



East Central District

Association of

Illinois Free Will Baptists

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

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2013 MEETING

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

The congregation opened the meeting by singing "This Is The Day" while Marie Rutger played the piano. Bro. Richard Brown brought the morning devotion from Matthew 5:13. We are called to be the light of the world. He encouraged us to be willing to step out and make a change in someone's life. He shared a personal experience of his own—trying for years to reach his friend who was sick and eventually died. Bro. Richard constantly told his friend, in word and action, that God loves him. In Matthew 25, Jesus used an example of three men who received talents. The men who increased their talents worked faithfully, while one man hid his and did nothing with it. God has given everyone salvation. It is up to us to share the Good News with others thru a combination of actions and words, so that they might receive grace from Christ. Bro. Brown read Revelation 22:12 and then closed in prayer.

BUSINESS SESSION

Moderator Scott Bee asked the clerk to call the meeting to order. Then the standing delegates were recognized. The clerk read the letters from seven churches. Pleasant View asked that Bro. Bud Porter be issued a card of good standing upon receipt of his ministerial report. The question of church value was brought up once again. According to Keith Burden NAFWB, the church value should be the insured value. There was a motion and second to seat the delegates sent from each church.

The minutes of the October meeting were presented in typed form for everyone to keep. MSC to accept the minutes as printed.

The treasurer's report was read in her absence. Beginning Balance \$500.02 plus Dues from 7 churches \$280 and an offering of \$320 makes available \$1100.02. Expenses paid include \$50 to the clerk, \$50 to Phillip Kennedy (Speaker), \$75 to Mark King account, and \$75 to the Disaster Response fund. This leaves a balance today of \$850.02. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

Moderator Scott Bee filled the vacancies on the committees: David Pittman and Brad Decicco to the Business Committee, and Ed Flota to the Youth Committee. We recessed for a short time so the committees could work.

BUSINESS SESSION (CONT.) **REPORTS**

Marie Rutger played the organ to call the delegates back into session. David Shores gave a report on things around the state. The Bible College emphasis is now in February. There will be a meeting January 17th at the Ina FWB Church to talk about fund raising ideas for the new college. There are new posters and directories of International Missions for each church to have.

Ernie Lewis gave the update on missions connected to the state. He handed out a brief description of each work and commented on some. Josh & Jennifer Detherage remain in the States. Stephen & Denise Gray are looking for a building to suit the needs of their congregation. Jason & Melissa Taylor have gone self-supporting in Yuma, AZ. Dennis & Carol Teague are teaching at Hillsdale FWB College. Joel Teague is here this morning and will share about his work in France.

Tyler Penn was eager to share the Illini Initiative with us. They are meeting in a photography studio and are trying to reach five or six International students for the Lord. Tyler & Kellie invite them to their house for fun and games, where they can share with these students on a personal level. They were able to share the Christmas

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story with students at the English Corner. Tyler asked for help growing the church. Pray for someone to come on board and help at the Fields Church.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The report from the Business Committee was read.

1. Request churches to start petitions against same sex marriage along with sending correspondence consisting of but not limited to phone calls, e-mail, letters and postcards, to local representatives showing support for traditional marriage.
2. Request district send a letter to state board that they send a letter to Governor, State Congress and Rep. Reis in support of traditional marriage.
3. Send a congratulatory letter to Alabama State Supreme Court for ruling in support of an unborn child's rights.
4. Still seeking a volunteer to replace Paula L. Hayes as clerk.

Signed: Mike Robertson, Bradley Decicco, and David Pittman.

MSC to accept the report.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The report from the Youth Committee was read: We encourage all churches to participate in our annual CTS practice district meeting in April. We will host a youth event to follow the April District meeting. We encourage our churches to look into sending their youth to the Spring Welcome Days at Welch College. We ask for \$150 to put on the Youth event. Signed: Tyler Penn, Phillip Kennedy, Ed Flota. MSC to accept the Youth Committee report. Phillip Kennedy explained that the money would be needed for food and building rental, but the committee might not need the whole amount.

The Examining Committee was still at work, so we went on to other reports.

Blue Point Church

Ernie Lewis gave a report about the Blue Point activities. They have had a wonderful year and seen good growth. Each month brings something different. They have suppers or picnics throughout the year. In 2012 they had 26 young people go to youth camp. They entered the Cisne parade, passed out water bottles, had a great Homecoming service, and enjoyed chili and chowder in October. Blue Point is blessed with the association of four missionary families, Davison, Detherage, Bennett and the Taylor's. They have also held services with Sarah Malone, Tim & Kathy Hayes and Tyler & Kellie Penn's family to name a few. The youth continued to be active by bowling on MLK weekend, a summer trip for the teens, National Youth Conference, Truth & Peace and YET team member—Hope Walker.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Craig Smith led the congregation in song to open the worship service singing "Victory in Jesus." Marie Rutger played "I Will Serve Thee" while the offering was received. The Oak Valley ladies blessed us with special music—"When Peace Like a River" and "It is Well With My Soul." Ernie Lewis introduced the speaker, Joel Teague and he shared greetings from his parents as well as his wife and daughter.

