

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

JANUARY 13, 2007

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

The Oak Valley FWB Church near Geff, Illinois welcomed us to the annual East Central District meeting. Their musicians led us in worship by singing "I Will Serve Thee" and "What A Day That Will Be!" Opening prayer was offered by Bro. Dale Braddock. The host pastor, Craig Smith, gave the personal welcome and devotion. He presented a coin sorter as the object of his devotion. Using scripture from Jeremiah 1:5 he posed the question: "Do I have value?" He took a coin and put it in the machine, it sorted it into the proper sleeve and displayed the value of that coin. Each coin he sorted had value and together they had more value. Jeremiah 29:11 indicates that God has plans for us. He wishes to prosper us. Using more scripture from Psalms, Bro. Craig illustrated how God is instructing us and wants us to endure. When we give our hearts to Jesus, he directs us and gives us "total". Referring to the coin sorter, Bro. Craig pointed out that when the sleeve is full of coins, there is value. He encouraged us to find our place value and continue to work together with other Christians so that we would all be more valuable for the will of God.

BUSINESS SESSION

The meeting was called to order by the clerk. The standing delegates were recognized and seated. The annual reports from the eight local churches were read by the clerk. There was a motion to accept the letters of the churches. MSC

Sis. Kathy Hayes gave the treasurer's report. Beginning with a balance of \$442.03, we received dues of \$385 and an offering of \$203.85 for an available sum of \$1030.88. Disbursements made include \$50 to the clerk, \$200 to Dr. Park (speaker), and \$75 each to the Owens, King and Disaster Relief Fund. This leaves a current balance of \$555.88. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

Bro. Ernie Lewis made mention of some events coming up. These are listed on the back of the bulletin.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Bro. David Shores gave a report of the State news. If you are not receiving the IL newsletter, give him your name and address (written down) and he will make sure you start receiving it. He thanked the reporters that send in their church letters faithfully. If there is nothing in the newsletter from your church, he did not receive anything from your church to print. Bro. David welcomed new pastors Craig Smith and Bryan Bennett and their wives, Marcella and Judy. Pray for our churches that presently have no pastor: Bakerville, Butterfield (Tanner Trails), Nason and Rescue. We have three students going out this summer on various mission trips. Derek Lewis is going to New York, Amanda Lemons is going to Uruguay, and Holly Petty is going with the E-Team to Mexico. Pray for these young people and support them as they go. Bro. David and Sis. Pat will be taking a team to Panama. He passed out the "Change the World" banks and encouraged us to support missions by filling up these banks with change or bills. Bro. David also showed a short video illustrating how great a difference we can make by giving to missions. The way we fund missions has changed over the years. Some would like to see all the missionaries operating on budgets funded by the change collected in these little banks.

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

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

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

Bro. Ernie Lewis gave a report of things happening with our Illinois missionaries. Stephen Gray will be holding the first services for Discovery Church in Collinsville in February. David and Pam Potete have celebrated the self-supporting status of the work in Chicago. Mark and Khristie Shores are looking forward to an arrangement with Aaron Lopez to hold Hispanic services in Albuquerque. Jason and Melissa Taylor are looking into going self-supporting. They have been having 90 in services and 8 were baptized recently. The Lewis family in Utah is growing. Carl and Sheila Hawkins are moving out of the help program. Shane Davison shared his appreciation to the churches that have allowed them to come tell about their work. Dennis and Trena Owen need our prayer support for the work in Uruguay. Continue to pray and support the ELIC workers: Sarah Malone, Craig Portell, and Mark King.

Holly Petty shared her plans to train and travel with the E-Team Mexico. They will meet in Nashville to get to know the other team members. She will be leaving May 26th and returning July 18th. Pray for Holly as she goes thru this difficult yet rewarding experience. Bro. Ernie encouraged us to support her, whether she can come to your church or not.

Bro. John Hollis shared news from Mark and Melissa Gibbs. It has been necessary for them to return to the States. Melissa has had some surgeries and treatments. Her life is at risk. They are disappointed—pray for them.

It was also noted that we need to pray for Bro. Ken Doggett. Sis. Bonnie passed away in December.

Bro. Ernie Taylor shared the exciting things the Master's Men have been involved with. They have purchased a second trailer to use in the disaster relief efforts. Their desire is to be ready to help when a disaster occurs. In December they went to Decatur to help clean up after the ice storm. They have been talking with other groups and observing other organizations to determine how to best organize this team to be ready to act in a disaster.

Having concluded the special reports, Moderator Ernie Lewis filled two vacancies on the Youth Committee. Kathy Hayes and Susan Burgess agreed to fill in. We were recessed for a time to allow the committees to work.

LOCAL CHURCH REPORTS

BAKERVILLE FWB CHURCH

Sis. Doris Troutt brought greetings from the Bakerville Church. They celebrated their 100th Homecoming. They have enjoyed ministering to a large group of teenagers. In their Vacation Bible School last summer there were 8 souls saved. Bro. Wolfe is leaving in February. Pray for Bakerville as they seek a pastor.

BLUE POINT FWB CHURCH

Bro. Ernie Lewis reported from Blue Point. They took a large group of 16 to the National Association. They had competitors in Sword Drill and Bible Tic-Tac-Toe. It is exciting when people want to get involved. The men's group wanted to be involved with the community distribution of groceries and sharing the gospel. The Junior Church put on a very good Christmas program. Someone suggested a candle light service and got involved organizing it. Just like in this morning's devotion many got involved and fell into a slot! Blue Point looks forward to a baptism service with Oak Valley next week. New things help revive us. Pray for the pastor as he tries to "keep up."

YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Music, arts and Bible Competition is April 27-28 at the Peace Church in Granite City, IL.
2. Calvary Church will host a youth rally during this quarter. Date and time will be announced.
3. FWBBC Welcome Days March 29-30.
4. Encourage all churches to support our E-Team and summer missions team young people:

Holly Petty—Mexico, Amanda Lemons—Uruguay, and Derek Lewis—New York.

Signed: Christina Taylor, Susan Burgess, and Kathy Hayes

This report from the Youth Committee was read. MSC to receive the report as information useful to the local churches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

These announcements were given before we entered into the worship service. Bro. Tony Williams is working to become a chaplain in the armed forces. He has a table set up with some of the resources he uses. He will be glad to talk with you concerning the military life. Bro. Tony is becoming involved with helping post deployment soldiers

Salem FWB Church is holding revival services March 26-30th. Jon Cannon is the speaker. Oak Valley will be holding revival services the week of March 18th.

WORSHIP SERVICE

The congregation sang "He Hideth My Soul" and "We'll Work 'Til Jesus Comes."

Bro. Bryan Bennett offered prayer as we entered into the worship service. Bro. Elmo Manahan offered prayer before the offering was received. Sis. Marie Rutger played "He's Been So Good To Me" on the organ. Sis. Brook Byars blessed us with a wonderful arrangement of "This World is not My Home" for the special music.

Missionary to France, Dennis Teague brought the word of God to us. Bro. Dennis shared with us the many difficulties he has experienced in France. There have been many good men of God leave the ministry there. Why is it so difficult to minister in France? They are proud of their history, they are healthy, white, and for the most part well-to-do. We cannot teach them anything. They have been around for a lot longer than we have. They are proud of the way they eat, they have strong family life and they are proud of their language. France is the center of the intellectual world.

The Muslim birth rate is going to make them the #1 religion in the world soon. France is one of the keys to the world because of the Muslim population. We need the M-Team in France.

Bro. Dennis shared about a woman he was trying to tell about Jesus. He met with her a couple of times. One day he noticed her outside his house. He invited her in. She couldn't come in. Why? He invited her again. She insisted she couldn't—"He'll kill me." Dennis sensed something. He could not go out to her. Something was there that he was not ready to deal with.

Recently Bro. Dennis met with the three churches in France to discuss where they might start another church. Their response was, "We want to start five churches." He is proud of the young man that is pastoring the St. Sebastian Church. He is feeling good about the people conducting the services on their own.

The last time Bro. Dennis was in the States he compared the ministry in France to the march around Jericho. Now he feels they are on the first turn of the seventh day. The ministry in France needs to go to the people. People will not come to church. He shared with us how Ledgle and Sharon Ferguson came to the ministry. Just sitting on a park bench handing out tracts, Ledgle led someone to the Lord. We need people from your churches to pray. Come on short term mission trips. The woman who would not come into the Teague's home, needs someone to go to their knees and pray. Bro. Dennis believes we are living in a day when it is exciting to serve Jesus. Sure it is hard, but it is exciting to see Him work. There are people dying because we are not sending out enough to tell them about Jesus. Because you have given, we are making a difference. We have just begun. Bro. Dennis closed in prayer.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1. We recommend that we give Dennis Teague \$250 for speaking and mileage.
 2. We recommend to give each of the following persons \$100 each: Holly Petty, Derek Lewis, Shane Davison, and Amanda Lemons.
 3. We recommend that the Oak Valley's letter be reconsidered for a request to be added.
- Signed: Elmo Manahan, Mike Robertson, and Tim Hayes
- Oak Valley's request recommended that Craig Smith meet with the Examining Committee concerning the licensing and ordination process. MSC to take all items together.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

1. Having met with Br. Craig Smith concerning his licensing with a comparable denomination, he would be eligible for licensing in July 2007.
2. We recommend a card of good standing for the following:

Ernie Lewis
Travis Penn
John D Hollis
Jesse Allen
David Shores
David Burgess
Clarence "Bud" Porter
Shane Davison
James Boggs
*George Waggoner

Signed: Clarence Porter, John D. Hollis, and Ernie Taylor

A motion was seconded to accept the report of the Examining Committee. Bro. Travis Penn noted that Calvary had requested Bro. James Boggs receive a card of good standing. The clerk had failed to read that request. Bro. Boggs was added to the list of pastors. Motion carried.

*After the meeting the clerk received a telephone message requesting Bro. George Waggoner be added to the list of pastors for good standing. This request was made by Bro. David Shores—Mt. Vernon Church. The Examining Committee members had been contacted and agreed, so Bro. George Waggoner is included above.

Bro. Tony Williams was given the floor. He wanted to recognize why he is not issued a card of good standing. It is because of his view on the matter of divorce and remarriage. Bro. Porter pointed to the constitution and by-laws as stating the pastor as being the husband of one wife. There was much discussion that followed concerning definitions of "free" and "double marriage". Bro. Travis Penn encouraged the examining board to look at the wording and clarify double marriage. John Hollis read the constitution and by-laws sections concerning this matter. David Burgess pointed to the 1976 resolution of the National Association that we do not agree with dual marriage "regardless" of the blame. Bro. Tony pointed out that he is not divorced or remarried, yet it is his view on the matter that prevents him from receiving this card. He asked if the examining board asks every one who appears before them this question? Bro. Porter stated that as long as he has been on this committee they have asked. David Shores stated that he would like to see us research and see how this would apply to other questions of ethics. This is something to face up to.

