

East Central District

Association of

Illinois Free Will Baptists

Bakerville FWB Church, Blue Point FWB Church, Calvary FWB Church, Crossroads FWB Church, Mt. Vernon First FWB Church, Oak Valley FWB Church, Pleasant View FWB Church, Salem FWB Church

MINUTES

Of the January 8, 2005 quarterly meeting at the First FWB Church of Mt. Vernon Illinois

Bro. Jim Beatty led the congregation in singing "The Old Account Was Settled". Bro. Mike Robertson offered the opening prayer. The welcome and devotion was given by host pastor Mike Gillock. He shared scripture from Mt. 11:7-11 and John 10:37-42 about John the Baptist. John did no miracles, yet Jesus said of him--there is no one born of women greater than he. The best thing a preacher can learn is to keep "the main thing, the main thing". John did just that. John did no miracles, but what he spoke about Jesus was TRUE. People are starving for the TRUTH. John offered the Light of the world. Not his (John's) light, but Christ Jesus. Bro. Mike encouraged us to speak the TRUTH and lift up Jesus. He closed his devotion in prayer.

The clerk called the meeting to order by reading II Cor. 3:1-5. The standing delegates were recognized and seated. The church letters were read and a motion to accept the letters and seat the delegates was seconded and carried.

The minutes from the October 9, 2004 meeting were available in printed form. A motion to accept the minutes was seconded and carried.

Sis. Kathy Hayes gave the treasurer's report. Presently the balance is \$743.22. MSC to approve the treasurer's report.

Bro. David Shores mentioned the passing of Louie Hanna.

Bro. John Hollis reported on many IL missionaries and their needs. Jerry Banks (former missionary to Japan) had recently been killed in an automobile accident. Remember Janice as you pray. Bro. George Waggoner is present today. He is a long time supporter of IL missions. Dennis Owen is recovering from back surgery. The Gibbs are home now visiting family. The M-team transportation funds are coming along. Bro. David Potete is in Alabama for a conference. The push is still on to drive down the Chicago mortgage. They would like to go self supporting in 2005. The Taylors are opening doors for service in Yuma, AZ. The Shores need our prayer support as they continue in New Mexico. Mark King's account is frequently in the red. Pray for his safety. Sarah Malone's account continues to be solid. Pray for her safety as well. The Hawkins in Elgin are averaging 28 on Sunday morning. The Lewis' in Utah desire prayer. There has been a desire to channel Tsunami relief thru Christian witnessing channels. This may be done by sending funds thru the state association treasurer. Bro. John also expressed the mission board's desire for continued prayer support.

Bro. Ernie Taylor updated us on the transportation needs of the M-team in France. These are very small vehicles. For several couples to be sharing a vehicle is not easy. They should have possession of the second car by now. One car was needing tires. Bro. Ernie suggests that if you ever get the chance to visit missionaries, take along some groceries. They will probably be very happy to put you up for a few days, especially if you have brought items they cannot get over there.

Bro. David Shores reported on Mark's work. The congregation is dwindling but they are not discouraged. They continue to be active in various methods of outreach. Pray for this family. He also

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mentioned that the Taylors in Yuma are meeting in a school and need chairs. If you would like to give money for that need it would be greatly appreciated.

Moderator Ernie Lewis filled the vacancies on the committees and we were recessed so they could work.

LOCAL CHURCH REPORTS

Following the break the reports from local churches were given. Bro. Kirby Adams informed us as to the work going on at the Bakerville Church. They are busy building a parsonage. It has a full basement under it. They plan to utilize it by having many youth activities there. Bakerville is seeing souls saved—particularly youth. New Year's Eve they had around 50 teens for their festivities. Jason Newell is working with a men's group in Bible study. The women's group studies are doing well. They are trying to minister to the needs the world is presenting to them. The church is having two services on Sunday morning. The 8:30 service is traditional. The 10:30 service is contemporary. They are growing and giving God the glory for working in lives. It is good to see and encouraging to be involved. There are struggles, but they keep pressing on and looking to God.

The Blue Point Church is actively sending people out on missions. The Davison's were sent to France for language study. The Taylors have gone to Yuma, Arizona. The church has various activities to support missions, such as a trivia night and Bible College Day. "Reaching out and Sending out". They had a good Vacation Bible School and a great Christmas program. Visitors came to the Christmas program and had never been to Blue Point before. Pray for Caleb Gifford—recently married and then leaving for training before going to Iraq. Some young people are getting involved in missions. Ashley Lewis will be going to Cuba over Spring Break. Derek Lewis and Tyler McGrew were chosen for Truth and Peace. Another young lady will be going to Chicago with the Potetes. While collecting groceries for the community at Christmas time, people were also giving favorite items for Joy and Shane. There are many ways to involve people in missions. Simple things are the big in God's work. Thank God!

