



Illinois Free Will Baptist

October 2020

Newsletter

ILLINI INITIATIVE

Campus Pastor: Tyler Penn

There is a familiar chill to the air this time of year but that is about where the familiarity ends for so many people including our ministry with international students. The fall semester has begun with most interaction taking place on line. Normally we have already met about 200 international students and beginning the exciting process of ministering to them. There is such a rhythm to a college calendar that not feels all off beat. We are not able to meet in person with the students yet. We are hopeful for that to change in the coming weeks. We are meeting through online at this time.



I am excited that for our online bible study that we do have a Russian couple attending. They have very little knowledge about the bible and are interested in knowing some of the stories. I am hopeful that this will be a very good study for them and open up doors of faith. I am also excited for our Big Questions of Life study that includes a Russian man, an Iranian woman, and a Chinese student. I pray that this online conversation group will be productive for the gospel though it is online.

Although we are missing our normal fall get together events with the students we are thankful that we can still talk with them through zoom. We are also starting some zoom groups that will be for students who have gone back to their home country that they can keep practicing their English. I thank you for your concern and support of what we do here among the international population. I thank you for your prayers and ask that you continue to lift us up to the Father as well as our students.

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

On our Annual "Back to School" Sunday we recognized students from Pre-Kindergarten up through college age. We also honored all faculty and staff in our service. After a word of prayer for all of them, the students were presented with a gift.

On the last Sunday in August we received a special World Missions Offering. We also had missionary Annabelle Ellis with us for a Sunday morning service. She hopes to be back in Japan to work with the "Hope Alive" ministry by December.

Brother Ernie attended the Executive Board meeting in Mt. Vernon. He also attended a mission board meeting in Champaign. Jamie Lee, Adam Garrett, and Tyler Penn were able to join the mission board for this meeting. They also looked over the new meeting place for the Bridge Church. Brother Ernie also enjoyed a breakfast with ministers from the Wayne City and Cisne area.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Mavis Spears who passed away recently. She was the mother of Lyn Waller, the grandmother to Christal Lewis and Colin Waller, and the great-grandmother to Gideon Lewis who are all a part of our church.

RESCUE CHURCH

Pastor: Bryant Harris Reporter: Donna Harmon

The month of November and all the months following with the passage of time helps us to remember our veterans that gave their all so that we might be free. Thank you, time and time again.

Another thank you is due. Jane Harmon is home again after a short stay in St. Louis for surgery. She is back to church and doing much better.

Melinda said we are still on hold with Tuesday School until October when we will look and see if we feel it is safe to reconvene.

Rescue hopes this finds all of you safe and secure from COVID. When we get worried, just remember, God is always in control. What an awesome God we serve!

HARMONY CHURCH

Pastor: Bruce Thurman Reporter: Cody Alstat

Hello from Harmony, On August 15th one of our Deacons and his wife celebrate their Golden anniversary. We hope that Sister Kathy and Brother Dick Cremer had a great anniversary and here's to another 50 years of marriage. On August 16th our Pastor and his wife took a well-deserved weekend off and spent some time camping in Whittington and had many great bike rides. On August 24th a lot of our youth went back to school. We have many parents homeschooling their kids this year. Please keep all of our kids and the parents in your prayers this school year. On August 30th we had a wonderful praise service with many great singers, we also were able to have our first birthday and anniversary meal after evening worship that night. On August 31st our Pastor's nephew passed away at the age of 49, please keep our Pastor and his Wife in your prayers and his entire family. On September 2nd Sister Penny and Brother Randy Blades welcomed their new grandchild River Henry Joseph; he weighs 7 lbs, 8 oz.

"Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me." - Psalm 119:175

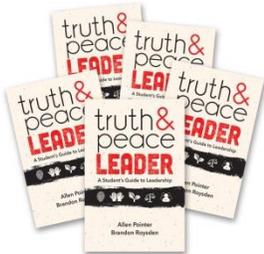
ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Ivan Ryan Assistant Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Morning Worship attendance during August was 80. Amirah Jones, 8, passed away on August 3. Janine Spicer, 73, also passed away on August 3. She was a sister to Dale Hastings. Charles Brush, 88, passed away on September 3. Condolences to these families. Brother Clayton Hampton shared with us on Conference Call about his ministry in Montana on August 5. Rusty and Brenda Carney shared with us on Conference Call about their ministry in Japan on August 12. Brother David Crowe shared with us on Conference Call about North American Ministries on August 19. Boxes are here for Operation Christmas Child.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." - Matthew 28:19-20

TRUTH & PEACE APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15



**RESLOVED
DANIEL 1:8**

Just a reminder to our young people:

The Truth & Peace application deadline is October 15, 2020.

