

Convention News

2008 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

“WE’LL MISS YOU, MARJORIE!”

WNAC Bids Farewell to Executive Secretary Treasurer



“I WANT TO BE A BRIDGE, connecting older with younger, 20th with 21st century, bringing WNAC to the place where the next leader can come in and effectively serve.”

That’s how Marjorie Workman once described her goals as WNAC Executive Secretary Treasurer. In her ten years at WNAC, this patient, even-keeled, resilient woman has bridged gaps and laid groundwork for future ministries.

She launched the first WNAC-sponsored missions trip in 2005, when a group of WAC leaders attended the Women’s Prayer Fellowship in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She led a second team to Central Asia in January 2007, this time assisting with Christmas Joy distributions. Under her leadership, women gave over \$50,000 toward this WNAC national project. Other national projects during her tenure include 50/50, furnishing the Missionary in Residence house and the current Building for the Future: 20/20/20.

Her team spirit served to strengthen ties with other national departments. Combined efforts with FWBIM, Master’s Men, and FWBBC made the dream of a campus Missionary in Residence house a reality. Marriage enrichment conferences, now jointly sponsored by WNAC and Master’s Men, of-

fer couples getaway weekends for spiritual growth and renewal. Weekly prayer meetings with international missions staff provide closer ties and greater global awareness. WNAC funds helped FWBBC purchase a new organ in 2004.

A skilled meeting planner, she lent new offerings to WNAC events. Relocation to Branson brought west-of-the-Mississippi crowds to the 2003 National Retreat. Annual state president and field worker receptions give leaders opportunity for increased interaction.

Her work effected changes in WNAC media. *CoLaborer* went full-color in 2005 and became *Together With God* in 2007. A 2002 cookbook, *The Fruit of Our Hands*, featured recipes from over 700 contributors.

In a decade of service, Marjorie ministered to women in France, Spain, Central Asia, U. S. Virgin Islands, Mexico, and Panama.

From the brink of the bridge, we wave goodbye to a dedicated leader, a true friend, and a woman of God. We’ll miss you, Marjorie.

About the Writer: Sarah Fletcher is the managing editor of *Together With God* magazine, the official publication of Women Nationally Active for Christ.

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Who Is “That Guy?”

15 Years of Serving the Community
by Bill Hayes, director

PERHAPS YOU’VE HEARD about the boy who came home from church one Sunday afternoon and said, “Mom, who’s Andy?”

His mom, unaware of anyone at church named Andy, asked her son to what he was referring. Her son replied, “The guy they talk about in that song.” “What song?” replied his mother. The boy responded, “Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me.” I love that story. He had an idea based upon what he interpreted the song to say but didn’t have a clue.

During the Free Will Baptist National Convention in Charleston, WV, you might find yourself a lot like that little boy from the story. When you see the signs and a booth promoting “Reach That Guy,” you may wonder, “Who is that guy?” It may sound silly, but it’s actually a good question. Here is the answer:

Reach That Guy (known as RTG) is a community-service based program created and sponsored by the National Youth Conference and Randall House. We offer the opportunity to make a physical as well as eternal impact within the community during the convention. Many of those involved in youth activities and competition have free time once their event is complete. Many come just for the oppor-

tunity to be involved in RTG. Participants are, for the most part, Free Will Baptist youth. Adults participate as well.



So who is “that guy?”

He (or she) is the less fortunate. RTG helps those who have been beaten down by the world. We take the love of Christ to those who feel all have forsaken them.

From women who are affected by domestic abuse to the crack addict who craves another chance, we know that the message of salvation and showing the love of Christ can overcome whatever debauchery these eternal souls are swimming in. The church is commanded to step outside its four walls to minister to others, and RTG does just that.

We also help those who are going through a season of painful change. Last year in Little Rock, Arkansas, we encountered those who experienced a loss of employment. At the Lions Club Blind Center, several had recently lost their sight.

We aided in such ministries as homeless shelters, soup kitchens, the Ronald McDonald House, and Union Gospel Mission. RTG logged 2,410 hours in community service reaching out to those in need. Over 1,000 gospel tracts were distributed, and many were invited to the Wednesday evening service.

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There were more than 62 FWB churches represented at 21 community service project sites. Our Red Cross blood drive netted 83 units of blood. (When we met in Memphis in 2002, we set the one-day record with over 120 units.) Free Will Baptists touch many lives and leave a lasting impression wherever we go.

I encourage you to get involved and be about our Father's business. This year, we hope to exceed the totals from all previous years, and we can with your help. As of now, we are slated to work at the Covenant House, Union Mission, Mountain Mission, Heart and Hand House, and the Salvation Army (just to name a few). Thousands in the Charleston community desperately need help. RTG is doing just that. Will you help?

To find out more about Reach That Guy, call the NYC offices at (800) 877-7030, e-mail info@Reachthatguy.com, or look us up on the Internet at www.ReachThatGuy.com. Stop by our booth in the lower level lobby and use your free time this year at the national association to make an eternal impact.

About the writer: Ohio native Bill Hayes has been director of Reach That Guy since 2007.

MAXIMUM IMPACT Training to Make Your Church More Effective

Nationwide surveys of both professional and volunteer church workers tell us that most feel unprepared for the demands of ministry in today's frenetic, high-pressure world. On Wednesday, Randall House will present a series of seminars and workshops designed to make your church more effective in ministry.

WEDNESDAY / July 23

9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. *Leading a Small Group for Young Adults*
Speaker: Jacob Riggs
Civic Center Room 206

11:00 a.m. – Noon *E-TEAM Information*
Speakers: Judy Lytle and Joni Hubbard
Civic Center Room 206

11:15 a.m. – Noon *Teaching to Change Lives*
Speaker: Johnny Miller
Civic Center Room 205

1:00 p.m.– 1:45 p.m. *Have it Your Way: Fast Food Gospel*
Speaker: Kelly Bowman
Civic Center Room 207

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. *Keeping Students Connected to God*
Speaker: Curt Gwartney
Civic Center Room 205

Those who attend church training seminars will be entered in a drawing for a free 1GB iPod Shuffle. The drawing will be held Wednesday night during the NYC Awards Ceremony.



CONFESSIONS OF A CONVENTION BRAT

I guess you could say I grew up at the National Convention. One of my earliest memories is telling a friend at elementary school about "going to the national" over the summer. I was shocked to learn that she didn't go, and—even worse—she didn't even know what it was! After I told her that I had visited another state for a week, stayed in a nice hotel, and ran around with a bunch of kids my age without my parents, she was so jealous.

The trip itself was just as fun...at least in my memory. My four sisters and I would pile into the family station wagon, and away we would go. I appreciated how nice it was of my mom to have a healthy stock of Dramamine to keep us from getting carsick. (Of course, today I realize maybe she just needed some peace and quiet along the way.)



I was blessed to be part of a church that not only encouraged its youth to participate in the youth competition but also provided travel expenses in the yearly budget. I feel fortunate to have participated in Sword Drill, Bible Bowl, and various music competitions along the way. As I look back, I think of people like Dr. Charles Hampton who was instrumental in forming our singing groups, but I realize he now enjoys the conference from a heavenly perspective.

I remember my nerves in the hours leading up to the competition. We would sit around in the hallways between Bible competitions trying to breathe normally. Our group would sit together through hours of solos, trios, and chorales—grading each entry and predicting the winners. On awards night, we would whoop and cheer when our predictions came true.

I loved being in the evening services, even as a teenager. And these were not the youth services of today. They didn't exist back then. I simply enjoyed being with all God's people. I was blessed to hear solid Bible teaching from men who were putting me on their shoulders spiritually.

The Wednesday night missionary service was always my favorite. How I admired those individuals who, like Laura Belle Barnard before them, gave their lives for ministry. Who would have guessed that one day my own sister would choose that same path.

And the music! What an amazing thing it was—and still is—to join thousands of voices in unified praise. I could sing along as loud as I wanted. At this year's conference, when the Georgia Boys Quartet was singing, somehow I could hear Bill Gardner singing along. Makes me long for heaven.

As strange as it sounds, I even loved the business sessions...really! My younger sister and I would strain to see who was speaking and who voted a certain way. We watched to see what our dad was doing, and whether he had anything to say. We learned *Robert's Rules of Order* from the reprimands and reminders of the moderator.

These confessions of a convention brat are simple memories, but simply priceless!

About the Writer: Middle school math teacher Joy Nelson lives in Old Hickory, TN, with her daughter Megan. She is the convention press officer for the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Take the Convention Home

Stop by the Convention Recordings Office (near the Grand Hall South entrance) to pick up a CD, DVD, VHS, or cassette of services and seminars. Each recording contains the complete service including music and speaker. CDs and cassettes are \$5 each; DVD and VHS are \$10 each.

Registration

Make sure you register for the convention sometime Wednesday between 8 a.m.–7 p.m., Upper Lobby of the Civic Center. For security reasons, a registration badge is needed to participate in any convention event.

Convention Disclaimer

The annual meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc, is a private, religious gathering and reserves the right to limit attendance to delegates and guests and will take legal recourse against disruptive persons. For security reasons, all parcels are subject to inspection.

Music Rehearsals

Mass Choir rehearsals will be held on the main stage of the Civic Center, Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

The **Convention Orchestra and Praise Team** will meet on the main stage of the Convention Center Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.

Orchestra Members Needed

If you are interested in playing in the 2009 National Convention Orchestra, please see Chris Truett or fill out a form at the Music Commission Booth.

Mission Opportunity

If you have a group who is looking for a chance to get involved with missions, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Eldridge, Alabama, wants your help. For more information, call Allan Austin, 205-522-0675, or Mike Nabors, 205-300-2563.

Lost and Found

- Hampton Inn room key
- ladies bracelet
- Bible with imprint "Kimberly Hyslope"
- miscellaneous name badges
- Sword Drill Bible

These items can be redeemed at registration. Any other lost items might also be found at the Civic Center table in the main lobby.

FREE Subscription

Visit the ONE Magazine booth in the Exhibit Hall and sign up to receive a free subscription to the official magazine of the denomination.

COMPLIMENTARY INTERNET SERVICE is being offered at the Internet Cafe near the Registration Booths in the Civic Center.

Strategic Giving

ACCORDING TO KEITH BURDEN, executive secretary, "Every dollar of the Wednesday evening offering goes directly to Free Will Baptist Missions... none is applied to the expenses of the convention."

• Please use an offering envelope *only* if you are giving a cash gift and need to receive an official receipt or want to designate the cash gift.

• Checks may be placed directly into the offering buckets without using an envelope. Simply write the designation on the memo line of the check.

• Undesignated cash gifts that do not require an official receipt may be placed directly into the offering bucket without using an offering envelope.

Thank you for your generous support of Free Will Baptist Missions.

2008 Registration Totals

National Convention	3,228
National Youth Conference	3,864
WNAC	888

Actual convention attendees.....5,636