YOUTH COMMITTEE

We encourage participation in the following events for youth and youth leaders:

1. Youth service (all welcome) at Salem FWB Church, Wayne City; Jan. 29th 6:00 p.m. (last Saturday of the month) with speaker Jon Cannon and youth praise and worship team from his church at Victory FWB Church in Mascoutah.
2. FWB Youth Workers Conference. Location: Kentucky and Branson. Kentucky date is Feb. 18,19,20th. \$250/couple includes lodging and meals.
3. Springboard Leadership Conference for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders at Camp Hope on March 3-6th, Thurs.-Sunday. \$75/student. Excellent youth training!
4. Welcome Days at FWBBC on March 24-26 for Junior and Seniors.
5. Youth Rally which will be hosted by Mt. Vernon First—date to be announced.
6. Encourage "support" for E-Team members from Illinois as they contact your churches.

Signed: Tammi Kash, Christina Taylor, and Travis Penn

A motion was seconded and passed to accept this report.

E-Team members include:

Bruce Petty—Calvary
Stephanie Owen—Chicago
Andrea Chadley—Arnold View
Matt Riley—Chicago
Phillip Kennedy—Mt. Vernon—Intern to Panama
Katie Dameron—Arnold View

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

This is the report of the Examining Committee:

1. We recommend presenting a card of good standing to the following ministers who have reported; Tony Williams, Travis Penn, Tony Kash, John Hollis, Mike Gillock, Jesse Allen, David Burgess, Ernie Lewis, David Shores, Clarence "Bud" Porter, and George Waggoner.
2. We recommend that Shane Davison be issued a card of good standing upon receipt and approval of his report.
3. We are scheduling an additional meeting with Jason Newell.

Submitted: Mike Gillock, Clarence Porter, and David Burgess

Bro. David clarified item #3, saying that the committee wanted time to talk to Jason without having to hurry back into the service. There is no problem; they just didn't want to rush thru. There was a question about the older pastors being covered for cards of good standing. It was noted that it is up to their church to request a card on the back of their letter. MSC to accept the report of the examining committee.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Recommends that:

1. Ernie Taylor fill the unexpired term of Mike Gillock on the Examining Committee.
2. Tim Hayes fill the unexpired term of Ernie Taylor on the Business Committee.
3. We give the M-Team Auto Fund \$100.
4. We give the Yuma mission \$100.
5. Bruce Petty for E-Team Brazil, \$100.
6. We give to the Ashley Lewis Cuba trip \$100.

Submitted by: Mike Robertson, Elmo Manahan, and Ernie Taylor

There was a motion to adopt item #1. This motion was seconded and passed.

Item #2 was adopted by a motion, second, and carried.

Items #3,4,5&6 were accepted and voted on together. Motion, second and passed to conduct this business.

Bro. Travis Penn had some comments about the website for Illinois FWB Churches. Every church in the state can log in and have their own link to ilfwb.org. He would like to archive our minutes on the website.

Bro. Ernie Taylor motioned to send \$100 to Phillip Kennedy's account. He is going as an intern to Panama City. 2nd and carried.

Mention was made of the passing of Sis. Bonnie Allen. Pray for Bro. Jesse.

Motion to adjourn the business meeting. 2nd and carried.

WORSHIP SERVICE

We were called into worship by a congregational song, "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul". Bro. Tony Kash offered prayer. "Victory in Jesus" was sung by the congregation, and then the morning offering was given. Bro. John Hollis prayed. Bro. Jim Beatty presented the special music, "The Only Real Peace I have, Dear Lord, Is in You."

Bro. Ernie Lewis brought the morning message and began by reading Matthew 28:19 & 20 in French. He had been, recently on a mission trip with 5 pastors from the states. Bro. Ernie presented his slides of our missionary couples at the language school that they had visited. He shared prayer requests of each missionary they spent time with. Darren Portell and Sean Warren are both coaching boy's basketball teams. Workers are needed to make repairs and do some carpentry work on the language school building. Here is an opportunity for a short term trip.

The group Bro. Ernie traveled with also visited the Teagues, Gibbs, and Patsy van Hook. Many things are happening and God is working in these lives. Remember these in prayer: Shane and Joy

Davison, Daniel at the language school, and the missionaries in Nantes, France—Teagues, Gibbs, and the Riggs.

As Bro. Ernie brought his slide presentation to a close, we were reminded that we would need delegates to the State Meeting March 18 & 19th. These people were named as delegates:

Mike Robertson, Kathy Hayes, Mike Crabtree, Donnie Shurtz, Marie Rutger, Eloise Porter, Paula Hayes, Tammi Kash, and Christina Taylor as an alternate. There was a motion to elect these as delegates and for the moderator to make any changes as needed at the State Meeting. 2nd and passed.

It was mentioned that Jonathan Owen is serving in Iraq and Dennis is recovering from back surgery. Remember these as you pray. Dismissal prayer and blessing on the noon meal was offered by Bro. David Burgess.

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MINUTES

Of the April 9, 2005 quarterly meeting held at the Oak Valley FWB Church.

The East Central District Association of Illinois Free Will Baptists was welcomed to the Oak Valley FWB Church near Geff, Illinois by the pastor Darren McClerren. Bro. David Shores offered the opening prayer. Bro. Darren brought a devotion from Psalm 100, "His truth endureth to all generations." If we could have the emotion David had when he wrote this Psalm that would be good. Do we praise God in our lives? In our worship at our churches? In our actions and words? Do we praise God in our troubled times? Because we can't see the future, we need to worship Him in all these things. Let's go into our services with a heart of praise. Let's have a new perspective of what it is to praise Him. Bro. Darren closed his devotion in prayer.

