

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 12, 2008 MEETING

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

The East Central District Association met at the Blue Point FWB Church on a sunny January morning. Host pastor Ernie Lewis led us into worship with his morning devotion from Mark 14:3—9. This passage is about the woman who anointed Jesus with her expensive ointment and her tears. Bro. Ernie presented four main points of worship from this scripture. 1. Disregard others. When we come to worship, we should come to worship God. 2. Lead others in worship. 3. Bring your best in worship. 4. Worship should be remembered by the Lord. What this woman did for Jesus was noted and remembered throughout the ages.

BUSINESS SESSION

The clerk called the meeting to order. The ordained ministers and deacons were recognized as standing delegates. The eight local church letters were read by the clerk. A motion to accept the letters and seat the delegates was seconded and carried.

The minutes of the October meeting were available in printed form. MSC to accept the minutes.

Sis. Kathy Hayes gave the treasurer's report. We began with a balance of \$411.98 and received \$245 in dues and \$231 in an offering, making \$887.98 available to work with. Money paid out includes \$50 to the clerk, \$218 to the speaker Rusty Carney, \$100 to Becky Derby and \$225 to the State Association for Mark King, Dennis Owen and the Disaster Relief Fund. This leaves a present balance of \$294.98. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

Vacancies on the Youth Committee were filled as follows: Donnie Shurtz, Mike Altigilbers and Susan Burgess.

REPORTS

ILLINOIS—Bro. David Shores directed our attention to the announcements on the back of our bulletin. Bro. Ernie is very good to include these for our information. Bro. David made mention of the State Meeting date in March a week earlier than usual because of Easter. Bro. John Pratt has accepted the pastor position at Oak Grove. New Hope is still looking for a pastor. Saturday January 19th is a surprise 80th Birthday party for Clifford Hicks. Bro. David encouraged each church to participate in the World Missions offering the last Sunday in April. If every church would give this offering, it would help fund our missionaries. Then the designated giving would help fund the other works and projects. It is so exciting to see the churches in foreign fields sending out people to other fields. This is part of the great commission. We have a tremendous opportunity to do our part simply by filling these banks and turning them in. Bro. David would like to see 100% response in Illinois and to see what Illinois can do. Bro. John Hollis asked what percentage of the 40 churches participated last year. Bro. David said about half. In the East Central District there was only one church not participating.

MISSIONS

Ernie Lewis reported on the things our Illinois missionaries are doing. Rusty Carney will be coming back to Illinois in January. If your church wants to set up a service with him, now is a good time. The Davisons and Portells have begun a new ministry in a local school in France. Joy and Dana have both taught some English and Darren is teaching physical education. They have also started two

□ **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

classes of English—the women teaching women and the men teaching men. Continue to remember the Derby's in prayer. Sarah Malone and Mark King continue to need our prayers as well as financial support. Craig and Sara Portell are raising funds to return to Tibet to teach. The Teagues continue in France. Mark & Khristie Shores are seeing some growth in New Mexico. They have spent many hours remodeling parts of the church. They hope to have a young Spanish speaking man to help with bilingual services. Tim & Jessica Lewis are enjoying their new building. They are excited about what God is doing in Utah. The Taylors are doing well in Arizona. Consideration is being made concerning a building fund there. Steve & Denise Gray are now holding services in the VFW hall in downtown Collinsville. They are allowed to park the trailer outside of the hall and that gives them some free advertising during the week. Bro. David Burgess updated the group on Dennis & Trena Owen. They have accepted a position in Winter Haven, Florida where his father had pastored. Bro. John Hollis told us that J.D. Hollis is in Georgia as a home missionary.

MASTERS MEN

Ernie Taylor reported the Masters Men Disaster Relief efforts. He thanks the East Central District for their support. They have been able to purchase two more generators and a chain saw sharpener. These seem to be a couple of items that have been very useful in their relief efforts. Bro. Ernie offered the use of the equipment and trailer to the district churches since it is located within the area. A copy of the mission statement was made available so others will know what the group responds to and can help with.

WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

Sis. Susan Burgess, president of the ILWAC, reported on the recent efforts to makeover the missionary apartment at Camp Hope. At the last meeting, a committee was formed to look into the needs of the apartment. Their suggestion was to freshen up each room of the apartment with paint, curtains, bedding and furniture items to make a missionary family feel at home when they use it. The committee is looking for local women's groups to makeover one room. If a group is too far away or not able to volunteer for a room, they might consider helping to fund some items a group might need to complete a room. Sis. Susan told us that four rooms have been spoken for. The kitchen still needs attention. Sis. Susan would like to have at least one e-mail address from each local group, so that contact could be made when needs arise. If you have an e-mail address, please see Susan.

Moderator Ernie Lewis dismissed the group for a short break. There is juice, coffee, and donuts downstairs. The committees were also dismissed to perform their duties.