Joel shared his personal story with us. He was 5 ½ years old when his parents went to France, and within 6 months he was speaking French and at ease in the culture. He grew up not wanting to be a missionary, but wanting a good job, career and house. When he accomplished these goals, he noticed people around him didn't know God. That became a burden to him—to do something about it. Then he shared how Jerry Gibbs influenced Lydie, and made an impact on her.

France is a dark spiritual place. The occult is very big. Joel shared his burden for France, how there are 99.8% of the people where he lives that are not ready for the Lord's return. They do not know there is a God. For 30 years, Dennis Teague has lived in France. Within the last 5 years, things are happening. The French might open up to someone they trust. Joel read John 4:35 and Matthew 28:19 & 20 as his objective. If this country is going to change, it needs disciples. France is a hard country for young believers—there are not many resources for them. Joel showed a video so that we might see what they are doing in France to meet new people. He asked us to partner with them and support their efforts.

BUSINESS SESSION (CONT.)

David Burgess made a motion to give Joel Teague \$300 and Tyler Penn \$50. Second—John Hollis. Motion passed.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

The report from the Examining Committee was read.

1. Examining Committee has approved the reports of the following ministers for annual cards of good standing and recommending the body to approve:

David Shores, Ernie Lewis, Luther Ganieany, John Hollis, Phillip Kennedy, Tyler Penn, David Burgess, Shane Davison, Scott Bee, Jamie Lee, Craig Smith, and Richard Brown.

2. Upon request of their churches the following are qualified for cards of good standing (these are at retirement age): James Boggs and Jesse Allen.
3. We recommend granting Richard Brown a ministers license as he has given satisfactory reports and has fulfilled his year of being set aside. He will now begin his 2 year study course for ordination.
4. We recommend Karel Smith to be accepted into full fellowship and receive a card of good standing—pending a letter from Metro East (previous district) stating his position and good standing.
5. We recommend Clarence Porter be issued a card of good standing upon receiving of his annual ministers report.

Signed: John Hollis, Jamie Lee and Ernie Taylor

Motion, second and motion passed to accept the report of the Examining Committee. Bro. Ernie Taylor came forward with Bro. Richard Brown and presented him with his minister's license.

CALVARY FWB CHURCH

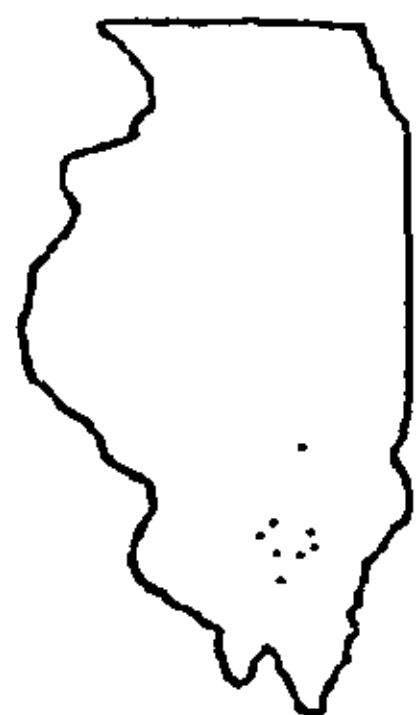
Jamie Lee shared with us about the congregation at Calvary. Their focus is on Christ—to be Christ filled, Christ centered and Christ driven in everything they do in the community. He is blessed to be loved and supported by this congregation. Bro. Jamie is looking for their study to change how people pray and study. The Lord is moving in this service.

DELEGATES

The Illinois State Meeting will be March 15 & 16 in O'Fallon at the Victory Church. Delegates were sought for the meeting. Mike Robertson, Richard Brown and Kathy Hayes were named as our district delegates. A motion and second for Moderator Scott Bee to appoint others attending the meeting as delegates was passed.

The next district meeting will be April 13th at the Pleasant View FWB Church. CTS competitors are encouraged to present their entries as the program for the meeting. It is a good time to practice!

MSC to adjourn the meeting. A big Thank You was voiced to the Oak Valley ladies for the food and hospitality they provided today. Bro. John Hollis offered prayer.