Clerk, Paula Hayes called the meeting into order by reading Phil. 4:4-6. Moderator Ernie Lewis asked the standing delegates to rise and be recognized. The church letters were read. In the absence of a letter from Calvary, Bro. Travis Penn asked that Kathy Hayes and Mike Robertson be seated as delegates from their church. A motion to accept the letters and seat the named delegates was seconded and carried.

The minutes from the last meeting were available in printed form. There was a motion to approve these minutes. It was seconded and approved.

Kathy Hayes gave the treasurer's report. With a beginning balance of \$743.22 and an offering of \$235.11 and dues collected of \$1,085 this gave us \$2,063.33 to work with. Disbursements made totaled \$1,660, thus leaving a balance of \$403.33. Motion to accept the treasurer's report was seconded and passed.

Various items were shared as information. A thank you note from Ashley Lewis was read. The Davison's have a new website available to those interested.

ILLINOIS HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Bro. John Hollis presented the following information concerning Illinois missionaries and families. Bro. Ernie Lewis has recently been added to the IL Missions Board. There is a list of IL mission websites being compiled. Joy Davison would like to go to the Asian Women's Conference. Ashley Lewis has been to Cuba. E-TEAMS are going out this summer. James & Melanie Hawkins are going to Uruguay. It was a blessing to hear from missionaries and their parents at the State meeting. M-Team is finishing up a 2 year term of language study. They will be going to another school. This might affect their transportation needs. Sarah Malone is home. In her supervision position she is dealing with "heads of state" from other countries. Pray for her safety. The Warren's and Derby's need our prayers as their families increase. Pray for Dennis & Trena Owen as they are at the Bible College for a year. Pray for those remaining in Uruguay involved with that ministry. The Teagues are doing well and the "march around Jericho" continues. Carl & Sheila Hawkins are averaging about 20 to 25 attending services in Elgin. Pray for their endeavors. They are in a good location and wonderful facilities. The Potetes are working to reduce the mortgage and go self supporting in 2005. They are averaging 70 in the Sunday morning worship service with 25-27 in Sunday School. The Shores in Albuquerque are

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struggling. They are dealing with some vandalism which is disheartening, but they are up to the challenge to see gains made. There is a young man coming from North Carolina to help them soon. The Lewis family in Ogden, UT is trying to raise money for a building. The IL Missions Board wants to encourage everyone to get involved in new projects in Illinois. Bro. Tyler Penn is working on the new T-shirt program to promote IL missions. Pray for Tyler and Kellie and their families.

ILLINOIS PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY

Bro. David Shores shared information about Roll Call Sunday. We had an average of 106 in IL. Church news around the state mentioned included: David Shores now pastoring at Mt. Vernon, Darren McClerren is now at Oak Valley. Otis Smith up at Rockford is not well. He needs our prayers and the church needs our prayers. Heritage in Springfield set a new attendance record of 125. Larry Clyatt is leaving the Benton church and going to Florida. Bethel is looking for a pastor. Bro. Crank went to Georgia. Nason and Waltonville are also without pastors. May 9th and 10th is a Global Outreach conference. Encourage your church to send your pastor. Bro. David thanked us for praying for him as he was in Cuba.

Ed Ferguson also went to Cuba. He shared that he learned to expect the unexpected. Their time was cut short, but they were able to visit the two churches that their Sunday School class supports. He went on this trip with a desire to be a blessing to the Cubans, but they were a blessing to us, too. Bro. David and Ed both emphasized that the situation in Cuba is very different than here in the states. Pray for the ministry in Cuba.

The new Illinois State Association moderator is David Burgess. He shared information about the website at www.ilfwb.org. There is a lot of information there about each board, the local churches, WNAC, Master's Men, etc.

Moderator Ernie Lewis filled the vacancies on the Examining and Youth committees as follows: Travis Penn, Examining and Christina Taylor and Lawrence Pennington, Youth. We were recessed to allow the committees to work.

Following the break, we were called back into business. We were informed that the Warren's baby is due in May. Sadly, the Derby's have lost their baby.

CALVARY CHURCH REPORT

Bro. Travis Penn brought the report from Calvary. They are doing well. Their Master's Men have a retreat and everyone looks forward to it. They received a good Laura Belle Barnard offering. Last summer they had a good Vacation Bible School and look forward to another one this summer. They had a group go to Elgin and work on the parsonage. Their CTS program is going well. The kids share on Sunday morning what they have learned on Wednesday in CTS. They had a joint service with Pleasant View that everyone enjoyed. In January Calvary hosted a missionary day. They were able to send out James Hawkins and Bruce Petty with an \$1800 offering. For Easter the activities are enjoyed by many. One highlight being that the losing class of their attendance competition fixes the breakfast after early service. They were pleased to have several visitors. Pray for families to be regular attendees. Pray also that the Lord would give a good vision to reach people other churches are not reaching.