BUSINESS SESSION II

YOUTH COMMITTEE—The Youth Committee report was read by the clerk as follows: We recommend that the youth of the East Central District be invited to the April District meeting to participate in a "practice" competition (no one to be eliminated) for the upcoming State CTS competition. This opportunity would allow our young people to hone their skills and the adults to be blessed. Signed: Mike Altgilbers, Susan Burgess, and Donnie Shurtz.

A motion and second was passed to accept this report. We look forward to seeing the youth present their skills and talents in preparation of the CTS competition.

LOCAL CHURCH REPORTS—Bro. Brett Minor told us of the recent happenings at Bakerville. Bro. Ed Sursa passed away and before his passing, made his desire known that he wanted an altar call at his funeral. The Christmas program was good. They have had three baptisms. Some kids went to camp. The high school group is focused on ministry. They attended the Illinois Team Convention worship and service. They also planned a trip to Mexico, but broke down in the middle of Texas. There was a lot of flooding in Texas at that time so the group found a place to help and minister. The Southern Baptist relief team was there, so the Bakerville group worked with them to help in the difficult "mud out" efforts.

Bro. Ernie Lewis brought the report from Blue Point Church. They had a joint baptism with the Oak Valley Church. Many kids and a few workers went to camp. They had a really good VBS, a picnic

to fellowship with the families of kids that come on the van and hosted a "Trunk or Treat" to invite kids out to church. Blue Point has had various services with missionaries: Derek Lewis, Holly Petty, the Teagues, Davisons, Taylors, Sarah Malone and the Derby's. They have been viewing the Impulse videos. The kids did a good job presenting a good message in the Christmas program. In July the church passed out cold bottled water as an act of kindness in their community. It is rewarding to take part in things like this.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The report from the Business Committee was read as follows:

1. We recommend that we give Holly Petty and Derek Lewis each \$75.
2. We recommend Attachment #1. This was a letter from the Decatur FWB Church petitioning for membership into the East Central District Association.
3. That we change the East Central District Constitution. See Attachment #2.

Signed: Elmo Manahan, Mike Robertson and Tim Hayes

There was a motion, second and it carried to accept the report and vote on it item by item. Item #1 was accepted by a MSC. Item #2 was accepted by a MSC. There was a motion to accept Item #3 and table it for the next meeting. This motion was seconded and carried.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Connie McGrew played the piano and Jim Beatty led the singing as we entered into the worship service. The congregation sang "Love Lifted Me". Bro. Don Edwards offered prayer. The congregation sang "Heavenly Sunlight". The offering was received by ushers David Burgess, Mike Altgilbers and Lawrence Pennington, while Connie McGrew played a beautiful arrangement of "Majesty" on the piano.

Bro. Tyler Penn brought the message "Cry for Comfort" from Exodus 3:10-14 and Exodus 4:1, 10-13. Bro. Tyler gave us a look at Comfortland—a place where there is no cost, no labor, no risk and no pain, yet a desire to be better. Like cholesterol there are two kinds of comfort: Good comfort—that is knowing that you are in the will of God; bad comfort—that is Comfortland! He illustrated Comfortland with a story about a high school guy who had a desire to be a good basketball player but he remained in "Comfortland". He remained in the stands watching, where he was not getting hit, not practicing and it was not costing him any discomfort. Bro. Tyler used Moses as a good example of combating the cry for comfort. Moses went thru the "You've got the wrong guy", "what if...", and "Please Lord, send someone else" phases before realizing that even though God was angry with him, God would be with him. Moses was then able to step out of Comfortland into God's will. Bro. Tyler closed his message in prayer.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

The report from the Examining Committee was read as follows:

1. The Examining Committee recommends the following for a card of good standing: Shane Davison, David Burgess, Travis Penn, John Hollis, Ernie Lewis, David Shores, Clarence "Bud" Porter, Jesse Allen, James Boggs, George Waggoner and Craig Smith, licensed in good standing.
2. We met with Craig Smith. He will continue his third quarter studies. The committee approved his studies.

Signed: Ernie Taylor, John Hollis and Clarence Porter

MSC to accept this report. Bro. David Shores questioned why some of the ministers who turned in reports, were not issued cards of good standing. The Examining Committee gave answers concerning each pastor ranging from their views on divorce and the "husband of one wife", to one pastor staying with his association that he was already in fellowship with. A vote was taken and the motion to accept the Examining Committee report was carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Holly Petty was present and announced that she would be glad to come to the local churches and share her plans to go to Brazil this summer with E-TEAM. She welcomes our prayer and financial support.