You may get additional information and the application by using the following link for the application.

https://www.cognitofrms.com/VerticalThree/_2021TruthPeaceApplication

or by contacting: Diane Conn | Events Department
Randall House Publications
114 Bush Rd. Nashville, TN 37217
615.361.1221 | 800.877.7030 RandallHouse.com



ETEAM STUDENT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON OCTOBER 1, 2020!

Parents and High School students: ETEAM provides a life-changing experience for high school students. Check out the program by contacting IM, Inc at this address...and hurry! The deadline is October 1st!

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/HannaMott/ETEAM2021Application>

WALTONVILLE CHURCH

Pastor: Mark Wells

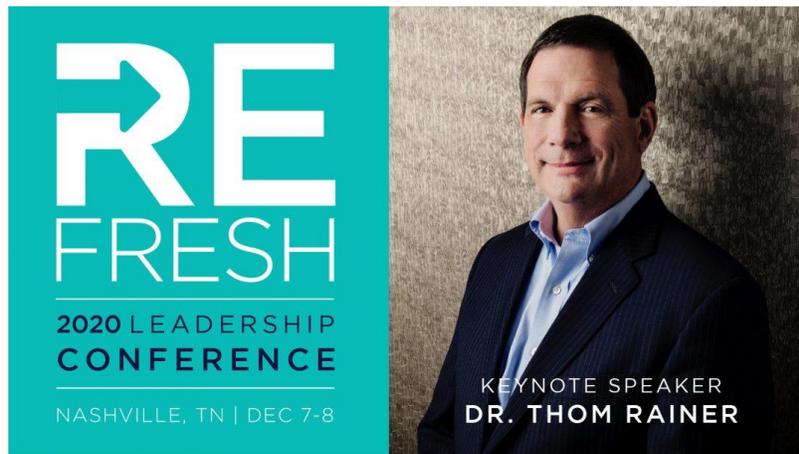
The month of August was a time of wondering for our church. We lost another member of our church, Brother Jerry Wilderman who passed away on August 29th. Brother Curtis Smith preached his funeral on September 2nd and the church provided a meal for the family afterward.

We have added Eli Fairfield, Chris Kuhner and Tyler Klamm as Trustees and David Miller came back on the board as well. We are so proud of these guys.

Please keep Tyler Klamm in your prayers as he has lost three grandparents in the last four to five months. He is one of the guys that has stepped forward into leadership and the devil is not happy about it! He is a young man that I believe is going to be a great leader one day, along with these others who have stepped up into leadership.

Please keep our church in your prayers as we renew our vision for the church in Waltonville. We were able to help with the Rice for Cuba project and believe that God will continue to bless us as we endeavor to serve Him.

2020 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



The 2020 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference returns to Nashville Airport Marriott December 7-8. Pastors, church leaders, and denominational leaders from across the country will gather to explore the theme “Refresh,” with an emphasis on church health.

Monday and Tuesday evening keynote sessions will feature Dr. Thom S. Rainer, founder and CEO of Church Answers, an online community and resource for church leaders. Prior to founding Church Answers, Rainer served as president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. Before his time at LifeWay, he served at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for 12 years, where he was the founding dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism. Rainer is a 1977 graduate of the University of Alabama and earned M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In addition to speaking in hundreds of venues over the past 20 years, Rainer led the Rainer Group, a church and denominational consulting firm, from 1990 to 2005. The firm provided church health insights and research to over 500 churches and other organizations during that period. Dr. Rainer has authored more than two dozen books, including *I Am a Church Member*, *Breakout Churches*, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*, *Simple Life*, *Simple Church*, *Raising Dad*, *The Millennials*, *Essential Church*, and *Who Moved My Pulpit?*

“Dr. Rainer is regarded as one of the leading voices in church health and revitalization,” notes Executive Secretary Eddie Moody. “We are glad to welcome him to the Leadership Conference, and we encourage all Free Will Baptists to take advantage of this opportunity to hear him speak.”

On Tuesday, a broad slate of training seminars will offer practical instruction on a number of topics important to building and maintaining a healthy church. More details regarding seminars and speakers are forthcoming.

During the two-day conference, attendees will renew friendships during banquet-styled meals, enjoy music from Welch College during evening sessions, and enjoy their stay in the award-winning Marriott property.

Conference Registration is \$225.00 which includes all sessions and materials, four meals, and refreshment breaks.

Note: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, registration *will* be limited.

newsletter

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*Note to Reporters: Articles for publication for the November must be submitted by October 15th
Please send all information to davids@myfreewillbaptist.org*



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