CROSSROADS CHURCH REPORT

Bro. John Hollis gave a report from the Crossroads Church. They have new lighting installed. They are thankful for the improvement to their facility. The theme they have chosen for 2005 is "Lift your eyes". They have a major emphasis each month on outreach. They gather for supper then go out to make contacts and come back for service. One, who has been faithful to come on the van, was lead to the Lord very recently. Another one joined the church. They have hosted monthly nursing home services, and an Easter outdoor service. The Master's Men have been doing some things around the church. Plans are being made for Vacation Bible School. It will be a jungle adventure with many things planned in June.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

The Examining Committee report was given.

Item 1: We recommend that we send a letter of good standing (Recommendation) for Mike Gillock, to the Presbytery Board of the Liberty Association.

Item 2: For information, we did receive and approve Shane Davison's annual minister's report and issued a card of good standing, no further action needed.

Signed: David L. Burgess, Travis L. Penn and Ernie Taylor. MSC to receive report.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

We encourage participation in upcoming events:

1. CTS competition April 29-30 at Johnston City, IL.
2. Youth Camp beginning in June and continuing through the summer.

Signed: Christina Taylor, Ed Ferguson, and Lawrence Pennington

MSC to receive this report. It was noted that the Camp Hope calendar will be sent to the churches.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1. Recommend to give \$100.00 for Joy Davison for Asian trip.
2. Recommend to give \$100.00 for Mark King account.
3. Recommend to give \$100.00 for speaking plus \$150.00 travel expense to James & Melanie Hawkins.

Signed: Mike Robertson, Tim Hayes, and Elmo Manahan

MSC to receive this report. A motion followed to adopt all items together. 2nd and carried.

Attention was directed to the back of the bulletin and notice the events and dates listed there. A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed by a standing vote.

WORSHIP SERVICE

We entered into worship service with Marie Rutger on the organ and Shirley Byars on the piano. Marjorie Jelly led the congregation in singing "All the Way My Savior Leads Me". Bro. Mike Robertson led in prayer, followed by the congregation singing "He Lifted Me". The morning offering was received after Bro. Lawrence Pennington offered prayer. The musicians played "Isn't Jesus My Lord Wonderful". We were blessed by two specials. Marie Rutger, Leatrice Angle, Marlys Manahan and Shirley Byars sang "Hand in Hand with Jesus". Sis. Brooke Byars presented "Healing in Jesus Name".

Bro. James Hawkins presented him and his wife's plans to be full time missionaries in the future. He wanted to prepare us now that "we will be back." James and Melanie are going to Uruguay to work with Jamie and Tammy Lancaster. They plan to be there 7 weeks—leaving in May and returning July 6th or 7th. They will be helping with the building, perhaps a new program, filing, and visiting other works if possible. They ask that we support them prayerfully as well as financially. They will be facing new experiences such as flying, a new culture, and upcoming services. Pray as they plan for their future. They are not sure yet, where the Lord wants them to serve. Also pray for Melanie's mother as she is not a Christian.

The scripture Bro. James chose was I Thes. 5:17. "Pray without ceasing." We see here diverse exhortations of how to live our lives. The idea is that we are not lacking, but are always ready to pray, have things to pray for. "Without ceasing" is broken down as not lacking, not left with a space or a gap. Prayer is sometimes lacking in our churches. There is more to a good prayer life than blessing food, dismissing church and "help me God when I'm in trouble."

There may be some in your church who are lacking in their prayer life.

1. Lead by example—show them what to do —make sure your prayer life is right.
2. Teach and preach prayer. Let people know what is expected. Jesus taught his disciples how to pray. As leaders guide people how and what to pray.
3. Encourage accountability. As leaders we need to discipline. Let people know what God expects and hold them to that. Families need to hold each other accountable. Friends need to

hold each other accountable. Christians need to hold each other accountable and hold each other up.

It was announced that Bro. Trymon Messer would be preaching revival services at the Mt. Vernon church Sunday thru Wednesday, April 10-13, 2005.

We were dismissed in prayer by Bro. J. D. Shurtz as he also blessed the noon meal.

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MINUTES OF THE JULY 9, 2005 MEETING

The Pleasant View Church welcomed the East Central District Association to the quarterly meeting. Sis. Susan Burgess and Paula Hayes played the piano and organ while Bro. Larry Maas led the congregation in singing "Blessed Assurance." The welcome and devotion were given by Bro. David Burgess. Using scripture from I Timothy 2:1-4, Bro. David urged us to keep America Great! By praying for America, living righteous lives and sharing Christ, we can keep America great. He emphasized that there is a difference in the phrases "Freedom of..." and "Freedom from..." We should be praying for this country. Secondly, we should live righteous lives. Our three branches of government are based on scripture from Isaiah. Thirdly, we should be willing to share Jesus Christ. The unbelieving world shouts out their message. We need to get out our message. Our forefathers claimed this nation for God. We need to reclaim it. Bro. David closed his devotion in prayer for us and our nation.

The meeting was called to order by the clerk. The letters from the churches were read. A motion to accept the letters and seat the delegates was seconded and carried. Minutes from the April meeting were available in typed form. Motion to approve the minutes was seconded and carried.

Treasurer Kathy Hayes gave her report. Having begun the quarter with a balance of \$403.33, and receipts added giving us \$819.33 available to work with, our expenses paid out, leave a balance of \$219.33. Motion to approve this report was seconded and carried.