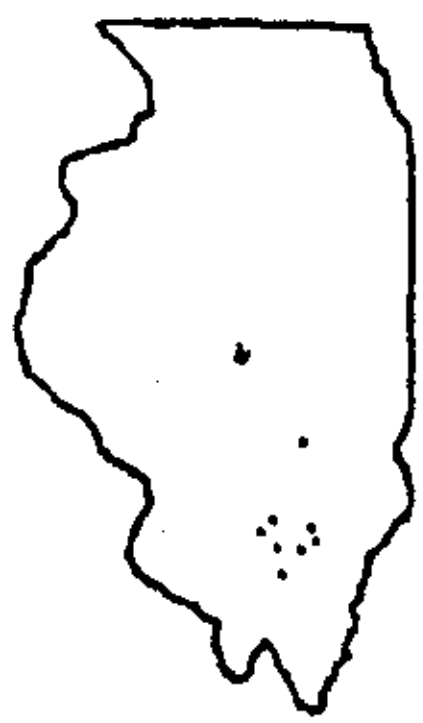
Delegates to the Illinois State Association meeting were sought. These individuals were named: Christina Taylor, Kathy Hayes, Pat Shores, Susan Burgess, and Mike Robertson. There was a motion and second to appoint the above named as delegates and give Moderator Ernie Lewis authority to appoint others as needed at the meeting. Motion carried.

Calvary will host the next meeting on April 12, 2008 at 9 a.m. The CTS competitors are encouraged to come and participate in a practice competition. This will benefit the young people as well as be a blessing to the adults who are there to enjoy it.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and carried.

Bro. Tim Hayes was called on to close in prayer. The blessing on the meal was given and we enjoyed good food and precious fellowship before parting ways.

***Attachment #2 as mentioned in the Business Committee Report, is included for your information.



East Central District

Association of

Illinois Free Will Baptists

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

APRIL 12, 2008 AT CALVARY FWB CHURCH

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

Pastor Travis Penn and Sis. Debby Woolbright led the congregation in singing a round of "The Lord Liveth." John Hollis offered the opening prayer. Pastor Penn brought the devotion from Luke 14:12-35. Bro. Travis mentioned that sometimes when we look for people to invite to church, we look for someone who will "grow" our church. He challenged us to consider who the Lord says to invite in Luke 14—the crippled, lame, blind...and the promise that we would be blessed by doing so. Bro. Travis continued by reading verses that illustrate the excuses people make to get out of going somewhere. Things are sometimes excuses, family is sometimes an excuse, even time can be used as an excuse. The Lord becomes upset with excuse makers. Jesus pointed out the high cost of following Him. The cost is hating your own life and following Christ. Have you counted the cost? Bro. Travis read the rest of chapter 14. If you do not count the cost of following Christ, you lose your saltiness. As scripture points out, if salt loses its saltiness, it is fit for nothing. Bro. Travis prayed to close his devotion.

BUSINESS SESSION

Moderator Ernie Lewis asked the clerk to call the business meeting to order, and she did. The standing delegates were recognized. The clerk read the church letters before the group. There was a motion, second and it passed to accept the church letters and seat the delegates named from each church. There was some discussion about the average worship attendance being reported on the forms. Bro. Ernie indicated that he would add that to the forms so they would be uniform. There was a motion, second and carried to approve the minutes as presented in typed form.

Kathy Hayes gave the treasurer's report. Beginning with a balance of \$294.98, we took in dues of \$1240 and an offering of \$225. Expenses paid out include \$75 each to Holly Petty and Derek Lewis, \$114.80 to Tyler Penn—speaker, \$75 each to Mark King's account and the Disaster Relief Fund, and \$960 to the State Association. This leaves a balance of \$385.18 currently. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

Bro. Ernie filled the vacancies on the Youth Committee. Debby Woolbright and Mike Altgilbers were named to serve today.

REPORTS

Bro. Ernie Lewis gave the missions report. He presented the new poster that is available which shows the Illinois Regional Support missionaries. Bro. Travis Penn created the poster. It is a very nice poster. Bro. Ernie encouraged each of us to fill the World Missions banks. The goal this year is \$750,000. Other mission news mentioned included news that Mark Shores' account is draining. Joy and Shane Davison are trying to get back to France. They are working to be associated or accepted by the French government. The Taylors in Yuma, Arizona dropped eight thousand Easter eggs. The next day a man was saved.

Bro. David Shores gave his report as the state promotional secretary. He recently preached at the White Ash church. They are not a part of the state association. They are looking for a pastor and asked that we pray with them as they search for the right pastor.

Bro. Ernie Taylor reported on the Masters Men group. There will be a rally at the Benton church soon. In March the Disaster Relief trailer was used right here in Salem to help during the ice storm. September 11, 12 and 13 will be the retreat this year. Richard Atwood will be the speaker.

□ **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

It was mentioned that we need to pray for the Bakerville Church as they have had some deaths recently. This hurts a church. They need our prayers.