There was a motion, second and passed to accept the examining committee report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Delegates were sought for the Illinois State Meeting coming up in March. These people were named to represent our district:

Doris Troutt—Bakerville Church
Christina Taylor—Blue Point Church
Mike Robertson—Calvary Church
Mike Crabtree—Crossroads Church
Jim Beatty—Mt. Vernon Church
Eloise Porter—Pleasant View Church
Ron Davis—Salem Church
Brenda Braddock—Salem Church
Kathy Hayes—Calvary Church

MSC to elect these delegates.

Travis Penn made a motion to meet with the ministers of this district at Calvary before the next quarterly meeting. Second and carried.

There was a motion to bring the tabled item off the table, seconded and carried. The clerk read the resolution. It was noted that there was a copy of the resolution with the minutes that were available to everyone.

In October 2006, it was requested that a delegation meet with Bakerville and get this matter resolved. Because of the resignation of Pastor Wolfe, the meeting did not take place. The moderator felt like the matter had been resolved. It was strongly suggested that this motion needs to be voted on now, to explain this matter for history sake.

Motion: "Given that this request of the quarterly is reflected by compliance by Bakerville Church that the resolution be recinded." The motion was seconded and carried.

For information: the resignation of Pastor Russell Wolfe is effective February 2007. Bro. Tony Williams asked for prayer for Pastor Wolfe. He has suffered a stroke, and has lost some of his memory.

There was a request that the minutes be read out loud or made available in advance of the meeting. Motion to adjourn was seconded and carried by a standing vote. The meeting was ended with prayer led by Lawrence Pennington.

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

APRIL 14, 2007 meeting at Pleasant View Church

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

Bro. Larry Maas led the congregation in singing "Jesus Is All The World To Me" while Sis. Susan Burgess played the piano. Bro. David Burgess gave the welcome and devotion from I Thessalonians chapter one. Paul changed his name after his conversion. Paul means "little one." He saw himself made small after meeting Jesus. He sends a greeting of grace and thankfulness to the Thessalonians. Remembering their work of faith labor of love and hope of patience, he commends them. In verse five, Paul mentions the election of God. We choose God. The Thessalonians had chosen to follow God. People today say, don't look at me as an example. Paul was confident about the example he lived. Every Christian should live a Christ-like example in their life. Though persecuted, Paul had joy. The same was true of the Thessalonian Christians. The result—they became examples to others. Whether you realize it or not, churches have a reputation. It should be a good reputation. Bro. David challenged us to be looking for the return of Jesus as we celebrate His resurrection. He closed in prayer.

REPORTS AND CHURCH LETTERS

The clerk called the meeting to order. Moderator Ernie Lewis called for the ordained pastors and deacons of the local churches to rise and be recognized as standing delegates.

The letters of seven churches were read. Salem FWB Church was not represented. MSC to accept the letters and seat the delegates named in the letters. **The clerk notes that the eighth letter along with dues, was received by mail after the meeting.

The minutes of the January meeting were available in printed form. A copy had been sent to each clerk and pastor before the April meeting. MSC to approve the minutes as distributed.

The treasurer's report was given by Kathy Hayes. Beginning with a balance of \$555.88, we received \$1240 dues and \$242 offering, giving us \$2,037.88 available to work with. Disbursements made include \$250 to Dennis Teague as the speaker, \$100 each to 4 students on mission trips, \$75 each to the Owens, King and Disaster Relief accounts and \$960 dues to the State Association, leaving a balance of \$202.88. MSC to approve the treasurer's report.

Bro. Ernie read a thank you card from Derek Lewis, who had been on a mission trip to New York.

These people were named to fill vacancies on these committees: Travis Penn to serve on the Examining Committee; Mike Crabtree, Kathy Hayes and Lawrence Pennington to serve on the Youth Committee.

Bro. David Shores gave a report of things from around the State of Illinois. He made mention of the announcements on the back of the bulletin this morning. East Central District Association is the only meeting he finds that lists upcoming things like this. Bro. George & Sis. Aileen Waggoner need our prayers. Both are having issues that need to be taken care of presently. Just remember the whole family as you pray. Bakerville Church has asked for help in finding a pastor. Bro. David encouraged

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

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

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

each church to participate in the World Missions Offering later in April. He shared a letter from Dennis Owen. Thank you for consistent prayer for Uruguay. Their son Jonathan is marrying Suzanne McVay soon.

Bro. Tim Hayes gave a report about the Master's Men Relief Response Team. Three churches in the district support this fund on a regular basis. This is a state and regional ministry. They try to get in contact with the Free Will Baptist Church in the area of a disaster and have the pastor set them up with those they are trying to minister to—those who cannot help themselves. While they were in Lebanon, MO they were able to be a witness to a gentleman who had not been in church since 1966. He wanted to make a donation. The pastor invited him to come to church, and he came. He even came back in the evening. The Relief Team has about 40 or 50 volunteers. They would like names and phone numbers of possible volunteers to respond in the future.