Moderator Ernie Lewis filled the committees by placing J.D. Shurtz on the Business Committee in place of Mike Robertson, and Kirk Hayes on the Youth Committee in place of Ed Ferguson.

ILLINOIS HOME MISSIONS REPORT

Pastor John Hollis gave a report from the Illinois Home Mission Board. He encouraged the Christian soldiers present to never give up making contacts, witnessing and praying for those we are trying to reach. BELIEVE! The Shores' family, in Albuquerque, has faced disappointments and dreams. They are encouraged by a young man who has transferred there in the forestry department. There is also a young man coming from North Carolina. The Tim Lewis family in Utah is looking at buildings to serve as their church building. The Davison's are moving with the M-TEAM in France. Christina Taylor filled us in on their activities. Joy & Shane are still in language school. Finals are in July. They are also moving, making a transition with the rest of the M-TEAM. Continue to pray. Bro. John mentioned that the Chicago and Elgin works are trying to arrange meetings. Bro. David Potete would like to go self supporting yet this year. Mark King is here today. He will let us know what is going on in his work. Dennis Owen is in Nashville as the Missionary In Residence at the Bible College. Pray for the people who remain in Uruguay. Also pray for Jonathan who is serving in Iraq. The Taylors in Yuma, AZ handed out water bottles at the Post Office on Tax Day. This was a good time to reach out to the people there. The Wells family from Bethel Church will be moving to Yuma. The Warrens rejoice at the birth of their daughter, Lola. Micah and Becky Derby need our prayers. Sarah Malone continues her traveling and work in China. Remember to pray for all of our missionaries. The Teagues continue to work in France. "The 7th day is approaching." The Portells not only face the challenge of learning the language and culture, but they are also deeply in the red. Bro. Ernie Lewis gave a report

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about the YET Team in Chicago. They worked with Bro. Potete handing out 5,000 tracks in 1 day, worked in VBS and had a FREE car wash. Phillip Kennedy was present to briefly tell of his trip to Panama. They conducted 12 services. They were supposed to have worked in some schools, but they were closed down because of a strike. Instead they were able to go to a private school. They saw 2 saved because of services there. Panama sends greetings to the Brothers & Sisters in Christ. Fifteen to twenty came to know Christ. Pray for these new Christians. Their families desert them because they have become Christians. Bro. John encouraged us to continue to fill up the pigs for missions. He also has posters available.

The group was recessed so the committees could work.

We were called back into session to hear the reports of the committees. Bro. Ernie announced that Jason Taylor would be at Blue Point on July 22nd to show slides of the work in Yuma. All are invited to attend.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Items of interest to report to your church about the upcoming youth events:

1. Area wide Youth Rally at Blue Point on Fri., July 29, 2005. 7p.m., FWBBC Evangelists Drama Team.
2. Junior-Senior Youth Camp (at Camp Hope) is July 31st--August 5th.
3. Pleasant View will host the next Youth Rally. Date, place and time will be announced at a later date.

All churches please plan to participate in support of our youth who are our future! Thank you!

Signed: Bruce Shurtz, Kirk Hayes, and Tammi Kash

There was a motion, seconded and carried to accept the Youth Committee report.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

We recommend that the District give Mark King \$250.00 for speaking today—mileage included.

Signed: Elmo Manahan, Tim Hayes, and J.D. Shurtz

A motion was formed, seconded and carried to adopt this report.

LOCAL CHURCH REPORTS

Bro. David Shores began as pastor at the Mt. Vernon First Church on March 18th. He reported that they are ready to elect teachers and officers for the next year. They will be having their Vacation Bible School soon. Bro. Bob Jones has volunteered to be in charge of their bus ministry. Trymon Messer was with them in April for revival services. Mt. Vernon looks forward to hosting a couple of nights of the Adult Camp Meeting in September. The Master's Men are actively working wherever needed. They have taken a trip to Elgin to work at the Solid Rock Church. The Women Active for Christ are very active as well. This church has a vision for the future. They desire to hire an assistant pastor/song leader/youth minister. The 75th Homecoming speaker will be Keith Birden.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Bro. Larry Maas once again led the congregation in singing "Down at the Cross" and "Revive Us Again". Bro. Adrian Smith led in prayer. Sis. Susan Burgess played the offertory. Bro. Larry Maas sang "He Keeps Me Singing" for the morning special.

Mark King, an English teacher with ELIC in China brought the message to us. He thanked us for supporting him in his work. He has been in China for 10 years. He will be moving to a new location. It will be like moving from Oklahoma to Cleveland! He will be part of a team of 9 teachers. There will be 2 married couples, 5 singles and 3 children.

Using scripture from Acts 17:16-34, Mark expounded on Paul's way of reaching people. He went, he talked—gave a message, and got a response. This is what Mark tries to do while in China:

1.) Get an audience. In China there is what they call the "English Corner". Chinese people go to meet and practice speaking English. There could be 200 people gathered. Sometimes they invite an English person to talk to them. Just as Paul talked about Jesus and his resurrection, Mark also talks about Jesus at this "English Corner". It is important to go where people are and talk to them and point them to

Jesus. When teaching English, one must know that a topic sentence makes the reader ask a question. Paul and Jesus were very good at this. When they were asked a question, they gave an explanation.

