



Illinois Free Will Baptist

September 2018

Newsletter

THREE GREAT SEPTEMBER EVENTS!

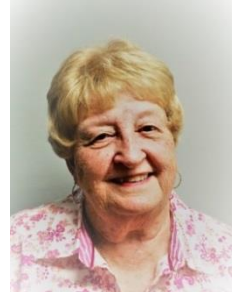
Camp Meeting Camp Hope September 9 – 12 6:30pm



Song Leader
LARRY CLYATT



Evangelist
BOBBY JACKSON



Pianist
DORIS WALLACE

25th Anniversary

Master's Men Retreat September 13 – 15 at Camp Hope

The retreat gives time for quiet mediation, worship services, Communion Service, wonderful meals, plus fellowship and competitive events such as horse shoe pitching, fishing, skeet shooting and archery. The retreat will close with a pie auction to raise money for a missions project. This is a cost free program sponsored by the **Illinois Master's Men Board**



How Godly Women ...Lead Illinois Women's Retreat

Friday & Saturday
September 28-29, 2018

Registration 5:00-5:30pm
Supper 6:00pm
Saturday Brunch 8:30am,
Service 9:00am
& Benediction 11:45am
Camp Hope, Ewing



Elizabeth HodgesSpeakers..... Sarah Malone



Bring your friends – Ladies & Girls

\$25 suggested donation for speakers and expenses

Seminar, Music, Drama Team, Prayer Walk

Surprises! Major Food & Fun



PASTOR MARCELLUS J. LEONARD WITH THE LORD

Rev. Dr. Marcellus J. Leonard was born in Chicago, on September 19, 1939 and departed this life on August 3rd, 2018 in his home in Springfield. Brother Leonard served as Pastor at Heritage Church in Springfield for several years. He earned both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Chicago State University cum laude. Later he earned his PhD from The University of Illinois. According to his obituary, "He was given the opportunity to Pastor Heritage Free Will Baptist Church and he took it. He dove into his new responsibility with excitement and anticipation. Over the years his church members became a real family. He enjoyed worshipping, praying, studying, and fellowshiping together with them all. At Heritage, he had cultivated a new family, and they all made a deep impact on his life by their love and acceptance of him."

We appreciate the work of Brother Leonard and his involvement with our State Association. He served as pastor, attended the annual Master's Men's meetings at Camp Hope as well as denominational functions. His funeral is scheduled for Monday, September 3, 2018 at Heritage Free Will Baptist Church, located at 3436 South Douglass Avenue in Springfield. Visitation: 11:30am-12:00pm. Service: 12:00pm. Please pray for his family.

BROTHER BILL NELSON, pastor of the Moline Church for many years had to retire recently because of health reasons. He served very well and did far and above what was expected of him. Our State Association prays for a wonderful time of retirement, and we send special thanks for lengthy and faithful service. May God bless you!

WALTONVILLE CHURCH

Pastor: Harell Hungate Reporter: Maxine Hicks

Fifty people had a really good day on August 11th at our All-Day VBS! Brother Curtis Smith and his wife, Emily, along with several others from the Harmony Church planned the special day. There was good singing, good lessons, good crafts and a good lunch served at noon. The theme was, "Shipwrecked" and the church was very beautifully decorated. The kids seemed to really enjoy it and so did the adults. Hopefully we can do this again sometime.

HARMONY CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Jennifer Cook

As the children and teachers prepare to return to the classroom I pray that there will be boldness of faith in the youth, teachers and staff throughout our school systems. I pray that God's hand of protection will remain on all those who enter in. I am truly thankful God's presence is always near. He is our solid and unbreakable stronghold!

On July 15th, Harmony held Talent Night during the evening service. It was an indescribable time of worship, praise and freedom in the Spirit. As each one shared their gifts, God's name was increasingly magnified and the presence of the Holy Spirit was overwhelming. Praise to the Almighty God for His blessings that abundantly flow!