Bro. Ernie gave a missions report. The M-Team will be traveling to raise support so they can return to France in July. Mark King, Craig Portell, and Sarah Malone all have accounts in the red. Craig is getting married this summer. The Teagues are visiting churches. Dennis Owen in Uruguay is having health problems—pray for him and the churches starting there. Tim Lewis' family will be growing in May. Mark & Khristie Shores are doing well. John had a suppressed virus. He is doing better. Sean and Jill Warren had a miscarriage. They need our prayers. They will be at the Bible College for a year. The Taylors in Yuma—church is doing great!

Home Missionary Stephen Gray was present to give his report. The church in Collinsville is on the ground and running. They had their grand opening on Easter Sunday. They have been busy doing kindness projects and advertising to meet people. They gave away gas at a Shell station in Collinsville. While people were in line for the gas, they were given information about the church and pastor. Nine people came to church because of the free gas, nine came because of a mailer sent out. Bro. Stephen asked that we pray for the work there as they partner with God. He reminded us that the Mission Board has only one home mission they are working with right now. He encouraged us to pray and help in any way we can.

We were encouraged to make good use of the IL Regional Support posters, note pads, offering banks, etc. that were available out in the hallway. Also available was Camp Hope information.

Bro. Ernie reminded us of the CTS competition approaching quickly. The committees were reminded of their duties, and then we were recessed for a short break.

BUSINESS SESSION

Sis. Susan Burgess played a delightful medley on the piano to call everyone into the sanctuary. The report from the Youth Committee was read. The Youth Committee recommends the following:

1. Encourage all the participants in the CTS Competition.
2. Remember to sign up for Youth Camp.
3. Rejoice will be at Blue Point on June 13.
4. Remember all the VBS' that are coming up soon.
5. We need a volunteer to host a Youth Rally.

Signed: Kathy Hayes, Lawrence Pennington, and Mike Crabtree

A motion to receive the Youth report was seconded and passed.

There was mention of Mark & Melissa Gibbs having to come back to the States because of health problems. They need our prayers as well.

The Business Committee report was read as follows:

1. East Central wishes to thank the Bakerville Church for the offer of their parsonage for missionary use.
2. Recommend the body consider the rescheduling of the July meeting date.

Signed: Tim Hayes, Mike Robertson and Elmo Manahan.

A motion to receive this report was seconded and carried. Following the recommendation of the committee, a motion was passed to change the meeting to July 7, 2007 instead of the 14th. Bro.

David Burgess suggested that we give Stephen Gray something for coming today. MSC to give \$100 to Stephen Gray.

Illinois State Moderator David Burgess gave a brief report on the State Association Meeting last month. He encouraged us to check out the website from time to time. The speakers at the meeting were very good. Next year the Illinois State Meeting will be held March 21 & 22, 2008 at the Tanner Trails Church. The Literature Committee put out lists of good reading books. The Bible College is putting out a basic training program for preachers who are not attending the FWBBC. It is costly, but could be used over and over in the district for pastors coming along in independent studies. The State Association is recommending districts to adopt this program as their training course. The Adult Camp Meeting will be in September. The meeting places will be as they were last year. Joe Wilson will be the speaker. The IL Women Active for Christ state meeting is coming up in May at the Peace Church in Granite City. The Calvary WAC will present a drama "Debtor's Prison".

WORSHIP SERVICE

Bro. Larry Maas led the congregation in singing "Send A Great Revival" while Sis. Susan Burgess played the piano. Bro. Floyd Wilderman offered prayer. After singing "Make Me A Channel Of Blessing", the offering was received. Sis. Susan Burgess played "The Shadow Of The Cross." Kirk Hayes, David Burgess and Larry Maas delighted everyone with special music—"Down At The Cross".

Pastor Craig Smith from the Oak Valley Church brought the morning message from Isaiah chapter six, verse eight—courage. When God asked "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah said "Here am I!" The Lord wants us to stand strong and go into the world. We don't like to get out of our comfort zone. The Lord didn't promise it would be comfortable. He promised to be with us. Bro. Craig shared examples of courage from different scriptures: Ezekiel stood in the gap, Daniel was a man courageous in prayer, David courageous in his convictions, Paul believed with courage. Of course, Jesus was a very good example of getting out of the comfort zone. Kids today wear clothing that says "NO FEAR". Courageous does not mean fearless. The Word says to fear God. Courage is about stepping out in faith in spite of fear, and trusting God. The Lord asks, "Whom will I send?" Can you answer? "Here I am!"

BUSINESS SESSION CONTINUED

The Examining Committee report was read as follows:

1. We discussed the new study course.
2. We met with Craig Smith (Oak Valley FWB) related to his licensing. Bro. Craig is still on course to be licensed at our July meeting. He then will begin his two year study course for ordination.
3. With the East Central District approval, our representative of the State Executive Board would request the State C. E. Board to under write the \$650 cost of video study program if and when the Examining Committee and the East Central District adopts this new ordination study course.

Signed: Travis L. Penn, John Hollis, and Clarence "Bud" Porter

A motion to receive this report and deal with it item by item was seconded and carried. MSC to accept item #2. There arose a question of what licensing would entitle a pastor to do? It was generally agreed upon that marriage was to be conducted by an ordained clergy, but licensed pastor could assist. Baptism varies from church to church, as there are no specific details in the by-laws. It is encouraged that baptisms be conducted with ordained deacons or ministers present. When called upon to speak at a funeral, one does not need to be ordained or licensed.