2.) Give an answer. Chinese people don't know the words we use when we talk about God. The Chinese have 2 words for God. In Acts, Paul started where people were and used their culture. This is what missionaries do. It is not easy to learn and understand a new language and culture. Mark illustrated this point by telling of his experience with offering tea to his visitors. In China they will refuse your offer of tea three times, but they still expect you to serve them tea after the third refusal. That is the custom. Instead he had believed them when they said "No", and did not serve them.

3.) It is important to grasp the culture when ministering in foreign lands. The Chinese have a popular tale of a young woman who loses the love of her life to the sea. She then spends the rest of her life depicted as a little bird who tries to fill up the sea pebble by pebble. In America we think she is crazy. She should just "get over it" and find something worthwhile to do. The Chinese admire her for her endurance. Buddhism teaches to keep working no matter how hopeless things may seem. This suggests a salvation by works. Christianity teaches that we can work toward righteousness, but never be righteous. God sent Jesus to help us be righteous. These are the ideas Mark tries to get across to his students. He explained how three of the characters for the word righteousness point to God. One character is an "I" under a lamb. This is a good place to explain how Jesus is the Lamb of God. Another character is for "greed"; it is 2 trees and a woman. Of course this might be Eve in the garden with the 2 trees. Yet another character is "boat", which is the word for "mouth" and the number eight. What else could it be but Noah and his family who were saved on the ark. In Acts Paul used Athenian poets to point to God.

4.) Goes one step further—Paul preached the resurrection and the unknown offspring. Mark uses the Easter story, usually a children's version, and assigns his class to listen, understand and write in their own words, what is being said. In this way, Mark can get an idea of what they understand. Before closing, he shared many prayer requests concerning students who desire to hear and know more of Christ.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

This report was submitted by the examining committee: We do not recommend Jason Newell for licensing or ordination based upon his belief that divorce and remarriage of a minister is permissible. Signed: David L. Burgess, Ernie Taylor, and Clarence "Bud" Porter

A motion to adopt this report was seconded and carried.

Bro. Elmo Manahan gave a report from the Oak Valley Church. They have been averaging 58 in their services with a good spirit present. Their VBS was well attended with 44 children and 22 workers, and they collected a good offering for Camp Hope. Pastor Darren McClerren was ordained. Their March revival was postponed because of the speaker's surgery. Oak Valley's oldest member, Flo Brooker, was called home to be with the Lord. Another member passed suddenly from a heart attack. They had 10 or 12 attend youth camp this summer.

Upon the completion of all the reports, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Second and carried.

Our attention was directed to the announcements on the back of the bulletin. There will be a new quartet appearing in concert at the Crossroads Church in Effingham at 6:30p.m. Pastor Travis Penn announced a bike-a-thon—Tour d'Iuka in August to raise funds for the Portell account. David Potete will be running the Chicago marathon in October. Your prayer and financial support would be greatly appreciated.

After a blessing on the noon meal, everyone enjoyed food and fellowship before departing to their homes.

East Central District

Association of

Illinois Free Will Baptists

Bakerville FWB Church, Blue Point FWB Church, Calvary FWB Church, Crossroads FWB Church, Mt. Vernon First FWB Church, Oak Valley FWB Church, Pleasant View FWB Church, Salem FWB Church

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8, 2005 MEETING

Pastor Tony Kash and the Salem Free Will Baptist Church welcomed delegates and visitors to the quarterly meeting on a beautiful fall day. Bro. Travis Penn played the piano while Sis. Ronda Gillispie led the congregation in singing "O How I Love Jesus". Bro. Tony Kash then gave the morning devotion from Matthew 16:13-18, "The Inescapable Question." Verse 13 gives us that question, "Whom do men say that I am?" Jesus also goes on to question the disciples, "Whom do you say that I am?" Bro. Tony pointed out that people are important to Jesus. He left the robe of glory in heaven to come to the robe of mockery, torture, and death on earth. It was important that the disciples realize who they were dedicating their hearts and lives to. It is important that people today realize who they dedicate their lives to. Once the disciples realized who Jesus was, they had a commitment, compassion and faith that they had never had before. They had seen all that He had done, but not until He died on the cross, did they realize who He was. Bro. Tony posed the inescapable question to each of us, "Whom do you say Jesus is?" He then closed in prayer.

The clerk shared Proverbs 3:5&6 as she called the meeting to order. The standing delegates were recognized and the local church reports were read. A motion to accept the reports and seat the delegates was seconded and carried. The minutes from the July meeting were presented in typed form. It was noted that the report from the Illinois Home Missions should be corrected to read as the report of IL Board of Missions. Motion, second and carried to approve the minutes.

Treasurer Kathy Hayes gave the account of the district's finances. Having began the period with \$219.33 and receiving dues and offerings amounting to \$551, which gives us \$770.33 to work with. Presently we have a balance of \$370.33, having paid out obligations from last quarter. The treasurer's report was approved by a motion, second and carried.

