastor: Richard Brown

Reporter: Marie Rutger

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs

Average Sunday School attendance during August was 98. Our youth groups enjoyed an evening at Goofy Golf in Marion on August 10. Shirley Jones, 78, passed away on August 11. Sheri Payne, 46, passed away on August 12. Marlene Bailey, 69, died on August 22. Leo Grider, passed away on August 30. Condolences to these families. Congratulations to Adam and Amanda Brown on the birth of Ella Kate Brown on August 10. We viewed a video of Brother Brad Ryan's sermon at the National Convention on August 28. There was a fellowship time later. Several of our congregation attended the 95th birthday party for Tilden Parks on September 1 at the Carrier Mills Nursing & Rehab Center. We received a love offering for Bob and Pam Bundren on September 4. Jack Ryan and Olivia Ryan gave memorization presentations as part of the evening service.

"Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." - Proverbs 16:3

Pastor: Ivan Ryan

Reporter: Buddy Parks

HERITAGE CHURCH – Springfield

Christian activity rules at Heritage. The Master's Men Retreat was held September 15-16-17 at Camp Hope. The speaker was Chad Kivette from Clarksville, Tennessee.

Sunday, September 18th, we celebrated bot Pastor and Liz's birthday and Pastor's fourth year as leader of our small but determined flock.

Adult Bible Study is studying he Fall Bible Scholar, studying in Joshua, Judges and Ruth.

One of the many inspiring sermons given by Pastor Marcellus was, "Are You Thirsty?". This was given on September 4th. Water is essential to everyday life. A person can live without food longer than he can without water. Without water, our organs eventually close down and death occurs. Without the spiritual water of God's message to us, we die spiritually. Slaking our thirst with the Bible daily will bring us saturation in faith.

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of he is heart will flow rivers of living water." – John 7:38

Pastor: Marcellus Leonard

Reporter: Marilyn Guthrie

BLUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne

We recently held our first fish fry enjoying a delicious meal and fellowship in the Link. Thanks to J.D. and Judy Williamson and Bryan and Wanda Peters for their organizing and cooking the meal. We also want to thank Jimmy Guthrie of the Bethel Church for donating the fish. Once again this year we held a cookout at Johnsonville Grade School, providing hamburgers, hotdogs, and chips to all those who attended the school's Open House.

A funeral dinner was held in the Link for the family of Mary Lou Case whose mother, Nora Murphy, passed away at 101 years old. Another funeral dinner was held in the Link for the family of Margaret Yates, was lived to be 104 years old. Robert Smith, our oldest member at 93, passed away. We held a dinner in the Link for his family and friends. He will be greatly missed, as he was still very active in our church. We also offer our sympathy to the family of Roberta Trouper, Ray Stark's sister, who passed away in northern Illinois.

Barry Simpson of the Free Will Baptist Foundation presented a seminar on Estate Planning for our church people on a Sunday evening. Brother Ernie attended a Camp Directors' meeting in Mt. Vernon recently. Our S.W.A.G. program, Serving and Worshiping an Awesome God, has reconvened on Wednesday evening for the youth. We serve supper at 6:30, followed by classes for all ages. Exercise and YOGA classes have also reconvened in the Link.

We recently held a baby shower for Jessica Pennington, who along with her husband, Andrew, is expecting a baby girl in October. We congratulate Tyler McGrew and Sadie Darnell who were married in Carbondale earlier this month.

Pastor: Ernie Lewis

Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Congratulations to Josh and Jenny Bunton who were married on September 10.

Our church participated in the Fall Crusade held in the Miners Memorial Park in Sesser. This is sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance.

Congratulations to Jesse and Mallory White on the birth of their daughter Annistyn Rae White born September 14. We will be celebrating our 145th homecoming on October 23.

Pastor: Larry Cook

Reporter: Linda Cook

SPECIAL INVITATION!

Tom and Jane Harmon will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at Rescue Church, Saturday, October 8th from 2 to 4. We invite those of you who have shared these years with us to join us for our informal party. No gifts, please.