MSC to adopt item #3. The Examining Committee requested time to preview the study course, as they have questions and concerns about this new course.

CALVARY FWB CHURCH REPORT

Bro. Travis Penn brought a report from the Calvary Church. They have been concentrating on worship, growth, and service. They held a series of sermons titled "Why Me?" They have seen passion displayed among their people this year. They had a wonderful Christmas Eve service. Calvary is beginning a new series called "God At Work." Bro. Scott Porter is leading a Sunday afternoon study group—good attendance. Bro. Travis and Tim Hayes are leading groups Tuesday morning and Wednesday night—"Why I Believe..." They are covering topics like why I believe in heaven, hell, creation, etc. The Calvary CTS group is looking forward to competition. They have worked hard and continue to work. The Sunday School program is growing. When Pastor Penn came to Salem they had four classes. Now they have eight classes and are looking to add two this fall. Pray for Holly Petty as she goes with E-Team. The Master's Men group has been involved with a community project called Prodigal Farms. This is an effort to emphasize getting the church back into the community. Pray for Calvary as they impact the community.

CROSSROADS FWB CHURCH

Bro. John Hollis began his report by thanking everyone for choosing to come to the quarterly meeting. It is an encouragement to him and his church. They have been having good preaching at various services. He mentioned Howard, a recent visitor; he couldn't believe how friendly everyone was to him. The Illinois Home Extension state meeting was held in Effingham and Bro. John was invited to speak at the prayer breakfast. He is grateful for the Women Active for Christ and faithful women who serve. He is also grateful for capable men to fill in while he was in the hospital. The men's group sponsored the adult banquet and Johnny was the speaker. Mark Thomas who is starting a second work in Pueblo, CO was in Effingham for a service. The Crossroads Church has had two houses given to them. There will be other ministries to benefit from the sale of these houses. The Youth are involved in CTS. May 20th will be Homecoming at Crossroads—26 years. The Wanda Mountain Boys will be singing. Jim Walker will be the evangelist for a revival May 20-23rd. VBS in June will be held in the Rescue Zone!

CLOSING

MSC to adjourn the meeting. As we closed the meeting, Bakerville requested prayer as they seek a pastor. Calvary will be starting a new series—pray for the response. We stood in prayer as Bro. J.D. Shurtz made these petitions before the Lord. We enjoyed food and fellowship before returning to our 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

DEVOTION

July 7, 2007 the East Central District Association of FWB met at the Calvary FWB Church. Sis. Debby Woolbright played the piano as Bro. Travis Penn led the singing. The congregation sang "Grace Greater Than Our Sin". Bro. Bud Porter offered the opening prayer. Bro. Travis brought the morning devotion from Matthew 10:26-31. He shared how we should not be afraid to get involved in doing the right thing. Last night Bro. Travis was here at the church and he noticed smoke behind the house across the street. As he looked further, he could see flames thru the window. He made a quick decision to call 911. Then he went across the street to see how he might help. It turned out that the family was in the back yard gathered around a bonfire. Once again Bro. Travis called the fire department, but they were already on the way. Upon arriving at the fire scene, Travis apologized to the fire department for the unnecessary trip. Their reply was, "Better to be safe than sorry."

Recently, Bro. Grant Bruce passed away. At his funeral, Bro. Tony Kash was not afraid to speak about hell. Bro. Travis shared scripture from Matthew 25:41-46. He encouraged us to not hesitate when we see someone in need. Deal fearlessly and without hesitation—help! Bro. Travis closed his devotion with prayer.

BUSINESS MEETING

In the absence of Moderator Ernie Lewis, Assistant Moderator Travis Penn conducted the business meeting. The Standing Delegates were recognized and the church letters were read. There was a motion to seat the delegates named in the church letters. The minutes from the April meeting were presented in typed form. MSC to accept the minutes.

Treasurer Kathy Hayes gave her report. We began with a balance of \$202.88. We received dues of \$280 and an offering of \$199 giving us \$681.88 available to work with. Expenditures include: \$100 to Stephen Gray, \$50 to Craig Smith, \$225 to the state association and \$25.90 Randall House, leaving a balance of \$280.98. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

MISSIONS REPORT

Bro. Travis Penn gave the missions report. The Illinois Regional Support has dropped. The Illinois Board of Missions has made efforts to look at many opportunities. Please continue in prayer for our missionaries. Becky Derby is taking cancer treatments. Pray for the physical as well as financial needs there. Shane and Joy Davison will be heading back to France at the end of July. Darren and Dana Portell will be returning to France as well. Dennis & Trena Owen are back at home. Pray for God to lead them. Dennis & Carol Teague are getting their finances together to return to France. Sarah Malone is here and will update us on her work. Mark King continues to teach in China. The Lewis' have had good news about some property in Utah. The Taylor's work is going well—having baptized five last month. Stephen and Denise Gray are doing well. Their attendance is in the upper 60's. They have baptized seven people. Bro. David Shores shared later how Mark & Khristie's work in New Mexico has been a struggle, but is now finally going on its own. They have about 30 attending. Pray that this work would continue amidst the Mormon and spiritual enchantments surrounding them. Bro. Ernie Taylor spoke of the Master's Men group. There does not seem to be much to report, but they continue their efforts to have the relief trailers ready when the need arises.