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April 13, 2013 Minutes

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

Susan Burgess played the piano and Mike Crabtree led the singing as the congregation sang “Jesus, Hold My Hand”. David Burgess opened in prayer and welcomed everyone to the Pleasant View Church. He read from Romans 1:16-25 and shared his thoughts on a thankful heart not being optional. He began with a Charlie Brown illustration where Snoopy is thinking how unfair it is for him to be fed dog food on Thanksgiving Day. He quickly decides it could be worse—he could be a turkey! In Romans, Paul links ingratitude and an ungrateful heart. Minds become clouded and hearts become dark, and we begin to question, “What have you done for me lately?” Thanking God is more than right thinking. David suggested that sometimes it is easy to miss all the blessings around us because we are surrounded by them. Paul lived with a thankful heart, and he gave Jesus thanks. We need to be like Jesus, and it begins with a grateful attitude—a grateful heart. David then listed several things to be thankful for like difficult times, limitations, new challenges, mistakes and even being tired and weary. He ended with encouraging us to be thankful because God has blessed us. Then he closed his devotion with prayer.

BUSINESS SESSION

Under the direction of Moderator Scott Bee, the clerk called the meeting to order to do business for our Lord. Standing Delegates were recognized and letters from 8 churches were read. The Salem FWB Church did not report numbers, but rather sent a letter withdrawing from the District Association. A motion was seconded and passed to accept the letters and seat the delegates representing these churches. Bro. Scott Bee noted that we have tried to contact the Salem Church.

The minutes of the previous meeting were available in printed form for everyone to read. There was a question about Bro. Karel Smith’s credentials, and Ernie Taylor informed us that he had received a letter from the other district. MSC to approve the minutes.

The treasurer’s report was given. Beginning balance of \$850.02. Dues collected \$1595, offering \$214. Available funds \$2659.02. Expenses paid out were \$1360 dues to the State Association, \$390 Joel Teague, \$50 Tyler Penn, \$75 Mark King \$75 Disaster Response, leaving a balance of \$709.02. MSC to receive the treasurer’s report.

Bro. Scott asked David Pittman to fill the vacancy on the Business Committee and Brad DeCicco to fill the vacancy on the Youth Committee.

David Shores gave a report on the State Association happenings. The meeting was good, everyone served their positions well. He mentioned the Ignite the Flame events taking place, and mentioned that the E-TEAM members were working hard to raise the funds for their trips. The last Sunday in April will be the World Missions Offering.

In the absence of Ernie Lewis, Jamie Lee gave a report on the Illinois missions. The Marana Project is doing well. They had 275 people in attendance with most of them there for the first time. Regular attendance is around 70 to 75 people. Pray that people would get rooted in the Word. The Illini Initiative is a unique ministry. God is using the Tyler Penn family and sending His Word out into the

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world. The Discovery Church in Collinsville is looking for a better building to suit the needs of that group.

Susan Burgess reported for the Illinois Women Active For Christ. Their meeting will be May 4th at the Peace Church in Granite City. The speaker will be Elisabeth Hodges.

Ernie Taylor announced that the Master's Men State Retreat would be September 12—14th at Camp Hope. There would be a work camp in West Virginia sometime in May for anyone interested in going to help there.

MORNING BREAK:)

***Please note that following the break, the Examining Committee had finished their duties and was assembled with the congregation before the Business Committee finished meeting. This is "History in the Making!!"

LOCAL CHURCH REPORTS

Crossroads FWB Church—John Hollis began by thanking everyone for their prayers while he had surgery. David Mishler, Luther Ganieaney, and Johnny Hollis filled the pulpit while John was recovering. The deacons also served as they were needed for funeral services and other occasions. Tyler Penn was called on to conduct a funeral as well. Sister Vickie's father passed (George Ragland), and we continue to remember her family in prayer. Crossroads stayed busy thru the year with various activities and services. May 19th will be their 32nd Homecoming, and June 10—14th will be the VBS. Continue to join Crossroads in prayer as they try to reach John Mentor, Kathleen Meyer, Dee Butler, Heather Baker and others for the Lord.

Decatur FWB Church—Scott Bee shared his thoughts about pastoring the Decatur Church. The more he learns the more he does not know. When Scott came to Decatur he had an attitude of "All About God." God has blessed the church with good workers. Twenty decisions for Christ have been made, and some have been baptized. Decatur Church realizes that we can never be content. There are still more people to be reached. The culture today is not the "good 'ol days" anymore. Bro. Scott is thankful to be the pastor of a wonderful church.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Business Committee report was read as follows:

1. Business Committee recommends our district give \$100 to Holly Petty to help finance her trip to Bulgaria.
2. Business Committee recommends our district send a letter to Phil Pittman, aka Phil On The Hill, showing our support in his work against Foxy Ladyzz club in Dix.
3. Business Committee recommends our member churches adopt language in their local constitutions disallowing homosexual activity in their congregation according to Article 17 in our State Constitution.
4. Business Committee recommends giving \$100 to World Missions Offering.

