

FAITH BULLETIN

Faith Center Freeport's Newsletter

Fall 2013

Faith Center Freeport

Senior Pastors

Michael & Susie Sowell

Contact us:

203 W. Pleasant St.
Freeport, IL 61032

Church Hours:

Tues & Weds 8:30-4:30

Pantry Hours:

Tuesday 4pm-6pm

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Emergency: 815-978-0715

After Hours Emergency

Prayer Lines:

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815-964-4583

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FaithCenterFreeport.com
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Glick's Triangle to Reopen as Joseph's Training Center, Continues FCF's Neighborhood & Fatherhood Initiatives

A fixture of Freeport's Piety Hill neighborhood is being repurposed as a training center to spread the values of biblical fatherhood and hard work.

For decades, Glick's Triangle served the community not only as a grocery store but as a local landmark, but the passing of its owner and proprietor caused the family to consider other options for the property. Fortunately, this gave Faith Center Freeport an opportunity to purchase the Triangle, and, in partnership with Master Builder Ministries, convert it for vital neighborhood ministry. Faith Center Freeport volunteers assisted by ex-inmates have readied the building for a full renovation over several dedicated workdays. Funds are being raised for the next stage of work.

"We greatly appreciate the Glick family's kindness and willingness to work with us closely on this project," said Pastor Michael Sowell. "We know this will have a positive impact on the community because our plan is to use ministry models that have worked before."

The Glick's facility has been renamed Joseph's Training Center. Planned programs include addiction recovery, job training, fatherhood classes, mentoring and case management for ex-inmates.

All services are free of charge to any person in need and are part of a process designed to deliver "a hand up, not a hand out."

Job training and job search assistance for former inmates will be strongly emphasized. "It's been said the best social program is a job," Sowell said. "Ex-inmates sometimes lack the skills to get a good, family-supporting job even if the employer is willing to look past their conviction. We'll mentor them so they can develop their God-given abilities, find good work and put the mistakes of the past behind them."

In addition to Joseph's Training

Center, the building will feature rental apartments which will provide a revenue stream for the ministry and serve as temporary housing for staff or visiting speakers.

The renovation is part of a wider initiative by FCF to change Freeport one life at a time and focus on the issue of fatherlessness in the community. Lack of a father in the home is the single most important factor in predicting poverty and other social problems.

"I began thinking about my Dad who was absent when I was growing up and about my son and how different his life has been because I was always there," said Pastor Sowell. "What if we give a father who would be absent the skills and focus to be the kind of father God wants in every family? That's the purpose of the Malachi Dads [inmate education program] and our overall fatherhood initiative."



The interior of the Triangle (soon to reopen as Joseph's Training Center) has been cleaned, stripped down and made ready for remodeling (top). Volunteers Duane and Anthony pose during a renovation workday (above).

Joseph's Pantry Update

What began with a four new shelf units in February is growing into a thriving ministry to the working poor. Pantry Director Bindy Lillge asked us to share these updates and requests with you:

- The Pantry is now a member of the Northern Illinois Food Bank and has placed its first NIFB food order.
- The support from church members has been great and the Pantry is serving lots of clients. For example, on 9/13 we served 54 families.
- As a result of joining NIFB, the Pantry will be open every Tuesday from 4 to 6pm.
- Our biggest food need is meat and we usually purchase it directly. For that reason, cash donations are especially helpful at this time.
- If you want to donate fruit or baked goods on days the Pantry is open, we would be very grateful.
- T-shirts with our awesome Joseph's Pantry logo (see below) are available for \$10-\$14 depending on size. All proceeds will go to help fund the Pantry.



Train Them Up!

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." --Proverbs 22:6

Few things are more crucial to the well-being and future success of a child than giving them a solid foundation in God's Word. Jesus said believing in and practicing His teachings would be the difference between building one's house on a rock or building on sand where the house would be swept away by storms.

Our church body has three levels of youth education

specifically designed to give your kids this firm foundation of faith, and do so in a way that involves caring and fun:

For children 3 to 5 years old, Waumba Land teaches kids that God loves them, created them and wants to be their friend.

For older kids 6 through 12, Faith Kids Club moves on to more advanced discussions of God's purposes in their lives. At this stage, students have the chance to earn "Faith Bucks" through scripture memorization and other positive behaviors, which they can use to purchase items at a store just for them.

Our Powerhouse Youth Church builds on the lessons learned at earlier stages and helps youth 11-18 make the transition to being men and women of God. Powerhouse meets during our Tuesday Family Service.

The best way to prepare your children for a tough world is to fill them with faith and the Word. Be sure to enroll them today!



Help Build God's Kingdom in Freeport with a Donation

Preaching God's word can change a family, a neighborhood or even whole communities for eternity. Please support this vital work with a financial donation or by volunteering today.

- ☐ I am interested in volunteering in helps ministry
- ☐ I wish to make a monthly donation of \$_____
- ☐ I wish to make a one-time donation of \$_____
- ☐ I wish to make a donation to support Joseph's Pantry \$_____
- ☐ I wish to make a donation to support Joseph's Training Center \$_____

Please make checks payable to Faith Center Freeport, 203 W. Pleasant Ave., Freeport, IL 61032

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip Code_____

Email_____

Faith Center Freeport is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered with the Illinois Secretary of State

The Helps Ministry Office Needs You!

The Helps Ministry Office (HMO) assists members in identifying and perfecting their gifts, resulting in service empowerment. We aid Pastor Sowell and the leadership in meeting the operational demands of the ministry and the needs of the people who participate in the worship, study and social activities of Faith Center Freeport. If you can help, please visit the Finding Your Place bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or speak with Pastor Diana Camacho.



Faith Center Freeport Presents 1st Annual International Faith Conference

Sunday, Sept 8, 10am



**Dr. Norman Thomas Jr.
Pastor & Founder
New Life Church Int'l
Lakes Charles, LA**

Monday, Sept 9, 6:30pm



**Elder Ralph Hawthorne
Former Director-Cease
Fire/Let's Talk It Out
(Rockford)
Founder Beyond The
Walls Evangelistic
Ministries, Atlanta, GA**

Tuesday, Sept 10, 6:30pm



**Pastor Keith Hershey
Founder & President
Mutual Faith Ministries,
Mission Hills CA**

203 W. Pleasant Street, Freeport, IL

Expect to Receive From the LORD



Fall Women's Conference

Falling in Love With Jesus

"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth..."--Song of Songs 1:2

Friday, October 18, 6:30 -8:30pm ♦ Saturday October 19, 8:00-3:00
Registration \$15

Fee includes Friday night refreshments, Saturday Morning Continental Breakfast, Saturday noon box lunch, favor bag, chance to win door prizes, five sessions by five anointed women of God, a praise dance by the Faith Center Freeport Praise Dancers and worship by the awesome FCF Praise Band.

Registration begins Sept. 8 in the fellowship hall and ends Oct. 8. No refunds after 10/8/2013

From Jewel Heists to Living for Christ: Murph the Surf to speak at Master Builder Banquet and FCF

How does a jewel thief and murderer become an ordained minister, evangelist and crusader for prison reform? Only the power of Jesus Christ can explain such a change.

Jack “Murph the Surf” Murphy (so called because of his numerous surfing championships) was involved in what was then known as “The Jewel Heist of the Century” when he stole The Star of India and other jewels worth over \$2 million from the J.P. Morgan collection in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Murphy was eventually sentenced to life in prison in Florida for a murder, and it was as an inmate that he faced the cold reality that his life needed to change. He gave his life to Christ and has spent the years since ministering to prisoners, first on the inside and then (after being paroled) as a speaker for prison ministries.

Murphy will share his fascinating life history and the work of God in prisons as the guest of Master Builder Ministries at their 1st Annual Banquet on November 30th in Freeport. The banquet will raise funds for new inmate and ex-offender programs being launched in Stephenson County. Murph will also join us at our morning services on December 1.

For more information on the Master Builder Banquet, call Pastor Mike Sowell at 815-987-0715 or visit masterbuilderjailministries.com

Firm Foundations: New Foundation and Equipping The Saints Classes Begin September 15

Solomon wrote about the importance of gaining knowledge and insight, saying, “How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!” New sessions of the courses designed to bring new members into the fold and prepare members for leadership will begin this September 15.

The Foundations class is requirement for those who want to join the church and covers subjects such as the nature of God’s Kingdom, the role of the Holy Spirit, the Core values of Faith Center Freeport, prayer, prosperity, parenting and helps ministry.

Equipping The Saints is a course for those who’ve taken Foundations and want to “move to the next level” spiritually and/or serve in a leadership role in the church. Subjects will include God’s favor, overcoming the enemy, forgiveness and effective prayer.

Both classes take place from 9am to 9:40am each Sunday until November 3. If you have questions, please contact Foundations Director Elaine Harrell at 815-233-1270.



Connect Online and Learn More!

FaithCenterFreeport.com

Facebook.com/FaithCtrFrpt

Have questions? Want to get your copy of
Faith Bulletin via email? Let us know at:
info@faithcenterfreeport.com