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

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

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

COMMITTEES

Assistant Moderator Travis Penn called on Bro. David Shores to fill the vacancy on the Examining Committee today. He also asked Bro. Jim Beaty to fill the vacancy on the Business Committee. There did not seem to be anything for the Youth Committee to consider at this time, so they were relieved of their duties. Bro. Mike Robertson was called on to dismiss the group for a time of refreshment and allow the committees time to work.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sis. Debby Woolbright played a beautiful interlude to call everyone back into the sanctuary. Bro. Travis Penn reported that there had been some very good weeks of camp this summer. The Freshman-Sophomore week was very good, with a very good spirit. The Junior week was also good. The Primary week had one soul saved that Travis was aware of, perhaps more. Continue to pray for the upcoming weeks of camp.

The congregation sang "Victory In Jesus" and "The Unclouded Day" under the direction of Bro. Travis. Ushers Mike Robertson and Isaiah Penn received the offering. Sis. Debby Woolbright and Sis. Patty Simpson blessed the group by singing "He's Been So Good To Me". Bro. Travis introduced his cousin, Sarah Malone, who is with English Language Institute, Vice President of Asian Operations. Sis. Sarah shared many scriptures: John 8:31 & 32...the truth shall set you free...; John 14:1-6...the Way, the Truth and the Life...John 8:36...if the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed. Sarah is thankful to be an American. We are free. She may be limited sometimes on what she can say and teach in China. There is no bondage for those who are in Jesus. There is a freedom that people in America need to know. Sarah challenged us in this way: "What will you do with the Truth?" She is sometimes told, "Oh Sarah, you've really sacrificed..." She said it doesn't really feel like it. Wherever God has called you, that's where He wants us to free the slaves...the bonds of slavery that have people bound. "What will you do with the Truth?" Bro. David Shores closed in prayer. A few people had questions about Sarah's life in China. She shared about the cost of living and shopping experiences. Someone asked her if she had ever had a summer missionary there. She is hopeful of that possibility next year. Another question was about missionaries being arrested. She explained about the house churches that believers attend. She does not go to them. If the police found out about them and she were there, it could cause them bad trouble. Sarah briefly explained how there are two kinds of riots. One is controlled and the other spontaneous. For the most part, the riots you have seen on the news from China are controlled by the government.

BUSINESS SESSION II

The report from the **Business Committee** was read.

1. The East Central District of Illinois Free Will Baptists would like to honor the fond memory of Bro. Grant Bruce for his service and faithfulness to the Free Will Baptist community.
2. Give Sarah Malone \$150 for speaking today.

Signed: Elmo Manahan, Mike Robertson, and Jim Beaty

There was a motion, second and motion carried to accept this report. The congregation was asked to stand while Bro. Jim Beaty offered a prayer of praise for the life of Bro. Grant Bruce.

The report of the **Examining Committee** was read as follows:

1. Following the action of our last quarterly meeting, we are issuing Craig Smith a "Ministers Certificate of License". He will now begin his two year study course for ordination.
2. We met with Jim Modlin from Bakerville, and explained the requirements for Bro. Bret Miner to become a minister in this quarterly. No action was taken at this time.

Signed: David Shores, Clarence Porter, and Ernie Taylor

Bro. Bud Porter and Bro. Ernie Taylor came to the front of the sanctuary along with Bro. Craig Smith. The Ministers License was presented to Bro. Craig Smith.

IL STATE NEWS

Bro. David Shores reminisced about how good God has been to Illinois Free Will Baptists. Many people have given themselves over to service. The IL newsletter has a breakdown of mission accounts in this issue. Also in the area, Bro. Gene & Sis. Peggy Outland are not well. Pray for them.

LOCAL CHURCH REPORTS

Bro. David Shores gave a report of the Mt. Vernon Church. The Women Active for Christ group is very active. They will be hosting part of the adult camp meetings. Angela Emerick will be conducting a special time to meet 4 students from Kazakhstan on July 20. The Women Active For Christ and the Master's Men groups both have raised money for various ministries. Mt. Vernon has recently re-vamped their children's church program. They had a good VBS—Avalanche Ranch. They had revival. Jim Beaty lead singing, and is doing a good job with the music ministry. They have remodeled their sanctuary. They are looking at doing something to accommodate the growing Sunday School. Attendance has been around 200, and they need more room. On a personal note, Bro. David is doing well. He has gone thru 19 treatments and has 24 to go. Everything is going well. Thank you for praying and please continue to pray.

Bro. Craig Smith reported from the Oak Valley Church. He thanked the quarterly for the opportunity to receive his license. Oak Valley had their annual picnic in June at Sam Dale Lake. They invited the Salem church to join them. Bro. Ron Davis and Sylvia Watson were married after the picnic. Bro. Bryan Bennett performed the ceremony. Oak Valley has enjoyed the singing group, "Rushing Wind". They have also had a service with Stephen Gray. Their VBS was also Avalanche Ranch. They had a very good response to the pastor's offer to kiss a pig if they had 75 kids at VBS. Bro. Craig reminded us that you can never out give the Lord. He encouraged us to pray that he and we would all be an example—because somebody is always watching us.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and carried. We were reminded to pray for the National Association meeting, Junior-Senior week of camp in August, Adult Camp meeting in August, and the Master's Men Retreat in September. James Forlines will be the speaker for the retreat. Pray for our churches and pastors. Who are you praying for that will come to know Christ? Whom are you praying for that you are making a disciple? Bro. Ernie Taylor dismissed the meeting in prayer and blessed the food we were about to partake of.