Signed: Tim Hayes, Lee Penn, and David Pittman

There was a motion and second to receive the report in its entirety. Motion to amend the previous motion to consider the items individually. MSC.

Item #1—MSC to give \$100 to Holly Petty.

Item #2—Send Phil Pittman a letter showing our support in his efforts against the night club in Dix. The question posed as to what Phil has done so far. Phil Pittman is an active member of the Antioch Church and has addressed Dix city council and their attorney to enforce ordinances on the books against this club. Question: Does he need finances to help in the fight? The answer is unclear at this time. A motion to amend item #2 was seconded to have David and Susan Burgess compose said letter. Motion was voted on and carried.

Item #3—MSC to encourage each local church in our district to evaluate the language in their local church constitutions so that it would be in accordance with Article 17 of the Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptist Churches constitution and by-laws.

Item #4—MSC to send \$100 to the World Missions Offering.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Youth Committee report was read as follows: We would like to announce that there is an activity after the district meeting for the youth to attend. See Phillip Kennedy for details. We would also like to invite all who would like to attend the State CTS competition at the Ina FWB Church on April 26 & 27th. Please come out to support all our Illinois youth. Signed: Phillip Kennedy, Bradley DeCicco and Ed Ferguson. MSC to receive items as a slate.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

The Examining Committee report was read as follows: Examining Committee has approved the report of Richard Brown. We met with Bro. Richard on April 4th, he has finished his first quarter studies and is starting his second quarter. We commend him on his efforts and studies.

We have received a letter of good standing from Metro East for Bro. Karel Smith and he has been issued a card of good standing. Signed: Ernie Taylor, Jamie Lee and John Hollis. MSC to receive as slate.

There was a motion, second and motion carried to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting will be at the Blue Point FWB Church on July 13, 2013. Thank you to Pleasant View for their hospitality and hosting this meeting.

WORSHIP SERVICE

We entered into the worship service by singing “Heaven Came Down”. The offering was received by Payton Dandurand (Crossroads Church) and Blake Hayes (Pleasant View Church) while Susan Burgess played “Oh How Wonderful, Oh How Marvelous” on the piano.

Phillip Kennedy conducted the youth thru their competition events for the worship service. Payton Dandurand exercised his Memorization skills by reciting the Great Commission and the Bible Library. The Pleasant View youth presented a skit, “Easter, Easter, Easter.” Youth members included Erin Maas, Callah Mathena, Rachel Maas, Emily Bain and Blake Hayes. They were directed by Susan Burgess. Callah Mathena then presented a dramatic reading, “The Diary.” The Mt. Vernon Youth came prepared to play Bible Millionaire. Michael Rose, Damien Rose, Teanaya Henson and Michael Scott comprised this team. Their group was directed by Peggy Ferguson, and she prayed before the match that pitted Mt. Vernon against the Pleasant View group. It was a good time of friendly competition.

Final directions were given as the Youth would be transported to the Kell School gymnasium for pizza and activities. The adults remained at the church for lunch and fellowship.



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JULY 13, 2013 MINUTES

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

Host Pastor Ernie Lewis greeted everyone and welcomed us to Blue Point FWB Church. Susan Burgess played the piano and Bro. Ernie led the congregation in singing "To God Be the Glory." David Burgess prayed and Bro. Ernie shared a devotion from Luke 8:43—48. This is the scripture about a woman in desperation and ends with a beautiful picture of one coming to Peace. This woman, in sad desperation, had suffered for twelve years, and was now physically, financially and spiritually drained. She was determined, somehow to reach Jesus for healing. If only she could touch his clothing...that was her hope. Deliverance came, immediately healing her. When asked, "Who touched me?" she fell before Jesus in declaration of his healing touch. Faith had made her whole. Bro. Ernie encouraged us to trust in God—He makes all the difference. Then he closed his devotion in prayer.

BUSINESS SESSION

Clerk, Paula L. Hayes, called the East Central District Association to order to do business for our Lord. In the absence of Moderator T. Scott Bee, Assistant Moderator Ernie Lewis conducted the meeting. Standing Delegates were asked to rise and be recognized. The clerk read the letters from six local churches. *Clerk's note: The letter and dues from the Decatur church were received after the meeting. A motion and second was made to seat the delegates and accept the letters from the local churches. Motion carried.

The treasurer was not able to attend and sent her report with the clerk. This report was read as follows: Beginning with a balance of \$709.02, income received includes dues of \$280 and an offering of \$210, giving a total of \$1,199.27 available. Expenses paid out include \$100 to Holly Petty (Hanna Project), \$75 to Mark King account, \$75 to Disaster Relief Fund and \$100 to World Missions Offering, leaving a balance of \$849.27 July 1, 2013. MSC to accept the report from the treasurer.