Sis. Susan Burgess announced to the group that the Illinois Women Active for Christ state meeting will be held at the Benton Church on May 17th at 9 a.m. Becky Derby is the scheduled speaker. This will be a very good day and you will not want to miss it. We will also have the big "Reveal" of the missionary camp apartment makeover. September 26 & 27th will be the Fellowship Retreat at the camp. Rebecca Pugh will be coming to speak and the worship team from Tanner Trails will be present to lead in the services. Make plans now to attend in September.

Bro. Ernie Lewis charged the committees to meet together during the break. We were recessed briefly.

BUSINESS SESSION

Bro. Ernie Lewis gathered everyone back into the business session. He mentioned that the camp forms are here and available for all. May 16th is the due date if a camper wants to register early and receive a free canteen card.

The Business Committee report was read as follows:

1. We recommend that the constitution change be tabled until the next meeting.
2. We need two volunteers for the Youth Committee to serve the rest of the terms.
3. Recommend that \$100 be given to the Mediterranean Team in memory of Christina Taylor, and that \$100 go to the Shores account.

Signed: Tim Hayes, Mike Robertson, and Elmo Manahan

There was a motion and second to accept item #1. Because we want to give the CTS participants plenty of time for their presentations today, we thought the constitution change could wait until July. Motion passed. A motion second and carried to accept items #2 and #3.

The Youth Committee report was read as follows:

We, the Youth Committee want to extend a big thank you to all of the churches for bringing their youth to participate in today's activities. We encourage the churches of our district to attend the CTS competition on the 25th and 26th of April at Decatur. We encourage the churches of our district to send their young people to youth camp at Camp Hope. Signed: Debby Woolbright, Ed Ferguson and Mike Altgilbers. There was a motion, second and motion carried to accept the report from the Youth Committee. Bro. Ed Ferguson added to the report that the Mt. Vernon Church would try to have a pre-camp youth rally.

Bro. David Burgess announced that the state is trying to begin an obituary column on their website. As people become aware of the death of a Free Will Baptist person, please contact Bro. David Burgess or Travis Penn so they can get it posted on the website.

We entered back into recess since the Examining Committee was not ready with their report.

CTS PROGRAM

Everyone was blessed by the young people who presented their CTS entrees.

BIBLE MEMORIZATION: Crossroads—Chelsey Baker—Psalm 32 & Isaiah 11:1-10

Kaci Bloemker—Books of the Old Testament, Books of the New Testament, Great Commission, Roman's Road to Salvation and I Corinthians 13.

Mt. Vernon—Bryan Ferguson—Psalm 1 and the Armor of God.

BIBLE SWORD DRILL: Calvary—Emily Petty, and Brooklyn Penn. Crossroads—Brittany Baker.

VOCAL SOLO: Crossroads—Heather Baker—"A Servant's Heart"

Blue Point—Noah Hill—"Let There Be Peace On Earth"

CLARINET SOLO: Crossroads—Mikayla Altgilbers—"Amazing Grace"

BIBLE MILLIONAIRE: Blue Point—Madison Smith, Logan Hosick & Noah Conrad.

Mt. Vernon—James Gibson, Derek Ferguson, Tyler William & Eric Pedicord

Crossroads—Heather Baker, Mikayla Altgilbers & Brittany Baker

DRAMA: Blue Point—Colton James—"That's What Christians Do Now"

Keelin Davis—"My Success is About Him"

Catherine Halterman & Katie Beeson—"The Prayer Requests"

Danielle Spitzner—"The Princess Heart"

Hope Walker—"Busy Signals"

Nick Allison, Colton James, Keelin Davis & Catherine Halterman—"The Water"

BIBLE MEMORIZATION: Calvary—Isaac Hays—Psalm 23 & The Lord's Prayer

Deanna Endebrock—Psalm 23 & The Lord's Prayer

Kira Endebrock—Ten Commandments & Armor of God

Isaiah Penn—Great Commission and Psalm 98

Brock Metcalf—II Corinthians 5:17-21 & Philippians 4:4-13

Ben Barcroft—Beatitudes & Psalm 1

James Barcroft—Proverbs 8:12-21 & I Timothy 4:12-16

TIC TAC TOE: Calvary—Jacob Barcroft, Maria Petty and Bailey Metcalf played against adults—John Hollis, Tyler Penn and Mike Crabtree. Game 1 to Calvary and Game 2 to Calvary.

None were eliminated in this competition. It is a joy and a blessing to see these young people hard at work learning the word of God. We pray it will stay in their heads as well as in their hearts. A round of applause was given in appreciation to the coaches who have worked so faithfully with the young people who will be representing our churches in this year's competition.