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

OCTOBER 13, 2007

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

The Salem FWB Church welcomed the East Central District Association to the fall meeting on a beautiful, sunny day. Sis. Brenda Braddock played the piano while Sis. Kim Smith led the congregation in singing "Victory In Jesus". Pastor Bryan Bennett gave the morning devotion from Phil. 4:4-7. The congregation sang "What A Friend We Have In Jesus". Bro. Bennett shared the story of when and how this song was written. Joseph Scriven wrote the words as a poem to comfort his mother during a time she faced many sorrows. God gives us peace during difficult times that we face. Bro. Bennett encouraged us to be content as Paul was in his writing to the Philippians. He also shared a reading about a farmer who wanted to sell his place so he could look for another one—one that would be perfect. The farmer had a realtor write up an ad to make his farm sound so good, it would be sure to sell. After the farmer read the ad, he decided this is what he had been looking for all along!

BUSINESS SESSION I

The clerk called the East Central District to order to do business for our Lord. The standing delegates were recognized and the church letters were read. There was a motion, second and the motion passed to receive the letters and seat the delegates named.

The minutes were available in printed form for everyone to see. The clerk was instructed to correct the minutes concerning Bro. Grant Bruce's funeral service. It was Bro. Tony Kash who preached, not Bro. Williams. MSC to accept the minutes.

Treasurer Kathy Hayes gave the financial report. Beginning with a balance of \$280.98, we took in \$245 in dues and \$261 offering making a total available of \$786.98. Disbursements were made to speaker Sarah Malone \$100 and the State Association \$225 for Mark King, Dennis Owen and the Disaster Relief Fund. This leaves us with a balance of \$411.98. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

OTHER REPORTS

ILLINOIS--Bro. David Shores brought his report of things happening around the state of Illinois. He thanked us for praying for him and Pat during treatments. They are both doing well. He spoke of David Turner returning to Illinois. There has been a committee formed to study the reorganizing of districts. Pray concerning this matter. Bro. David directed our attention to the announcements on the back of our program this morning. Attend these as you have opportunity, and pray for them.

Some churches are without pastors now. Spencer Meagher resigned from New Hope. Randy Kash resigned from Oak Grove. Bryant Harris is pastoring the Rescue Church. Pray for Bro. George Waggoner and his family. Pray for the family of Danny Gray, as he passed away recently. Bro. David reminded us again that if we do not receive the Illinois Newsletter, or know someone who does not receive it and wants to, give him the name and address so that you can receive the newsletter.

Missions—Bro. Ernie Lewis reported on the various missionaries from our state. Shane and Joy Davison are back in France. Pray for them to get settled into a place. They have an opportunity to teach conversational English—pray concerning this. Darren & Dana Portell are there in France. So is Clint Morgan. Becky Derby is doing ok with treatments and surgery. Pray for the Derby family as they have much to deal with now. Stephen Gray continues to work in Collinsville. They have a new son. The church is doing well. Many came and participated in Operation Saturation where fliers were passed out

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

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

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

and contacts were made. They had a baptism service. Attendance is doing well—100 people in service. Mark King's account is sagging. He needs an offering. Tim and Jessica Lewis welcomed a new little one. Their work has bought an old middle school to fix up. It is located on a main thoroughfare where it will be seen by many. They are excited about this move. Sarah Malone could use some help with her account, since she is not teaching in the classroom now. Pray for her. Keep giving to the Owen's account until November. Craig Portell got married. They are living in Nashville, but hoping to return to the field. Darren & Dana Portell returned to France. Pray for their children as they return to school. Pray for Mark & Khristie Shores as their work continues to grow. Jason Taylor in Yuma works toward self-supporting status. The Teagues returned to France in August. Pray as Dennis trains national pastors to take over the French services. The Benjamin Randall offering will be received on the 3rd Sunday in November. This offering supports Home Missions and missionaries. The Illinois Board of Missions has volunteered to buy Impulse for every church in the association, if they will use it.

Travis Penn informed us about the e-mail newsletter. He also encouraged each church to send someone to the Praise and Worship workshop in Decatur on November 2nd & 3rd.

Ernie Taylor reported about the Masters Men. They have business cards for the Disaster Response Unit. The retreat in September was an exciting and refreshing time. Bro. James Forlines was a good speaker. They enjoyed a golf tournament and trap shoot. The Pie Auction afforded \$1400 for missions. The Crossroads Jr. High and High School class presented Bro. Ernie Taylor and the Disaster Relief Unit a check for \$300. Bro. Ernie conveyed that the donations they receive are greatly appreciated. Each time they go out, they discover something else they need. They try to equip the two trailers with everything they might need and even some unexpected things. Thank you!

Bro. Ed Ferguson told us there are new guideline books for the CTS competitions. There have been some changes made. If anyone wants to start their group in competition, but doesn't know how, contact Bro. Ed. The competition will be in Decatur this spring.

Bro. David Burgess informed us that the State Association bought the new training program put out by the Bible College. The state is in Phase II of reorganizing or redistricting. The State Meeting will be in March at the Tanner Trails church.