Several vacancies needed to be filled on the committees. David Burgess was asked to sit on the Examining Committee. Luther Ganieany and Tish Taylor were asked to complete the Business Committee and Ann Ganieany filled the vacancy on the Youth Committee.

REPORTS

Tyler Penn brought greetings from the Fields Church in Champaign. They are looking forward to the students getting back to the university. They plan community events and game nights as well as services to draw people to the Lord. September 1st will begin Sunday services.

Other mission updates included the Bennett's sent a team to Oklahoma to help after the tornadoes. The Carney's have gone to Oklahoma as well and will be back in Illinois late in July. The Davisons continue to work in France and look forward to Patrick McDaniel joining the TEAM there. The Detherage's will be going back to Mongolia in August. Becky Ham continues to need prayer concerning her health problems. Jeff Goodman is excited about 91 attending service there. Steven Gray reports that the Discovery Church closed on new property in July. It is on the highway that goes thru Collinsville. There are two buildings on the property, so they are excited to make plans how to utilize these buildings for the Lord's work. Sarah Malone has been involved with the youth camps this summer. Craig and Sara Portell are in the States. Pray for them as they recover and heal after the miscarriage of their baby. Mark and Khristi Shores continue in Albuquerque. National Home Missions has declared them self-supporting, but Illinois continues to support them. The Teague families will be returning to France later this summer or fall. Joel's wife, Lydie will speak at the National Association.

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Susan Burgess encouraged the women to attend the WNAC activities in Tampa, Florida. Lydie Teague and Lorene Miley will be speakers at the various women's services.

The Men's Retreat will be September 12 thru 14th at Camp Hope. Terry Pierce will be the speaker. Then Adult Camp Meeting will be held September 22 thru 25th at Camp Hope. Bob Thomas will be the evangelist for those services.

The youth camps have been well attended. Eleven were saved during Primary week and 12 saved during Jr. High week. Senior High week of camp will be August 5 thru 9th with Gowdy Cannon serving as the evangelist that week.

The committees were directed to meet downstairs in the classrooms during break. We were each instructed to eat six donuts—Ernie has extra!

BREAK

BUSINESS SESSION (cont.)

Minutes from the April meeting were available in printed form. There was a motion and second to approve the minutes. Motion passed. A question arose as to whether anyone had contacted the Salem FWB Church. The concern has come before the Executive board of the Illinois State Association and they are trying to consider ideas that might help the small group that remains.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Youth Committee report was read as follows: On August 2nd, Johnston City will be having a youth rally. Jon Cannon will be the speaker. Signed: Tyler Penn, Phillip Kennedy and Ann Ganieany. MSC to accept this report.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Business Committee report was read as follows:

1. Bro. David Burgess wrote a letter and met with businessman Phil Pitman of "Phil on the Hill" lumber yard in Dix, Illinois regarding the "Foxy Lady" club, giving (Mr. Pitman) our support. Bro. Burgess met with Mr. Pitman on April 18, 2013 to deliver the letter. Mr. Pitman and about 80 others are attempting to force the "club" to correct the ordinances that they are in violation of.
2. Regarding need to appoint a new clerk, Paula will be ending her time as clerk in October. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated.
3. Need a Nominating Committee.

Signed: Mike Robertson, Luther Ganieany, and Tish Taylor.

A motion to deal with this report item by item was seconded and carried. Item #1—Concerning the letter and meeting with Mr. Pitman—David Burgess explained that a group of about 80 individuals are supporting the ordinances this club is in violation of. Formal papers have been served to the owner of this club. The East Central District Association has shown support to Mr. Pitman and this group in Dix. Continue to pray for this community as they take a stand. Item #2 is for your information and consideration. Item #3—The Business Committee in the past has served as the Nominating Committee. MSC.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

The report from the Examining Committee was read as follows:

- 1.) This committee met with Bro. Richard Brown Thursday, July 11 at Salem, Illinois. We approved his report (quarterly) and evaluated his study course answers. He has just successfully completed his second section of study course. Bro. Richard is obviously committed and dedicated to his preparation study toward ordination. He has recently been studying in "How to Prepare Sermons", Free Will Baptist Doctrine, Bible Study (Joshua).
- 2.) After reviewing the request for a letter of good standing for Bro. Bud Porter, we recommend that we send a letter of good standing for Bro. Bud to South Central Quarterly, Kathy Brown, Clerk.