BACK TO BUSINESS

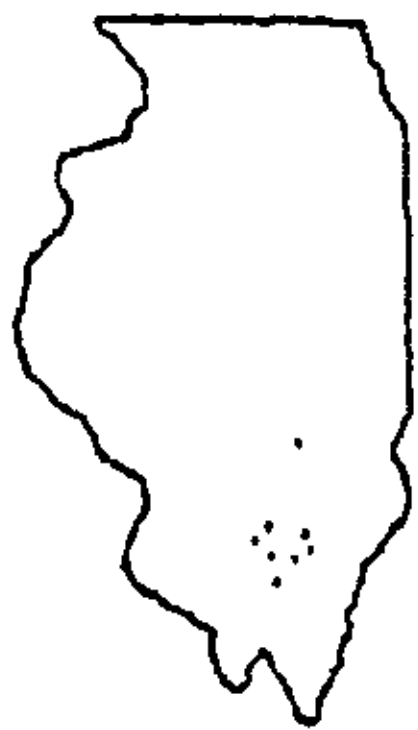
The Examining Committee report was read as follows:

1. We, the Examining Committee recommend the body's approval of the acceptance and recognition of Bro. Tyler Penn's credentials (Decatur FWB), effective March 12, 2008.
2. We have met with Bro. Craig Smith (Oak Valley) concerning his study course process and recommend our approval of his continuance toward ordination.

Signed: Ernie Taylor, Clarence Porter and John Hollis

The date in item #1 was explained concerning Bro. Tyler's position on the Board of Missions. It was necessary for him to be in good standing at the time of the State Association meeting. MSC to accept the report from the Examining Committee.

The morning offering was taken up by ushers Tim Hayes, Mike Conard and Shannon Hosick. Bro. Tim prayed then Debby Woolbright played "Freely, Freely" while the offering was received. Announcements were made concerning a work day at Camp Hope on April 19th. Crossroad's Homecoming will be May 11th. Bro. David Burgess offered the blessing on the food as well as requests that had been mentioned throughout the day.



East Central District

Association of

Illinois Free Will Baptists

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

JULY 12, 2008 MEETING

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

Sis. Vickie Hollis and Bro. Mike Crabtree led the congregation in singing "Jesus, Hold My Hand" to begin the summer meeting of the East Central District Association. Pastor John Hollis welcomed everyone to Effingham. His devotion came from Ephesians 6:13-18. He asked, "Did you know we are at war?" Many in our country don't realize we are at war. Maybe we don't pray for our troops enough. The scripture in Ephesians gives us a picture of the Christian soldier. "His feet are shod..." If something is wrong with your feet you are not able to move. Christians must be able to move. Paul was familiar with boxing and with soldiers. Soldiers sometimes came with nails in the bottom of their shoes for better traction. They needed traction—**GRIP**. Christian--come prepared with grip—"feet shod." These are slippery times for adults as well as young people. In Matthew 23 and Luke 11, Jesus taught his followers that they ought to do some things they weren't doing. They were also not to do some things they were doing. Bro. John encouraged us to dig in, get traction, so that we could stand and fight.

BUSINESS SESSION

Bro. Ernie Lewis led in prayer. The clerk called the East Central District Association to order that we might do business for our Lord. The pastors and deacons were recognized as standing delegates. The clerk read eight letters from the local churches. We are missing a letter from the Salem Church. There was a motion, second and it carried to seat the delegates named in the letters and accept the reports of the churches. Another MSC to accept the minutes presented in typed form. It was noted that in the mission report given, the Taylors actually dropped 40,000 eggs in Yuma, instead of the recorded 8,000.

Treasurer Kathy Hayes gave her report orally. With a beginning balance of \$385.18 the district had \$210 in dues received and an offering of \$249.22. The disbursements made include \$75 each to Mark King and the Disaster Relief Fund, \$100 to the M-Team and \$100 to the Mark Shores account. This leaves a balance of \$494.40. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

Bro. Ernie Lewis read a thank you note from Derek Lewis. He was thanking us for the support we gave last spring for his mission trip.

The IL State Association minutes were available for us to pick up at the front of the sanctuary. There is also a new form for the local church clerks to use. The new form has a place to indicate average Sunday School attendance and morning worship average attendance. Some churches were already putting that information in their report, but this will make it uniform.

REPORTS

The Master's Men report was given by Bro. Ernie Taylor. He reported that the Disaster Relief generators have been loaned to those in need up north. There had been a big power outage due to a big wind storm. Bro. Ernie thanked us for our support of their efforts. The Men's Retreat will be Sept. 11, 12 and 13th at Camp Hope. Richard Atwood will be the speaker.

Bro. Ernie Lewis gave a report of the Illinois missionaries. Mark Shores had been here briefly for a wedding. Bro. John Hollis told us of the very serious condition of Melissa Gibbs. She has had many surgeries and is in need of our prayers. Please lift her up in prayer. Bro. Ernie continued with these other mission updates. The M-Team is completing paperwork to be recognized in France so they can rent a building and set up the center they need to work from. They are happy to have a summer intern with them. Sarah Malone is taking a year off from her duties with the English Language Institute. Craig and Sara Portell are preparing to go back to Tibet as a married couple. Pray for them. There is a new plan in the works for mission giving. The Global Evangelism Fund is being set up to support all international mission works. By the year 2010 it is hoped that the mission offering will fund all the various aspects of our global work. Pray for new projects and mission giving.