Bro. David Shores requested prayer for his sister.

The committees were filled as follows:

Travis Penn to replace Tim Hayes on the Business Committee.

Bro. David Burgess to replace Bro. Bud Porter on the Examining Committee.

Peggy Ferguson, Mike Crabtree, and Judy Bennett were asked to serve on the Youth Committee.

This will be the time to elect new officers. Bro. Ernie Lewis dismissed us in prayer for a short break.

BUSINESS SESSION II

Youth Committee

As we reconvened, the Youth Committee Report was read.

1. We encourage all churches to support and attend their local Judgment Houses. There is one held in Vandalia. Call Crossroads FWB Church for more information.
2. We encourage all churches to involve their youth in CTS competition.
3. We encourage all churches to take their teenagers to Welcome Days at FWBBC.
4. If any church is interested in hosting a youth rally, please contact someone on the Youth Committee.

Signed: Peggy Ferguson, Mike Crabtree and Judy Bennett

The Youth Committee report was accepted by a motion, second and carried.

Business Committee

The report from the Business Committee was read by Elmo Manahan as follows:

1. We recommend giving to the Dennis Owens account be discontinued as of December 31, 2007.
2. We recommend that we give to the Derby's \$100 to help with expenses.

3. We recommend the moderator, assistant moderator, and Business Committee form a committee to look into the possibility of discontinuing the Youth Committee.
4. We recommend the following officers for next year.
Moderator—Ernie Lewis
Assistant Moderator—Travis Penn
Clerk—Paula Hayes
Treasurer—Kathy Hayes
Business Committee—Elmo Manahan
Examining Committee—Clarence “Bud” Porter
Youth Committee—Ed Ferguson
Executive Board Member—John Hollis

5. We recommend we give the speaker \$100 plus mileage.

Signed: Elmo Manahan, Mike Robertson, and Travis L. Penn

There was a motion, second and carried to accept the report of the Business Committee. Bro. Elmo pointed out the need to fill the Youth Committee vacancies and there have been no volunteers to take the position. Each item on the report was voted on by a motion, second and carried except the item #5. Item #5 was amended to give the speaker \$200 instead of \$100. The amended item #5 was made a motion, seconded and passed.

Local Church Reports

Because the Examining Committee was still out, Bro. Ernie moved along to the local church reports. Bro Bryan Bennett updated us on the activities of the Salem Church. He has been at Salem FWB Church for one year. They held a revival last fall. Bro. Jason Kelly was called to be ordained as a deacon. They had a successful week of VBS with one precious soul being saved. They have remodeled the sanctuary and it is very nice. The Salem church will have two or three baptized soon and looking forward to a couple of baby dedications.

Worship Service

We entered into worship by singing “He Set Me Free”. Bro. Lawrence Pennington offered prayer. The congregation then sang “When We All Get to Heaven”. The morning offering was received by Jason Kelly, Dale Braddock, Lawrence Pennington, and Mike Crabtree. Sis. Brenda Braddock blessed us with a lovely piano piece while the offering was collected. She played “Breathe On Me”. The Salem church entertained and challenged the congregation with a skit performed to the ballad “Why I Like Sleepin’ In My Church”. Bro. Dale Braddock accompanied himself on the guitar as he sang. Renditions of “Rock of Ages” and “In the Sweet By And By” were performed by the church choir. Sis. Kim Smith sang a special number, “I’m Jumpin’ Out of the Boat” before the speaker came with his message. Bro. Ernie Lewis introduced Rusty Carney as our speaker this morning. Bro. Rusty gave his background of how he came to be a missionary, even telling us that he had learned what a missionary is while he was in first grade. Thru the Bible College he has been on a few mission trips and his wife had too before they married. It is no surprise that they would answer the call to be missionaries. The surprise is that God called them to Japan, after Rusty had been on a trip there and decided he would never go back!

Bro. Rusty shared with us that the Japanese people are offered no hope. There are two religions—Buddhism and Shinto’s. Yet, God offers the Japanese, as well as other nations, hope. I Samuel 15 tells us that Israel wanted a king. So God gave them a king—Saul. Saul did not obey God completely. He claimed to have obeyed, but not really. In verse 24, Saul finally admits his sin. He was afraid of the people. In verse 11, God regrets that he made Saul king. We should never want God to “regret” something in our lives. Bro. Rusty challenged us to think about what God has called us to do. Are we going to be obedient to Him? He asked us to pray for the Japanese people as the Carney’s go to the field. Then Bro. Rusty blessed us by playing a wonderful arrangement of “Goodbye World, Goodbye”.

Examining Committee

The Examining Committee report was read as follows:

1. We met with Bro. Craig Smith, interviewing him concerning his progress in his study course for ordination. He is starting his second period studies.
2. The committee met with Brett Minor. We have no recommendations at this time.

Signed: John Hollis, David L. Burgess, and Ernie Taylor

There was a motion and second to receive this report. The motion carried.

Many prayer requests were mentioned: Bro. Bud Porter just had knee replacement surgery, Carolyn McNelly—Effingham, new convert couple from Effingham, Bro. Gene & Sis. Peggy Outland, Becky Derby, those working to reach Muslims, two unspoken. We stood to be dismissed in prayer and Bro. Dale Braddock took our petitions before the Lord, as well as asked the blessing on the meal. The meeting was adjourned by a motion, second, and carried.