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

A motion and second to vote item by item on the Examining Committee report was carried. Item #1—Concerning Richard Brown—accepted as information. He will have hip replacement surgery on July 29th. Item #2—concerning Bro. Bud Porter. MSC to send a letter of good standing to the South Central Quarterly of Tennessee, Clerk Kathy Brown.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was a motion and second to give \$250 to Mark King's account. It is always good to see Mark when he is in the States. We are glad for him to be here today. Motion was passed.

Our next meeting will be at the Calvary FWB Church in Salem on October 12, 2013.

LOCAL CHURCH REPORTS

MT. VERNON FIRST FWB CHURCH—Phillip Kennedy gave the report from Mt. Vernon. Their Homecoming was the second week of June, and Mike Gillock was the preacher that day. Living Proof provided the singing service for them. The Mt. Vernon youth have been very active raising money for their trip to the Nationals this month. They had a good week of Vacation Bible School and many attended youth camps this summer. Phillip asked us to remember their youth in prayer, as many have broken homes, thus spending time at the other parent's home. Mt. Vernon First is adding on to their sanctuary. They had a water problem, so that is being taken care of and they are making structural changes to the sanctuary.

OAK VALLEY FWB CHURCH—Richard Brown brought the report from Oak Valley Church. They are moving forward and looking forward. Young couples are coming with their babies. It takes time to grow! They had six youth go to camp, and one helper, Laurel Pennington. Three got saved, Praise the Lord! They have a new step in their giddy-up! He mentioned the ministry with the food pantry. Attendance is up a little bit—they are seeing around 50 to 60 in the Sunday morning service. There is a potential for growth as they look around the community and see kids that would come if they ran a bus. A bus ministry needs workers, and the church needs workers. Seats are empty, because people are busy and need to get involved in what's #1—God. Bro. Richard requested prayer for all our churches as things change in this world. The food pantry is Hope Food Center. It is an empty church—full now of people in need.

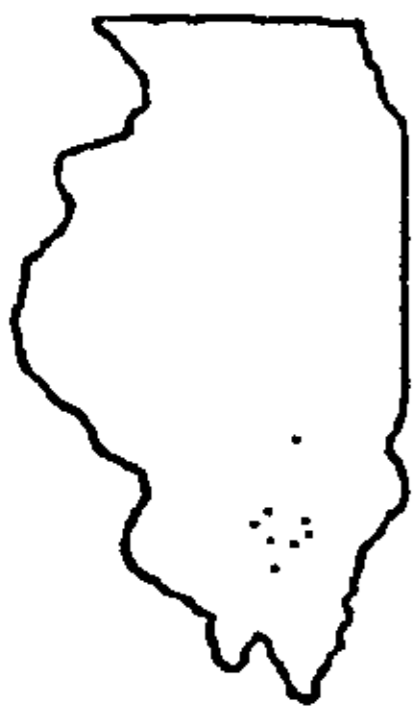
MSC to adjourn the business meeting and begin the worship service.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Susan Burgess came to the piano and Ernie Lewis led the congregation in singing "Heavenly Sunlight." Phillip Kennedy offered prayer. The congregation sang "I Need Thee Every Hour" and an offering was received by ushers Tyler Penn and John Hollis.

Mark King was the speaker and began by sharing his weekly schedule with us. In his schedule he teaches English classes, but there is also time for one on one conversation with his students. He tries to be open to times with his students to share even more of the Word with them. Many of them are interested in not just the language study but the Word. Mark read James 2:1 thru 11. James points out two themes, love and faith. Rich were being favored over the poor many times in the Bible. Favoritism = Mercy Judging = Sin. God chose poor people to be rich in spiritual things. Mark pointed out that if one does not show mercy, no mercy will be shown to that one. In verses 14 thru 26 we see a contrast of one who says he has faith and the one who shows he has faith. Hebrews chapter 11 is the faith chapter. It is full of active verbs. Faith is completed by works (actions). In conclusion, Mark encouraged us to study James, and pointed out that the study of James should affect our behavior. Does your love and faith affect your actions? Support—Prayer—Go!

Prayer requests were mentioned concerning the National Association, Lee Penn who took ill last night and could not attend today, Richard Brown will have hip replacement soon and Jared Hollis. We voiced thanks to the Burgesses for composing the letter of support to Mr. Pittman in Dix, and appreciation given to the Blue Point Church for their hospitality hosting this meeting. John Hollis offered prayer and asked the blessing on the food that we would enjoy in fellowship.



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MEETING OCTOBER 12, 2013

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

The East Central District Association met at the Calvary FWB Church in Salem, Illinois on a rainy fall day. With Paula L. Hayes at the piano, Mike Crabtree led the congregation in singing "Jesus, Hold My Hand". Host pastor, Jamie Lee offered prayer and then gave devotion from Exodus 6:6-9. He asked, "Why do we believe the Bible?" This passage from Exodus has been an influence in his life because God promises, "I will..." In verse six, the Lord promises, "I will" deliver you. He promises freedom from slavery, and redemption with mighty acts of judgment. In verse seven, "I will" take you as My own people, and "I will" be your God. Then in verse eight, He promises, "I will" bring you to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Because of "I will", that is why we hold true to the Word of God. God is Faithful! Scott Bee offered prayer.

BUSINESS SESSION

Clerk Paula L. Hayes called the meeting to order to do business for our Lord. The standing delegates stood to be recognized. The church letters were read by the clerk. MSC to accept the letters and seat the delegates from the local churches.

The minutes of the July meeting were available in printed form. As there were no questions or corrections, there was a motion and second to accept the minutes as given. Motion carried.

Kathy Hayes gave the treasurer's report. Beginning with a balance of \$849.27, dues of \$240. an offering of \$199 were added to make available \$1288.27. Expenses paid out include \$135.56 for the Youth event, \$140 Mark King (Speaker), and \$75 Mark King and \$75 Disaster Relief Fund and \$250 Mark King Account. This leaves a balance as of October 12, 2013 of \$612.71. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

Moderator Scott Bee filled vacancies on the committees: David Burgess to replace Lee Penn and David Shores to replace Tim Hayes on the Business Committee. Joy Pittman was asked to replace Ed Ferguson on the Youth Committee this morning.

REPORTS

ILLINOIS STATE—David Shores gave a report from around the state. Adult Camp was a good meeting. He was placed in charge of getting a speaker for next year, so if you have ideas speak to Bro. David. The Illinois Newsletter is going on-line. He sends out 800 copies of the newsletter thru the postal service. So far, only 7 or 8 have signed up on-line. Please help get the word out about the on-line newsletter. It is not worth the work to put it on-line if there are not any users looking at it.

ILLINOIS MISSIONS—Ernie Lewis handed out an update on the Illinois based missionaries. The Bennett's and Goodman's in Marana, Arizona had three saved recently. They are beginning a new ministry—"Be the Change." The Carney's are home. Contact them if you would like to schedule a service with them. The Davison's are starting up for the fall. The Detherage account is hurting, but they have started teaching. The Gray's in Collinsville have new property on North Bluff Rd. They are renovating to make good use of the facilities. Becky Ham is finishing her master's degree. Mark King has been home, we heard from him last meeting. Sarah Malone travels a lot in her work--keep her in prayer. Tyler Penn has a new location for the Fields Church. Craig and Sara Portell continue their work as do the Teague families in France. Mark & Khristi Shores are going self-supporting. However, the Illinois Missions Board will still support them.

Tyler Penn gave us information about The Fields Church in Champaign. They are glad for the students to be back on campus. They are working with many international students to spread the Gospel throughout the world. They continue to meet in the English Corner at the Axiom, where they have conversation with students from around the world. Bro. Tyler asked that we remember Gavin in prayer.

ILLINOIS WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST—Susan Burgess invited all the ladies to the ILWAC state meeting the first Saturday in May. The meeting will be in Johnston City. She also shared how she had been invited recently to a meeting about World Missions. She learned some things that she would like to share with the local Women Active for Christ groups in Illinois, so contact Susan if your group would like her to share with you and celebrate missions.

MASTER'S MEN—Ernie Taylor reported on the Master's Men Retreat. Their pie auction raised just over \$1000 for Nancy Drake and the needs of her family. Pray for Nancy and her family as they battle cancer.

□ **Moderator: Bro. T. Scott Bee**
2705 N. 27th St.
Decatur, IL 62526

□ **Asst. Moderator: Bro. Ernie Lewis**
1176 County Road 1975N
Cisne, IL 62823

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

Having heard the reports of the various groups, we were dismissed for a time of refreshment and fellowship. The committees were instructed to meet and take care of items of business.

BREAK

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The report from the Business Committee was read as follows:

1. Officers nominated for 2014
Moderator—Scott Bee
Asst. Moderator—Ernie Lewis
Clerk—Susan Burgess
Treasurer—Kathy Hayes
Business Committee—Lee Penn (2016)
Examining Committee—Jamie Lee (2016)
Youth Committee—Brad DeCicco (2016)
Executive Committee—John Hollis (2014)
2. Recommend a special time of prayer for:
Mike Johnston (By-pass surgery)
Richard Brown (Surgery coming up)
Nancy Drake (Cancer) Hazel Dell pastor's daughter
3. Give \$200 to Team Nancy Fund for Nancy Drake.

Signed: Mike Robertson, David Shores and David L. Burgess.

There was a motion and second to vote on these items individually. Item #1 Motion to elect the slate as presented was seconded and passed. Item #2 was accepted as a recommendation. Item #3 MSC to give \$200 to the Team Nancy Fund.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

1. There is a Youth Retreat at Camp Hope scheduled for November 1-2. It starts at 5 p.m. and ends at 11 a.m.
2. Welcome Days for Welch College is scheduled for November 7th, 8th and 9th.
3. We are in the planning stages of a youth rally for late winter. If you have interest for the youth in your church see Phillip Kennedy.

Signed: Tyler Penn, Phillip Kennedy and Joy Pittman

There was a motion, second and motion carried to accept this report as information.

LOCAL CHURCH REPORTS

PLEASANT VIEW CHURCH—Susan Burgess gave the report from the Pleasant View Church. In October they went bowling, November they had a Thanksgiving feast and service with the Calvary church. They also collected canned goods for needy families. In February Bro. Burnside (90+ years old) was baptized. In March, David and Susan both had been hospitalized as well as deacon Larry Maas. April of course was Easter special services. The youth presented a skit for Easter as well as at the District meeting and CTS competition. May brought the Mother/Daughter Banquet with Calvary ladies. VBS came in June for the SonWest Roundup. In August they began trying to spark up Sunday School. David Shores brought the Homecoming message in September and Dale Burgess blessed with song service.

BLUE POINT CHURCH—Ernie Lewis brought the report from the Blue Point Church. They conduct services for a nursing home on Tuesday mornings. Wednesdays bring Bible study where they have gone thru several books of the Bible and have new couples coming. Blue Point has team recognition for the school teams and they are well attended by participants and families. The Women Active for Christ have a talent night for missions and a ladies banquet. VBS is still a great ministry bringing 265 kids and 40 workers. They had 20 kids go to youth camp and 6 or 7 workers. The community has a big reunion and Blue Point sells taco in a bag and passes out water bottles. The cookout at Johnsonville School is a good time to reach out to families in the area. The teens participate in "See you at the Pole", as well as other outings thru the year—bowling, Holiday World, Youth Conference, Truth and Peace, hiking, etc. In the coming weeks they will have Chili and Chowder, with a hayride. Then Trunk or Treat comes with a program before opening their trunks to give out treats. The end of the year brings about a candlelight service that everyone enjoys. Blue Point has many home ties to missionaries. They try to support them in their work. Pray with Blue Point as they move forward in a building plan.

Before entering into worship service, Bro. Scott encouraged us to pray for each pastor and each church in our district. Kathy Hayes announced that the Calvary youth had made the sweet rolls that we enjoyed during the break. They are selling the extras if anyone wants to take some home.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Ben Barcroft and Kira Endebrock led the singing with Debby Woolbright playing the piano. The congregation sang "He Lives" and "It Is Well With My Soul." Ushers Scott Bee and Phillip Kennedy received the offering after Phillip prayed.

Pastor Jamie Lee brought the morning message from Revelation chapter three. He shared with us a personal testimony of how God has assured him he is in the right place. Bro. Jamie stated that it is not doing the will of God that he struggles with, but knowing the will of God. God has a special call on each of us—being a comfort. Servants that He calls

are in His hand. Today are you looking for encouragement or strength? Jesus gives us, thru the call, an opportunity of impacting the church and community. In Revelation 3:7 Jesus holds the key of David. A key allows access and grants authority and availability. Paul wrote many times in his letters of the open doors Jesus led him thru. Bro. Jamie reminded us that we are powerless without Jesus being the center of our lives. Jesus opens and holds the doors for those who are willing to walk thru them. It takes courage and obedience. Christ opens the door and holds it open. He wants us to see what's on the other side. God sustains the call. There is a sense of urgency that we answer. Bro. Jamie asked us to stand and then he closed in prayer.

BUSINESS SESSION(CONT.)

Moderator Scott Bee announced that the next meeting would be January 11, 2014 at the Crossroads FWB Church in Effingham. The Examining Committee had returned with their report. It read as follows: This committee has met with Bro. Richard Brown. We have gone over his study section he turned in. This completes his section #3 successfully. We commend Bro Richard for his commitment and faithfulness in this study course. This section included: 1.Soul winning, 2. Prayers and 3. Bible course (some OT and NT books). His quarterly report was also appreciated and approved.

Signed: John Hollis, Jamie Lee and Ernie Taylor. MSC to accept this report.

There are announcement reminders printed on the back of today's bulletin. In accordance with Item #2 of the Business Committee report we stood for prayer. Concerns brought before the Lord were Mike Johnston (by-pass surgery), Richard Brown (facing surgery) and Nancy Drake (cancer treatments). Phillip Kennedy offered prayer for these mentioned and blessing on the food and fellowship to follow. A big thank you was given to the host church, Calvary. Meeting adjourned.