On August 1st, Sister Joan Bozovich went home to be with the Lord. She lovingly ministered to the children at Harmony for over 25 years. Our love and prayers go out to the family. She will be sorely missed by us that remain, but praise the Lord she is with our Savior Jesus Christ in Heaven!

The evening of August 2nd the Masters Men attended the Men's Rally at Hazel Dell Church.

On Sunday August 5th, Harmony's Outreach Team travelled to Bridge Church in Champaign to assist with the service and various ministries throughout the morning. Please pray for our young adults as they grow in their relationship with Christ and in boldness as they step out to make a difference in our communities.

On August 11th, Harmony joined Waltonville Church in hosting a one day VBS program. There were approximately 20 children who attended. Praise God for all those who sacrificed their Saturday to go and spread the Good News! Harmony will host a revival September 30th through October 5th (or longer!!). Please pray fervently for this revival, that it will spread through the body of Christ and into all the surrounding communities and beyond! We serve a Mighty, Awesome, BIG God who can stir the fires of revival to spread throughout the land!

*"I will love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.
My God, my strength, in whom I will trust. My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised." ~ Psalm 18:1-3*

BRIDGE CHURCH

Pastor: Jamie Lee

This week I noticed the traffic has picked up here in Champaign - which means 3 things!

1. School is getting closer to being session.
2. Illini football kicks off September 1.
3. We are weeks away from our launch date.

After 5 preview services, our team is in stride and we have hit some momentum. Our average for preview services was 68 which exceeded our expectations and our goals for the preview service. Special thanks to Harmony and Rescue. On August 5 they came in to help. Having both groups helped us gauge crowd control. On August 5 we had 10 new guests, including 5 international students!

I know we have asked you to partner with us on prayer and we know you continue to pray for us. On August 19th we are going to launch 21 days of prayer with our team to pray for these specific things: God uses our promotions to draw people, God speaks to hearts to join our team (we need 15 more people), and God touches the lives of people during our first sermon series. We would love for you to put this in your bulletin. Thank you for your continued support.

BEAR POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Larry Cook Reporter: Lana Travelstead-Eubanks

What a wonderful summer the Lord has blessed us with. Bear Point has seen many events and activities. June and July saw many of our youth at Camp Hope. It is always a lot of fun and a great way for our youth to make lasting friendships with other Christian youth, continuing to study God's word and reaching out and inviting others to know Jesus.

July activities included; an old fashion picnic following the Sunday service, our annual trip to Nationals and the start of Vacation Bible School. We would like to congratulate the following youth group members that competed at the Vertical III Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.: Alba Newbery, Trevor Confer (1st Place), Jaxon Hollis, Layla Newbury (2nd Place), Maddie Kate Hollis, Katie Mygatt (1st & 3rd Place), and Lauren Mygatt (1st & 2nd Place). They all did a fantastic job and we are all so pleased see them laboring for the Lord.

We had a great Vacation Bible School this year, beginning July 29 through August 2nd. Chrissy Confer was our new director this year and did a fantastic job. Chrissy has been very active for many years in Vacation Bible School, so transitioning into the director position was seamless and we are grateful for her willingness to take over this position. And thank you to all those volunteers who helped with it. We had week high total of 82 on Wednesday, 55 students and 27 workers.

In August, we have had more bake sales to continue to raise money for next years' CTS and our Sunday School Committee has been busy getting together teachers and officers for the new teaching year.

As it is September, we look back at the summer remembering the great work that has been done, the planting, the sowing and now it is the time of the Harvest. *Luke 10:2 says, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."* Let us continue to pray for labourers and to be ready to do what God may ask each of us to do...for the Harvest is great!

NEW HOPE CHURCH

Pastor: Craig Smith Reporter: Jackie Capps

On July 1st, our youth and others attended the SI Miners baseball game.

Lucy Smith, Kaitlyn Catron, and Tonyia Neal took rice krispie treats and worked in the kitchen at Camp Hope on July 3rd. Our VBS was held from July 16-20th. "Moose on the Loose" was the theme. The average attendance was thirty-six, plus several workers and teachers.

A Youth Sunday was held on July 22nd. Lucy Smith organized the service. We have a service for the older youth at the New Hope School. They learn bible verses and sing action songs.

Another baby has been born to our congregation. He is Thadden Coe Lea. His parents are Robert and McClain Lea. He arrived on July 30th.

A work day to put in drains and etc. was held on the first day of August.

We had a huge crowd of people attending the "Celebration of Life" service for Robert Drennan on August 5th. He was our senior deacon. *John 15:5... "for without me ye can do nothing."*

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Ivan Ryan Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Sunday School attendance during July was 79. Hazel Agin, 88, passed away on June 29. Inge Burns, 90, passed away on July 2. She was the mother of Mike Burns. Colleen Mausey, 78, passed away on July 7. Condolences to those families. Jaret Blumenstock joined our church on July 1. Our choir presented a patriotic service on July 8. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on July 18. A CTS fundraiser was held at Cool Spoons in Marion. Brother Gilbert Craig brought the evening worship message on July 22. Several from Arnold View attended the National Convention at Little Rock. Our 5th Sunday Song Service on July 29 was a blessing. Five from our church attended the Hazel Dell Men's Rally on August 2. Great food and uplifting service.

"In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God." - Psalm 62:7

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Larry Clyatt Reporter: Diana Kirk

Greetings from all of us at Hazel Dell. Brother Larry and Sister Peggy attended the Free Will Baptist National Convention. During their absence some of our laymen spoke for our regular services. Brother Mike Sample spoke during our morning service on Sunday, July 22nd. Brother Rusty Miller spoke during the evening service and Brother Larry Jones spoke during our Wednesday night service. So thankful that we have men who are willing to fill in when needed.

Brother Barry Simpson, a representative with the F.W.B. Foundation and Cornerstone Estate Planning, was our guest speaker on Sunday, July 29th. During the morning service he delivered the message and during the evening service he conducted a seminar on "End of Life Planning".

The annual Hazel Dell Men's Rally was held on Thursday, August 2nd. Brother Alan Spangler, Pastor from The Christian Chapel Church in McLeansboro was the speaker. Music was provided by The Gospel Messengers. There were 139 in attendance. Thank you to all who helped in planning, providing food and preparing the dinner.

The monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast was held on Sunday, August 5th.

A baby shower was held on Saturday, August 11th. for baby Oliver Delaneville who will be arriving in October. The parents-to-be are Jeremy and Jennifer (Gibson) Delaneville. Anxious grandparents-to-be are Brian and Lori Gibson.

On Sunday, August 12th, Brother Larry recognized all students, teachers and staff members who are returning to school for the new school year. A special prayer was given. Wednesday evening service was dismissed on August 15th in order for all the churches to meet at the school for a Prayer Walk. Our children and teachers returned to school on August 16th.

Congratulations to Brother Larry and Sister Peggy on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 17th. We appreciate them so much. The Sesser Harvest Crusade will be held September 16th-19th. at Miner's Memorial Park.

"And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed." - Deuteronomy 21:8

PITTSBURG FWB CHURCH

Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel Reporter: Heather Phillips

School is back in session....where did the summer go? A recap of August: Our VBS was a HUGE success! We averaged 200 kids each night! The kids got to hear about the LOVE that Jesus has for them and that God is here for us, no matter where we go or how we feel. It was a fast paced week and everyone, including the workers, had an amazing time!

We hosted our annual Back 2 School Bash last month. We enjoy this community outreach so much! We had over 270 kids walk through the doors of God's house! The kids enjoyed a bible story, free haircuts, games, prizes, snacks, dental exams and FREE school supplies!

The 2018-2019 AWANA season begins September 12. AWANA is open to anyone ages 2-High School. Each Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00pm the kids work on scripture memorization as well as play games and hear a lesson taught by volunteers within our church. If you or someone you know is looking for a great program to be a part of, tell them about AWANA at PFWBC! We will also have adult classes available as well.

We are praying everyone has a safe and healthy start to the school year!

"There Ain't Nothin' Gonna Steal Our Joy, in 2018" ...and no one can rob you of that joy.- John 16:22

FIRST CHURCH – BENTON

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy Reporter: Barbara Spencer

We are so happy that God sent Brother Phillip Kennedy and family to our church. He has been with us just over a month and already new things are being planned. On July 29, we welcomed them "formally" at our Anniversary/Birthday celebration with a household shower and a beautiful cake made by Diane Leffler. James has already gifted us with his voice several times and he is incredible. Joshua loves Sunday School and Children's church. They, along with Jaxon Page and their teacher Mrs. Marci have 40 boxes filled for Operation Christmas Child and are working on more. Sister Jackie and her mother Barbara sang to us at recent Sunday night service. That particular Sunday, there were 4 Barbaras in service.

We are fortunate in having young people with great talent as Zeb and Delaney Leffler provide us with special music every Sunday. Gail and Barbara Spencer, Jerry Legendre, Margaret Legendre, Pastor Phillip and Sister Jackie attended the Quarterly Meeting at Johnston City. Also attending were Darlene Zimmerman and Dana Portell, who spoke a little on their mission. Mark King also spoke. On September 8, there will be a big block party at the church with everything free for those who come, bounce houses, games, food, etc.

Several people are going door to door with flyers and tracts. Gary Cook was able to attend a recent Sunday Service and we continue to pray for him and Sister Mary. Our prayer list is long as is most of yours but remember when you pray - pray for the caregivers too.

ILLINI INITIATIVE

Campus Leader: Tyler Penn

The winter seemed to change to summer overnight here in Champaign this year, and just as fast our ministry switched from Spring English Corner in to full blown Summer English Corner. We have had lower numbers in attendance this summer than we did last summer, however I am very thankful that our Bible Study numbers actually increased from spring to summer. We have enjoyed our time with the students who have been here this summer.

We took some to a fireworks display in Arthur, Illinois that was amazing. One of the students went to Chicago later on the 4th of July and said that the Arthur fireworks were much better. We also took 4 students camping with us. This was their first time to ever camp, eat a s'more, and get scared by a raccoon. One thing that always amazes me is the ability of a campfire to open up conversation with people. Some of my best gospel time came around this campfire at midnight. It is for this moment that I try to take students camping with our family.

Please be in prayer for 4 members of our bible study that will be leaving at the end of the summer. They are Bruna, Li Ting, Shannon, and Yi. They have really been interested in the things of the Bible. Bruna and Shannon would call themselves Christian even though they know very little about the faith. Li Ting and Yi came as non-believers and my hope is that they leave as believers.

It has been a great summer for our family. We have enjoyed spending time at Camp Hope one of our most favorite places in the whole world. We enjoy getting to pour into our youth around our state. Thank you for all you do for the Penn family and the International students at the University of Illinois.

JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Fletcher Reporter: Reba Ritter

The New Life Drama Company, who helped us with Drama/Music Mini-Camp the last week of Lunch Bunch, provided the program at the South Central Quarterly. Mark King brought the devotion. It was a busy weekend. On Friday night, Lunch Bunch's closing program, involved about 30 Drama and Music Campers doing puppets, dramatic sketches, and music. A church full of parents and grandparents came to see their kids perform. NLDC presented a powerful presentation of the Gospel as the closing skit.

After Brother Keith and Sarah returned from the National in Little Rock, he began a series of messages on the theme "Come See." This theme is building up to a public relaunch of our church's ministry in the community next spring. We are currently building a "ReLaunch Team" of individuals and families who share the same passion as we do for sharing Christ in our community. As He changes lives, our town will be changed for the better. Sunday evenings now include "ReLaunch 3D" (The three Ds are discussion, dessert, and decaf).

September 16th is "National Back to Church Sunday". We will practice some relaunch principles as we prepare our facility for guests and invite unchurched and unsaved friends and neighbors to come "back to church."

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels" - Mark 8:38 (NKJV)

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Reporter: Suzanne Lewis Pastor: Ernie Lewis

Several from the church traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas to attend the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Ellie Hill competed in female vocal solo and received a number one rating.

We held our Back-to-School Sunday in August. All of our students and school faculty and staff members gathered on and in front of the stage. Special prayer was held for them and the upcoming school year. Each student was presented with a laser key chain as a reminder to point others to Jesus. We also held a Back-to-School Ice Cream Social that included a cookout of hamburgers and hotdogs.

Several of our teens and youth sponsor, Daniel Simpson, went on a canoeing trip in Indiana. Several of our teens and adults helped out with our many activities and ministries at the Cisne Reunion. We operated a "Taco-in-a-Bag" stand, conducted the Kids Day games held on Saturday morning, and also walked in the parade behind our new church van.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Ralph McCord. Ralph recently passed away after a lengthy illness.

REPORT OF THE CTS BOARD

We are having a good year in CTS. We had 56 entries at the National with 38 placing in competition. We don't emphasize winning as our goal, but the hard work and dedication of all our participants and coaches will plant nuggets of godly character that will hopefully influence our families, churches and ultimately our communities for Christ.

The following are all the young people who placed at the National:

FIRST PLACE:

Junior High Truth Quest – Stephen Lewis
Duets – Jewell and Ellie
Quartet Ina A
Quartet Ina B
Choir: Ina C Choir
Woodwind Solo – Skye Mausey
Bowed String Solo – Josh Jean
Plucked String Solo – Josh Jean
Christian Literature Recitation – Emily Walker
Individual Drama – Jessica Porter
Group Drama – Ina A Drama
Recorded Puppetry- Lift Him Up A
Short Article – Faith Treat
Personal Experience Essay – Lauren Mygatt
Interview – Katie Mygatt
Original Script – Trevor Confer

The CTS Board plans to start with a mailing in a few weeks to encourage all the young people and coaches in all our churches to get involved this year in CTS.

The board really appreciates the support and encouragement all our pastors give to the young people and coaches.

SECOND PLACE

Vocal Solo – Alicen Janus
Male Vocal Solo – Ben Barcroft
Ensemble – Arnold View B Ensemble
Recorded Puppetry – Lift Him Up B
Recorded Puppetry – Lift Him Up C
Mixed Media – Ashten Winter
T-Shirt Design – Phoebe Bunton
Photo Essay – Layla Newbury
Photo Essay – Lauren Mygatt
Conceptual Art – Caylee Fauke
Long Article – Sophie Laughlin

THIRD PLACE

Tic Tac Toe – Calvary
Duet – Phoebe and Alicen
Ensemble – Ina A Ensemble
Keyboard Solo – Allie Jane Dwyer
Group Drama – Ina B Group Drama
Group Drama – Ina C Group Drama
Painting – Lilian Dunaway
Drawings – Seth Ulrey
Photo Essay – Josie Tanner
Sculpted Clay – Skye Mausey
Conceptual Art – Katie Mygatt

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE!

RESCUE CHURCH

Pastor: Bryant Harris Reporter: Donna Harmon

We have been rather busy at Rescue during the summer. Besides our monthly Business Meeting in June, our church took lunch treats and helped serve the noon meal at Camp Hope during Junior/Senior week. Our June meeting of the WAC was held at the home of Jane Harmon. Anne Sink provided the meal, Cathy Lingle brought the dessert and Jane Baine taught the lesson. Our pastor, Brother Bryant served as Camp Director for Junior Camp and Brother Walter Freeman brought the evening message during Brother Bryant's absence.

On July 1st our church met for business, then on the 14th several of our members traveled to the Rend Lake District Meeting at the East Side Community Church.

We had our VBS July 18-20. Ms April would like to thank everyone for their help. It does not matter if you take care of cleaning, doing dishes, teaching class or holding a child's hand, it is your work that really counts. If you look ten years down the road, you will see these children still learning about Jesus Christ. Later in the month our WAC met at the home of Cathy Lingle, and on the last Sunday of July our church traveled to the Harmony Church for Sunday Evening Services and fellowship.

August began with our youth going on a mission trip to the Bridge Church in Champaign. Our Sunday School had only a few people present, but the blessing came to us when several people arrived for church. Brother Freeman filled in again for our pastor. He is a blessing to us! Then, August 28th was a very important day for our church: Tuesday School Registration began.

Our condolences to the family of David Squires who passed away on July 9th. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, son Pokey(Melinda), daughter Jessica (Cameron), and grandchildren. David is Ted and my son-in-law. His last request was that all of us could be with him at the very end of his life. Thank the Lord, we were all there.

"What an awesome God we serve!"

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REQUESTS RECOMMENDATIONS

At the conclusion of his report to delegates at the 2018 national convention, **Executive Secretary Keith Burden announced his retirement, effective December 31, 2019.** Burden's successor will be elected during the 2019 convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Moderator Tim York announced the following procedure for selecting a new executive secretary:

- The Executive Committee is charged with the responsibility of presenting a single candidate for the position of executive secretary to the General Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists by July 2019.
- The Executive Committee will receive candidate recommendations for executive secretary until **October 30, 2018.** A candidate profile form must accompany each recommendation.
- **This form must be completed online and is available at <http://www.nafwb.org/candidate>.**
- All pertinent information regarding this process will be dispersed to pastors, state leaders, General Board members, state papers, and printed in ONE Magazine.
- The Executive Committee will recommend one candidate to the General Board.
- The General Board will recommend one candidate to the National Association.

The executive secretary will be elected by majority vote of the National Association.

The following information will be requested on the recommendation form:

- Candidate's name, address, phone, and email
- Present position held and title
- Personal information: age, date of conversion, marital status, spouse's name, children's names and ages, date called to preach, date of ordination, place of ordination
- Denominational service: churches pastored (with dates); district, state, and denominational positions (with dates)
- Does this person actively support denominational ministries through the Together Way Plan? (cooperative/designated)
- Are there any denominational ministries this person cannot support? List and explain why.
- Education: schools attended, dates, and degrees or diplomas earned
- Other: awards received, books written, community service, etc.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

*Note to Church Reporters: News items for the October issue of the Newsletter must be submitted by September 15th.
Send all correspondence to David Shores: davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org.*

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR CURTIS SMITH:

I would first like to thank all of those who diligently work in our Association as Free Will Baptists in Illinois. A lot of effort, sweat, and tears go into the Lord's work. Many things are going on around the state this year. The new work in Champaign, State Meeting, Quarterly Meetings, youth camps, CTS conference, the National, ongoing improvements at Camp Hope, upcoming Master's Men and WNAC Retreats, and Adult Camp Meeting are just some of the things we as Free Will Baptists have been and are busy with this year.

So in saying those things, please lift these things up to God in prayer. This year has been a busy one for myself. I've had the honor of preaching at the two quarterly meetings, the state meeting, part of four revivals, a homecoming, taught Bible during 7/8 grade camp at Camp Hope in Ewing, was the evangelist during teen week at Camp Jericho in Goreville, helped Harmony put on a VBS and teach Bible at Waltonville, and was able to attend a Missions Board meeting. God has blessed me so much through these opportunities and I want to convey a heartfelt thank you to every invitation.

I know that with school starting back and extracurricular activities taking up a good amount of our time, we feel at moments of relaxing spiritually. In those times, the devil likes to take advantage of the situation and starts to put into our minds that we don't have time. We don't have time for reading the Bible, for our family, for going to church, or for God in general. When faced with the busyness of life, we need to be reminded of the "Victory Promises" that we find in Romans 8. 1) We are FREE from Condemnation – vs. 1-2; 2) ALL Things work together for the Good – vs. 28; 3) God is FOR Us – vs. 31; 4) God will Supply ALL our Needs – vs. 32; 5) We can't be Separated from God's Love – vs. 38-39. So when the devil comes your way, tell him to back off, you're a child of the KING and your KING is in control!! Have a blessed rest of 2018.

CELEBRATE LABOR DAY and remember the words of I Corinthians 15:58, *"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know, that your labour in not vain in the Lord."*