PITTSBURG CHURCH - Pittsburg

October is ALWAYS a very busy month around PFWBC!! We will be honoring our Pastor's, Eddie and Keith, and their families throughout the month. Lots of great opportunities to pray and lift them up, fellowship with other brothers and sisters, and enjoy breaking bread with one another are on the docket!

We will be celebrating our 109 th Homecoming this year! It will be on Sunday of October, the 2nd . We will have our Morning Worship Service then a Fellowship Meal immediately following. Our Evening Worship Services will be dismissed.

As a special treat, One Voice did a concert at our church on Thursday, September 29th to help commemorate this special occasion. The PFWBC Choir will be performing a tribute to Fanny Crosby on Sunday evening, October 9th at 6pm. The evening will be filled with singing a variety of her most well-known hymns. If you would like to come and worship with us, come on out, we would love to have you!!

We will be having our Bi-Annual Blood Drive on Wednesday, October 19 th from 3:30-6:30pm. We will be taking appointments if anyone would like to come and donate. There is also the option to walk in and give. Our Youth Group will also be providing a meal from 4:30-6:30pm for fundraising purposes for their annual mission trip. Everyone is welcome to come and join us!

Construction of the new sanctuary is moving forward at a quick pace. The foundation is laid and preparations made for the steel frame to be erected are in place. It won't be long and we will see the shell of the structure going up!

Our AWANA program started back up on Wednesday, September 7th and it was an awesome evening with 91 Clubbers in attendance for the first night! We are expecting that number to grow as the year starts to progress. The classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm throughout the school year. The program is open to any child between 2 years through Senior in high school. Lots of helping hands and willing leaders make the program such a success! It's a great way to impact the youth in our area through God centered teaching and training in the Word. Until next month! "May the Lord bless you, and may the Lord keep you...."

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Pastor: Keith McDannel

Recorder: Christina Wilcox

HAZEL DELL CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Happy Fall, everyone! Looking forward to the beauty of the fall season the Lord blesses us with. The Peppy Calebs met for a noon meal on August 25th . The meal was catered by Dyel's Catering. There were 14 present. The monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast group met on Sunday, September 4th . The annual Sesser Harvest Crusade was held in the Sesser Park September 11-14th, with various pastors speaking each night.

We are so happy to welcome Brother Larry and Sister Peggy Clyatt into full fellowship with us as they presented themselves for church membership on August 21 st . We love this couple and feel so blessed that the Lord sent them to minister to us while we search for a pastor.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sister Katy Lewis who passed away on Friday, August 26th . Thank you to all who provided food and served the noon meal for family and friends following the services. Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for fall. It looks beautiful.

Brother Rusty and Sister LeAnn Miller hosted a time of worship and activities for the youth at their home on August 28 . We have a praise item. The Lord hears and answers prayers. Sister Valerie Gibson has returned to work in Nashville, TN following her recent surgery.

Our Homecoming services will be on Sunday, October 9th . Former Pastor Glen Poston will be with us to deliver the message, and special music will be provided by the Peyton Sisters. A noon meal will be served. We invite any who would like to celebrate with us to come join us on this special day.

*"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.
They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness." - Lamentations 3:23-24*

Interim Pastor: Larry Clyatt

Reporter: Diana Kirk

HARMONY CHURCH – Rural West Frankfort

As the signs of a new season begin to show in the colors of the changing leaves and cooler breezes, it is also a new season in our walk with the Savior. May He refresh His people with boldness and strength as we continue to seek His face. Brother Cline Roberts, a long-standing Deacon of Harmony Church, went home to be with the Lord. Harmony Church will miss this faithful servant of the Lord but we also rejoice for Brother Cline is free and in the presence of our precious Savior! Please continue to pray for the Roberts family.

On August 28th Brother Curtis led a special time of prayer for the students and teachers at Harmony and the community. This was also collection day for the Manna Mission in Johnston City. A small group Bible study, The Truth Project, began on September 1st at 7pm. It is a comprehensive Christian world-view study created by the Focus on the Family Institute. The study is lead by Jennifer Cook and will be held every other Thursday evening at Harmony Church. We encourage and welcome those who want to strengthen their foundation in the Word of God, seek after the face of God and grow in their walk with Christ. Please join us!