Moderator Ernie Lewis filled the vacancies in the Business Committee by calling Dale Braddock and David Shores to serve in the absence of Tim Hayes and Elmo Manahan.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Bro. Carl Hawkins brought greetings from the Solid Rock FWB Church in Elgin. He had good things to report such as their plans to go self supporting by March 2007. He is also happy to report that the people of Solid Rock are now realizing the importance of tithing. They are in need of a piano player for their services. Joshua has been doing his best on the keyboard, but he gets discouraged sometimes. Their family has had some discouraging times, but it is encouraging to see more people coming to services. Some of these coming have asked what they can do to help in the church. Some are volunteering to teach classes, make drawings of plans for improvements to the building and even asking if they could tithe. The Board of Missions met with the people and explained how the pastor's salary would be phased out as they go self supporting. This helped them realize the importance of their tithes. Bro. Carl asked if there would be anyone or any groups willing to come up this summer of 2006 to work on changing the outside looks of their church. We were also reminded to pray for the work in Elgin.

□ **Moderator: Bro. Ernie Lewis**
R. R. 1 Box 52A
Cisno, IL 62823

□ **Asst. Moderator: Bro. Travis Penn**
116 Donoho Drive
Salem, IL 62881

□ **Clerk: Paula L. Hayes**
4638 Kell Road
Kell, IL 62853

Pray that the people will see what they need to do to grow. Bro. Carl asked us to pray for the other churches in the northern part of the state. Pastors are needed up there. There is much to do.

Bro. Ernie Taylor gave a report from the Master's Men concerning the Disaster Relief Trailer they are trying to get into operation. There is a supply list available of things needed to have in the trailer so their efforts will be successful. Their goal was to have the trailer furnished and ready by the spring of 2006. With the recent hurricane in Louisiana and Mississippi, they have already made a trip to help down there. We appreciate those who have already gone to help. Bro. Ernie Lewis added to the report by commending the 18 men who have already gone out from Southern Illinois, and he encouraged us to pray as the Master's Men minister in this way.

Bro. David Shores brought word from around the state as he informed us of the need for pastors at these churches: Butterfield, Oak Valley, North 2nd Street, Benton, Nason. People's Church is in danger of closing its doors, Bro. Capps is at Waltonville, Bro. Kent Dunford is filling in at Benton, and Bethel has called Bro. Ricky Ham to pastor there. Mark Shores is encouraged by the numbers attending their services. John is in college in Virginia Beach. Bro. David asked us to remember each of the mission works out west. He will be going to Cuba soon. If you have medicine to send he would be glad to take it. The hurricane relief from church groups has been good. Several churches have done things to help. People staying in the area contact David for help. Bro. David also shared plans for a fund raiser to help Butch and Connie Spain. Butch has been approved for a lung transplant. They need financial help as well as our prayer support. Remember them as they make decisions.

Many other mission works were mentioned as we heard that Mark King has started school again. He is excited about change and the Chinese interest. Shane and Joy Davison continue their study of the French language and their ministry with Team Muslim. The Portells are needing help and receiving some. A team of 5 went to the Ivory Coast hoping to reach out to Muslims during Ramadan. The Teagues are working to get national leaders to step up to leadership of the churches. Jason Taylor in Yuma is experiencing growth. They are looking for a different place to meet.

We were dismissed to enjoy refreshment, and the committees were charged to take care of business.

After having been called back into business session the committee reports were read.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

1. We want to remind ministers that the annual report is due at our next meeting.
2. We want to remind the churches to include the names of retired ministers for which they are requesting cards of good standing on their next report.

Signed: David L. Burgess, Ernie Taylor, and Clarence Porter

There was a motion to accept this report. MSC

YOUTH COMMITTEE

We encourage the churches to attend the East Central District Youth Rally at Pleasant View FWB Church at Walnut Hill on Friday, October 21, 2005. We also encourage attendance to the Area Wide FWBBC Youth Rally at Bethel FWB Church gym in South Roxana on Friday, November 4, 2005. The Salem Free Will Baptist Church will host a youth rally tentatively for the month of January. We will inform details at a later date. The youth committee would like to encourage the churches to all be involved in the CTS competitions. This is the time to begin preparations. Signed: Charles Bruce Shurtz, Ed Ferguson, and Tammi Kash

A motion to accept this report was seconded and carried.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

We the Business Committee make the following recommendations:

1. Speaker cost Bro. Porter \$50

2. Visiting missionary Carl Hawkins \$100
3. Master's Men Relief trailer \$100
4. We also submit the following list of nominees for the coming year:

Moderator—Ernie Lewis
Assistant Moderator—Travis Penn
Clerk—Paula Hayes
Treasurer—Kathy Hayes
Business Committee—Tim Hayes 2008
Examining Committee—Ernie Taylor 2008
Youth Committee—Christina Taylor 2008
Executive Board—Tony Kash

Signed: Mike Robertson, David Shores, and Dale Braddock

Bro. JD Shurtz motioned to accept the report and elect the slate as nominated by the Business Committee. Travis Penn seconded the motion. Motion passed.

LOCAL CHURCH REPORTS

Sis. Susan Burgess gave the report from Pleasant View. About one year ago, they began work on a handicap ramp that would allow people to get from one floor to the other without exiting the building. In September as they celebrated Homecoming, the ramp was dedicated and used by several. Bro. Tyler Penn preached revival services last fall. Many attended and all were challenged. The children put on a Christmas play last year that was titled "Toy Shop". Project Linus is active in the area, and the ladies have helped throughout the year in making quilts and blankets for the children who need them. Nationwide Project Linus sent 13,000 blankets to hurricane victims, 400 blankets were sent from our area. Activities for the youth are bringing in a few more for services. For Homecoming, the boys made a picnic table and the girls made jam to serve. Bro. David Shores was the speaker for Homecoming. A youth rally is being planned for October. Pleasant View asks that your group bring something to present or share. There will be a bonfire and good fellowship and refreshment.

Bro. Tony Kash reported that Salem Church had a great year. The Lord is blessing. Of course you want to see the church grow in number, but the biggest blessing is to see the church grow in Spirit. Young adults have come up to ask if they can do a job when they see a need, teach a Sunday School class, and even help lead on Wednesday night. Salem has added classrooms downstairs. A goal is to add on an area to meet that everyone can get to without the stairs. They had a good VBS with many seeds sown. Jason Newell preached revival for them in November. Bro. Boggs preached Homecoming service a couple of weeks ago. Bro. Tony asked that we remember Bro. Grant Bruce in prayer. At 97 years old, he recently became unable to attend services. Stop and visit him. Pray for our church, what He has been doing and is doing and will be doing. We are here for one reason—to serve the Lord.

Bro. Travis Penn motioned to adjourn the meeting, 2nd Bruce Shurtz. Motion carried.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Bro. Dale Braddock led the congregation in singing "Send The Light" and "He Set Me Free". Brenda Braddock accompanied on the piano. The offering was received and then Sis. Tammi Kash blessed us by singing "Here I Go Again".

Bro. Bud Porter brought the message from Philippians 3:12-18. This thought had been on his mind: Why does it take something terribly wrong for people to come together? It seems that when something terrible happens, we forget denominations, differences and other things and come together to help out. But then it's not too long until we go back to the way we were. It is time to come to the reality of what our purpose is. It is time to put off those things that hinder us,

and look or reach forward to those things ahead. We think of the Twin Towers in 2001 and the hurricanes recently. A lot of people need Jesus Christ. There is a goal that we need to press toward. Paul spoke of a race we run, but not for a perishable crown. We do it for Jesus Christ. There is more to do than just sit on a seat in church every Sunday. We may think all I have to do is believe, and come to church every time the door is open. There's more to it than that. Keep your eyes on the prize--that is eternal life with Jesus Christ in heaven. Paul ran the good race, fought the good fight, and kept the faith. Can we say that? God wants us to do this now. We may face discouragement, sickness or other things, but we can know we will see Jesus when we have completed the race. Bro. Porter encouraged each of us to make the decision to go all the way and run the race until it is done.

We were dismissed in prayer before going downstairs to enjoy food and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

East Central District Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, October 8, 2005



*Illinois
State Association of
Free Will Baptists*

**Today's Speaker -
Clarence "Bud" Porter**



Salem Free Will Baptist Church

Route 1

Wayne City, Illinois 62895

Pastor Tony Kash (618) 732-6253

Church (618) 732-0333

East Central District Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, October 8, 2005

Congregational Song

Welcome and Devotion -

Host Pastor - Rev. Tony Kash

Call to Order -

Clerk - Paula Hayes

Recognize & Seat Standing Delegates

Read Church Reports and Seat the Delegates

Presentation of Minutes of July Meeting -

District Treasurer's Report -

Treasurer - Kathy Hayes

Charge Committees and Delegates -

Moderator - Rev. Ernie Lewis

District Committees:

❖ Business Committee:

Tim Hayes Elmo Manahan Mike Robertson

Substitutes: _____

❖ Examining Committee:

David Burgess Ernie Taylor Clarence Porter

Substitutes: _____

❖ Youth Committee:

Ed Ferguson Tammy Kash Bruce Shurtz

Substitutes: _____



- Morning Break -

*Committees will meet during the break.
Others may visit in the basement.*

Report of Committees:

Business Committee -

Youth Committee -

Examining Committee -

Local Church Reports:

Pleasant View FWB Church

Walnut Hill, Illinois

Salem FWB Church

Wayne City, Illinois



Worship Service

Congregational Song

Prayer

Congregational Song

Morning Offering

Special Music

Speaker - Clarence "Bud" Porter

- Notes -

Blue Point Homecoming Services

Sunday, October 9th

Speaker - Riley Young, Columbus Ohio

Singers - The Wanda Mountain Boys (1:30pm)

Chicago Marathon - David Potete Running

Raising Support to Pay off Northwest Mortgage

Sunday, October 9, 2005

East Central District Youth Rally

Friday, October 21, 2005

Pleasant View FWB Church, Walnut Hill, Illinois



TIME CHANGE

Fall Back to Central Standard Time

Sunday, October 30, 2005, 2:00am

AREA WIDE FWBBC YOUTH RALLY

Friday, November 4, 2005

Bethel FWB Church Gym, South Roxana, IL

(Immediately following FLAMES game at St. Louis Christian College)

Benjamin Randall Missions Offering

Sunday, November 27, 2005

Annual Home Missions Fund Drive