Sis. Susan Burgess announced the Fellowship Retreat for women and young ladies at Camp Hope September 26 & 27th. Women Nationally Active for Christ President Rebecca Pugh will be the speaker. Susan also encouraged the women to attend the activities for Women Active for Christ at the National Association. It is going to be a very good week of fellowship with friends and missionaries.

Before dismissing for a break and refreshment, Bro. Ernie filled vacancies on the committees. Tyler Penn was named to fill the opening Tim Hayes left today on the Business Committee. Mike Conard, Debby Woolbright and Lawrence Pennington were named to make up the Youth Committee. We were invited to enjoy the coffee and donuts in the fellowship area during a short recess.

BUSINESS SESSION (continued)

Sis. Vickie Hollis played "Joy Unspeakable" on the piano to call us back into the meeting.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Youth Committee report was read as follows:

We the Youth Committee want to remind all of our churches to pray for our youth and their leaders attending the National Youth Convention in Charleston, West Virginia. Continue to pray for our youth attending Camp Hope. Pray for Oak Valley as they partake in starting a new program for their youth. As a District we need to encourage and help our youth to take a stand and stay firm in our beliefs. Signed: Debby Woolbright, Mike Conard, and Lawrence Pennington.

MSC to receive the Youth Committee report.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

May 5, 2008—We, the Examining Committee have met with Craig Smith on May 5, 2008. He is still on schedule concerning his studies. Signed: Ernie Taylor and Clarence Porter

July 12, 2008—We met with Craig Smith. He is still on schedule with his studies. Signed: Ernie Taylor, Clarence Porter, and John Hollis

There was a motion, second and carried to accept this report from the Examining Committee.

LOCAL CHURCH REPORTS

Bro. Travis Penn will give the report from Calvary a little later since he is the speaker today.

CROSSROADS FWB CHURCH—Bro. John Hollis reported on what is going on here in Effingham. They have had four professions of faith. In February there was a funeral service for a 25 year old man killed in a snowmobiling accident. He was not a member, but Bro. John was asked to do the funeral service. The gospel message was presented to a large crowd of family and friends grieving. Bryant Harris was the speaker at a banquet for the adults. The WAC hold a service at the nursing home once a month and that is always a good time to share the Lord. In March they observed the ordinances. In April they saw two souls saved. Also in April, five young people attended the quarterly meeting and presented their competition entries. Homecoming was in June. Vacation Bible School was enjoyed by all ages. There is a couple from Effingham who has offered a retreat site for the church to use. Bro. John asked us to pray with Crossroads concerning their church property.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Business Committee report was read as follows:

1. We recommend that we put \$150 into Mark Shores account.
2. We recommend that we have a time of prayer for the National Convention, National Youth Conference and the youth involved from the East Central District.
3. We recommend to the body to discuss whether we should continue or discontinue the Youth Committee of the East Central District.
4. We recommend that the moderator chair and appoint a nominating committee for the coming elections of the East Central District.

Signed: Tyler Penn, Elmo Manahan, and Mike Robertson

There was a MSC to accept this report. Item #1 was made a motion with a second. The motion was carried by a vote of the body present. Likewise Item #2 was made a motion and seconded. This vote carried as well. Bro. David Burgess offered a prayer as the group lifted these petitions to the Lord.

Item #3 was discussed from the floor. It was noted that this would mean a constitutional change. Suggestions made were to involve the youth in planning. One criticism mentioned noted how often times the committee reports from the quarterly meeting does not get back to the local church. Unless someone is here at the meeting, they may not know what is intended. It was suggested that we continue to have the “no elimination” competition on an annual basis. Another suggestion concerned meeting on a different day or night of the week when the youth might come. Many people reminisced how the quarterly used to be a weekend meeting, Friday night and Saturday. Now we meet on Saturday morning and go on to the next activity for the day. Discussion ended wondering what we could do to involve the youth and not take any more time away from serving the Lord.

A motion to form a nominating committee with Moderator Ernie Lewis as the chair was seconded. (Item #4) These men were named to fill that committee: Tyler Penn, Jim Beatty and David Burgess. This item of business was passed.

There was a motion from the floor to bring the constitutional change off the table. MSC There was a motion, second and motion passed to accept this change.

Bro. Tyler Penn requested that the East Central District not meet in Decatur in October. Mt. Vernon First will host the October meeting on the 11th. MSC to adjourn the business meeting.

WORSHIP

Sis. Vickie Hollis took her place at the piano and Bro. Mike Crabtree led the congregation in singing "The Banner of the Cross" to begin the worship service. Heather Baker presented the very special music "Give Me a Servant's Heart". This is her competition piece and she sang it so beautifully. Travis Penn, John Hollis and Mike Conard served as ushers for the offering. Bro. Travis brought his report of Calvary's happenings before he presented the slide show of the E-Team Virgin Islands trip. He shared how they have seen two special people come to Jesus. Nancy would come to Wednesday morning Bible Study. She seemed to be under conviction and finally at the Christmas Eve service she was ready to be saved. Stephen was baptized when he was 16 years old. He went away from the Lord, but for some reason he kept in touch with Bro. Travis over the internet. Pray for people like Stephen in our churches. There is a lot of bad on the internet, yet there is much good!!

Bro. Travis and Sis. Wendy Penn, along with their children, accompanied a group of 10, 11 and 12th graders on an E-Team mission trip. Travis told us a mission trip can be about accomplishing a task or making disciples. **PEOPLE** are what's important. He encouraged us to think of I Corinthians 3:6 when we think of ministry. Paul planted, Apollos watered but God gave the increase. In the Virgin Islands they have a good soccer ministry. Travis shared how they were encouraged to take care of four pastors by fixing a basket for each one to encourage them. We should be eager to take care of the people (pastor) who takes care of us. Bro. Travis had many pictures to share showing all the work, services and fun they had on their trip. He was encouraged by how well organized the E-Team program is every step of the way. This group of young people and their adult escorts truly become a team as they prepare for the trip, while they work at the place of ministry and even the return home. Pray as the teams have returned home that they will continue to serve and be willing to serve.

Bro. Mike Robertson closed in prayer and blessed the meal that we would enjoy before we leave this place.



East Central District

Association of

Illinois Free Will Baptist

Blue Point F.W.B. Church, Calvary F.W.B. Church, Crossroads F.W.B. Church, Decatur W.B. Church, Mt. Vernon First F.W.B. Church, Oak Valley F.W.B. Church, Pleasant View F.W.B. Church, Salem F.W.B. Church

October 11, 2008

The Mt. Vernon F.W.B. Church welcomed the East Central District Association on a beautiful fall day. Bro. Jim Beatty led the congregation in singing "Oh How I Love Jesus", with Sis. Susan Burgess playing the piano. Bro. Craig Smith led in prayer. Pastor David Shores gave the devotion and welcome. He read scripture from Acts 20:17-24 and spoke of Paul's travels. Paul made a decision to live for Christ no matter what the times. Many TV evangelists will tell you that if you are living right, life will be easy. Bro. David advises not to listen to them. Recently, he found himself in heavy traffic going to Nashville, TN and had a flat tire. When he finally got over on the shoulder, he began to estimate how many cars were passing him by until one stopped to help. A Mexican gentleman came to his aid, and they could not get the last lug nut off. David became discouraged. Sometimes we feel like the problem we have is the worst one of all. In the midst of all the problems, we can have deliverance. Bro. David shared a humorous story to illustrate his point. A father received a letter from his son. It named all these terrible things that the son had done or experienced. At the end of the letter the son admits that none of this is true, but reminds his father that there are many things worse than a report card. Bro. David reminded us that Jesus invites us to bring our burdens to Him. Bro. David prayed.

BUSINESS SESSION

The Clerk called the meeting to order. Moderator Ernie Lewis asked the pastors and deacons to stand and be recognized as standing delegates. The letters from the local churches were read. MSC to accept the letters and seat the delegates. Bro. David Burgess questioned what people were using for the church value? He asked Bro. Ernie to check with the national office to see what we should report so that there will be some consistency on the reports.

Treasurer Kathy Hayes gave her report. We began the quarter with \$494.40. Having received \$280 in dues and \$193 in the offering, that gives us \$967.40 to work with. Expenses paid include \$300 to the State Association: \$150 Mark Shores, \$75 Mark King, and \$75 Disaster Relief Fund. This leaves a balance of \$667.40. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

There were two places on the Youth Committee that needed to be filled. Sis. Marlys Manahan and Sis. Susan Burgess were named to fill those vacancies.

The minutes of the July meeting were presented in typed form. MSC to accept the clerk's report.

ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Illinois State Promotional Secretary, David Shores, gave a short report. So far we have raised \$29,000 for the new chapel at Camp Hope. The re-districting is under way. There will be a new district called Metro East which has four churches and a mission. By next fall hopefully everything will be in place. Bro. David drew attention to the announcements printed on the back of this morning's bulletin so that we could attend them as we are able.

MISSION REPORT

Bro. Ernie Lewis gave the mission report. Carol Teague and her family are home for the funeral of her father, Danny Fowler. The M-Team in France continues to reach out to Muslims in Africa. The M-Team is also starting to teach English classes as a way to reach people. They would like to find a building to meet in for some of these activities. Stephen Gray in Collinsville is seeing results. After a discouraging summer of low attendance, they are praising God over 100 people attending service and five were saved. The Taylors had 160 in service for the first service in their new location. Mark Shores sends his thanks for the offering we sent. They are needing a family to fill in for the family that just left due to a job relocation. Tim Lewis is doing well in Utah.

Bro. Craig Smith thanked everyone who was involved in the Youth Rally at Sam Dale Lake. They had good attendance and services.

Bro. Ernie Taylor questioned whether we need to approve the re-districting. Bro. David Shores mentioned that he thought the Bakerville Church would have a letter here to ask to join the Rend Lake District, but we do not have such a letter.

We were dismissed for a short time of fellowship and refreshment. The committees were instructed to conduct their business during the recess.

After a short break Paula Hayes played "My Faith Still Holds" to call the body back into business session.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Business Committee report was read as follows:

1. We recommend the East Central District accept the new districting drawn up by the State Association.
2. We recommend that we give Sarah Malone \$250 for today.
3. We recommend that we give Camp Hope for the new chapel fund \$100.

Signed: Elmo Manahan, Tim Hayes and Mike Robertson

MSC to vote item by item on this report. There was a motion and second to accept Item #1, the redistricting plan from the State Association. Motion carried. Likewise, MSC for Item #2 and #3.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Youth Committee addressed two items in their report. The first was an announcement that there would be a Youth Rally the Friday night of the State Association at the Calvary Church. Bro. Travis will send more information later. The second item was to encourage CTS participants to get the Bible Study Pack 2009 from Randall House Publication. This report was signed by Ed Ferguson, Marlys Manahan and Susan Burgess. MSC to accept the report from the Youth Committee.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

There was a motion, second and carried to receive the report from the Examining Committee. The report was read as follows:

The Examining Committee has met with Bro. Craig Smith on September 15, 2008 to review his studies. We also met with bro. Craig today, October 11, 2008. We are evaluating his study course as he completes each section. We commend his efforts and look forward to his completing his study course. Signed: Ernie Taylor, John Hollis, and Clarence Porter.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee presented this slate of officers for the next year.

Business Committee:	Tim Hayes	2011
Examining Committee:	Ernie Taylor	2011
Youth Committee:	Tyler Penn	2009
	Craig Smith	2011

Executive Board Representative: John Hollis

Moderator: Ernie Lewis

Assistant Moderator: Travis Penn

Clerk: Paula Hayes

Treasurer: Kathy Hayes

There was a motion, second and motion passed to elect this slate as it is.

LOCAL CHURCH REPORTS

Bro. David Shores gave the report from the Mt. Vernon Church. Obviously, they have been busy remodeling the sanctuary. It looks very good, but it has been a long process. "We work, but we work slow!!" said Bro. David. Recently they acquired the lot next to the church. They are hoping to get thru the city zoning to put in a Christian Life center or multipurpose building. They purchased a 29 passenger bus and it has a lift, so it will be used to help the elderly. Mt. Vernon has been involved in the Hanna Project, Carney and Shores ministries and would like to support a seminary student in Cuba. Bro. Tony Williams will be leaving to work on his Masters degree.

The January meeting will be at the Oak Valley Church on January 10, 2009.

MORNING WORSHIP

Bro. Jim Beatty led the singing as Sis. Susan Burgess played the piano to enter into the worship service. The congregation sang "Praise Him, Praise Him" and "Alleluia". Bro. Adrian Leon Smith prayed. Bro. Jim sang a special rendition of the "Battle Hymn of Republic". Bro. John Hollis offered prayer as the offering was accepted. Bro. Ernie Lewis introduced Sarah Malone as the morning speaker. Sarah read

scripture from Matthew 4:17-20. Rabbi had followers and their followers asked to follow him. Jesus actually asked fishermen to follow him. Sarah challenged us to imagine if the fishermen had left everything but their nets. What would happen? Nets might have weighed them down, or made others trip and get tangled in them. Instead, all the fishermen needed was Jesus. We have the hope of glory. That is the thing that is real.

Sarah will be in the states for a year. She is the Asia Vice President for ELIC. There are 350 teachers, spouses and families that Sarah tends to while they do their jobs in Asia. She lives in Beijing and likes to build relationships with people she sees on a regular basis, like the vegetable lady at the market. She is a believer and has a Bible in her stand. Sarah asked us to continue to pray for her and the students who are believers. It is dangerous for them to openly study the Word. Students studying for the ministry stay in their apartments for months and don't go outside. It is an underground church. The ELIC teachers work with a community to do what teachers are doing. Sarah cannot go to an underground church. It would draw too much attention to the people. Pray for the believers and their families.

A few announcements were given before the service ended. We enjoyed good food and great fellowship before parting to our homes.