September 4th was a very special service. Several members of the congregation presented their cardboard testimonies to the church. It was a very powerful and spirit-led time of praise and thankfulness for what the Savior has done in our lives! It was truly a blessing to see all the glorious things God has done for us!

Our monthly Sisters of Strength meeting was held on September 6th as well as the Masters Men meeting. Please pray for both of these ministries as we grow in unity with each other and continue to seek God's will in serving each other and the communities around us.

Brother Curtis shared a special video presentation on September 11th. To remember the events of that day 15 years ago when America was brought to its knees yet rose up from the ashes to unite as a nation under God. May we never forget those who perished. During the evening service Brother Dave Meacham shared his powerful testimony with the congregation. Praise the Lord for all He has done! Harmony also welcomed four new members to our church family: Brian and Buffy Diefenbach and Charlie and Darlos Bowers. We are very thankful God has led them to become a part of our church family. Welcome to the family!

On September 18th, during the evening service, Dennis Gwizdala was with us to bring our worship service. On October 4th at 6pm, Sister Malinda Edgell will be with us to share her trip to Israel with us. This will replace the monthly Sisters of Strength and Masters Men meeting. There will be finger foods following the presentation. We pray you will join us. Also, October 9th Harmony will host its second Church in the Park event this year with potluck meal following after the service. Please join us as we shine God's light to the community!

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” ~Hebrews 10:23

Pastor: Curtis Smith

Reporter: Jennifer Cook

FIRST CHURCH – Mount Vernon

Our church has had a couple of fund raisers in the past month to help with the new building projects at Camp Hope. We appreciate the ministry of our camp and hope to see it continue to be influential in the lives of our young people.

Three special people have peached at our church recently. Brother Mike Strouth of Pound, Virginia visits with us each time his job sends him to this area. He and his wife Peggy were with us on a Wednesday evening and shared their testimony through the Word and song. Brother Roger Bennett also spoke on a Wednesday as he shared the needs of Welch College. His message and updates on the college construction were well received by the congregation. Then, on a Sunday evening, Damian Rose, a high school freshman, preached his first sermon. Our church is excited to see the young people taking an active role in the ministry of the church.

On a Saturday night our church hosted a singing which featured “The Prodigal Sons”. This gospel quartet has been together for years but they do not get to sing together very often because two of them are pastors. We called their program a “together again concert” which was very well attended. God really blessed us that night!

Pastor: David Shores

Youth Minister: Phillip Kennedy

Reporter: Donnie Shurtz

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Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Reporters: Please send articles for the November Newsletter to David Shores: <davids@mvmfreewillbaptist.org> by October 15

2016 Leadership Conference | Developing Young Leaders

The 2016 Leadership Conference will be held Monday and Tuesday, December 5-6, at Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel. The conference will address the theme “Developing Young Leaders.”

The conference will feature three panel discussions focused on the need and process for developing young leaders. The opening panel Monday night will feature six ministers with a wealth of experience and knowledge of ministry: Dr. Melvin Worthington, Dr. Danny Dwyer, Carl Cheshier, Jeff Jones, Randy Wilson and Rob Morgan.

Mike Wade, promotional director for the Oklahoma State Association, will speak Tuesday morning, presenting the strategies that have been successfully implemented in Oklahoma to train and mentor young pastors. The morning panel will feature the presidents from each Free Will Baptist College: Matt Pinson, Welch; Tim Eaton, Randall; Jim Marcum, Southeastern; and Wendell Walley, California Christian.

Dr. Eddie Moody and Dr. Greg Kettelman will present the mid-day session, focusing on trends and shifts in culture that have led to the need for the younger generation to step forward in leadership

The final session Tuesday evening will highlight younger leaders in the denomination: Josh Baer, Daniel Edwards, Barry Raper and Paul Bryant.

The cost of the two-day conference is \$199 and includes all materials and meals. Rooms are available at the Nashville Airport Marriott for \$137/night (plus tax) for the conference. Visit www.nafwb.org/leadershipconference to register and make hotel reservations.

Be sure to remember...

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH



