

# NAFWB NEWS

2022 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

TUESDAY, JULY 26 | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA | WWW.NAFWB.ORG

## There and Back Again

INCOMING WNAC DIRECTOR ANTICIPATES A **NEW ADVENTURE**

Many years ago, my husband Donnie and I—a couple of kids with a calling—started out on an adventure that became a lifetime of ministry in Japan. Throughout that 38-year adventure, we received countless gifts and acts of kindness from Free Will Baptist women. WNAC has blessed us with baby showers, Provision Closet items, offering plates, Bibles, hymnbooks, Sunday School curriculum, monetary gifts to remodel church buildings, gift cards, pajama showers, and much more.

J.R. Tolkien's famous book *The Hobbit* was subtitled *There and Back Again*. Like Bilbo Baggins, this year we have completed our adventure to Japan and are heading "home." But as Bilbo also said, "The road goes ever on and on." I am excited to begin the next big adventure of giving back to the denomination that has so faithfully given to me.



As I consider the legacy of WNAC, my heart swells for everything accomplished for God's Kingdom. WNAC history is an incredible memoir of selflessness, generosity, and behind-the-scenes sacrifice. Missionaries have literally been able to remain on their fields of service because of Free Will Baptist women. Hundreds of women around the world have come to know Christ, and I am personally acquainted with many of them—your Japanese sisters in Christ. Your gifts, prayers, and projects have made an eternal difference.

I am excited about the direction God is leading WNAC. We want to continue to do our part to fulfill the Great Commission while also focusing on discipleship for women of all ages, both in the U.S. and beyond. We want to come alongside women as they shine for Christ as lights in the world around them. I plan to spend the first few months simply listening. After decades in Japan, I need to hear from you, and I do mean all of you.

Please join me in praying about the future of WNAC and for the transition in leadership. As the light of the gospel dims around us, our light shines brighter and more effectively. Never has our mission been more vital than today. I look forward to the adventure God has in store for us.

**About the writer:** After serving in Japan for almost four decades, Ruth McDonald begins her new adventure as

director of WNAC November 1. Read the full article in the Oct-Nov issue of *ONE Magazine*.

### THE **INSIDE SCOOP** ON RUTH

**What would people be most surprised to learn about you?**

I've always wanted to try ziplining!

**Can you share your conversion experience?**

I gave my heart to Jesus and was baptized at six years old after becoming aware of my sinfulness. That first, simple faith has grown into a love for God that has lasted a lifetime.

**How did you meet Donnie?**

At Welch College, of course! I always say I "swept him off his feet," as my campus job was to sweep the floors and empty the trash cans in the basement printshop where he worked.

**As you look back over life, how did God prepare you to serve as director of WNAC?**

I grew up in a church planting home and served 38 years with IM. This has given me experience with all kinds of women around the country and the world, and it has been my joy to be involved in women's ministries all along. I also enjoy communicating with women through public speaking and writing.

**For what one thing are you most grateful?**

The faithfulness of God

**Can you share one (or more) humorous stories from your time in Japan?**

Many, many language mistakes:

- Ordering "two airplanes" at McDonald's
- Saying I sang by refrigerator light (instead of candlelight)
- Serving coffee with salt instead of sugar because I couldn't read the label

**What was your greatest missions challenge?**

The language! I've wanted to wear a placard that read: "I'm really not as stupid as I sound."

**What do you see as the future for WNAC?**

I am praying God will help us to encourage and engage women of all ages as we focus on growing disciples of Christ in a rapidly degenerating culture. I want WNAC to be seen as relevant and vital for every Free Will Baptist woman.

# Growing Together for the Kingdom

Although we have all grown tired of Zoom meetings over the last two years, the pandemic taught us Zoom and other technologies present an opportunity for people all over the world to come together and grow together in discipleship, encouragement, and accountability. The Executive Office is excited to announce some of these virtual opportunities.

- **Edwin Hayes**, *Why I Am a Free Will Baptist* – Virtual Seminar, October 11 and 25, 6:00 PM CT

## Book Discussions

We all learn from reading a good book. However, we harness even more of that knowledge when we read and discuss. Several opportunities for book discussions are coming soon.

- **Dr. Jackson Watts**, Lane and Tripp's *How People Change* – September 15, October 20, November 10, and December 15, 4:00 PM CT.
- **Terry Pierce**, Sam Rainer's *Church Revitalization Checklist* – August 12, September 23, and October 7, 10:00 AM CT.
- **Dr. Ron Callaway**, Dr. Robert Picirilli's *Discipleship (Discipulado)* in Spanish – October 6, 7:00 PM CT.
- **Rueben Cason**, Burn, Chapman, and Guthrie's *Resilient Ministry: What Pastors Told Us about Surviving and Thriving* – January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, and May 1, 10:00 AM CT.
- **Dr. Matt Pinson**, *40 Questions About Materialism* – February 17, 3:00 PM CT.

## Mutual Encouragement Groups

We often learn much and find encouragement by sharing issues we all face in ministry. Recently, we launched groups for pastors and pastor's wives, and more meetings will be scheduled in the near future:

- **Dr. Tim York** will lead a meeting for *Pastoral Search Committee* members Aug 1, 6:00 PM CT to provide information about the search process.
- **Mrs. Carolyn Dwyer** will share resources at a *Pastor's Wife Hangout* September 20, 7:00 PM CT. During the meeting, she will gauge interest in book discussions and individual meetings to help support pastor's wives.
- **Dr. Tim York** will lead a *Pastor Hangout* August 24, 1:00 PM CT. This will be an opportunity for pastors to discuss concerns they have and to acquire resources available.

# News, Updates & Announcements

## Registration and Exhibits

Registration is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., BJCC Main Level Lobby. Exhibit Hall will be open until 10:00 p.m. tonight and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

## Book Signing

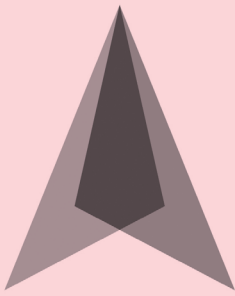
Matt Pinson, president of Welch College, will sign his new book *40 Questions about Arminianism* this evening after the worship service at the Welch College exhibit.

## Lost & Found

Several items have been found and turned in to the convention staff. You may retrieve lost items at Registration.

## SCHEDULE UPDATES

- + The **Presidents Breakfast** will be held Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. in the Westin Hotel Orchid Boardroom (2nd floor).



# GROWING TOGETHER

## Subculture Discussions

Churches who have used **Know Your Community** through the Executive Office are welcome to join online discussions on reaching particular subcultures.

- **Ben Crabtree** will lead a discussion on Reaching the Rust Belt Subculture – September 23, 1:00 PM CT.
- **Ed Goode** will lead a discussion on Reaching the In-Style Subculture – September 26, 7:00 PM CT.
- **Ryan Giles** will lead a discussion on Reaching Savvy Suburbanites – September 27, 2022 at 10:00 AM CT.
- **Daryl Grimes** will lead a discussion on Reaching the Traditional Living Subculture – October 14, 9:00 AM CT.
- **Mike Cash** will lead a discussion on Old and New Comers – October 11, 10:00 AM CT.

To register for these forums, email [questions@nafwb.org](mailto:questions@nafwb.org) to learn the requirements and expectations to participate. Find updates: [nafwb.org/growing](https://nafwb.org/growing)

## Professional Counseling

From time to time, we all benefit from having someone with whom we can talk confidentially. The Executive Office and North American Ministries now offers new resource from Refresh including counseling from Tom Jones, church planter and professional counselor with Keystone Christian Counseling. Learn more at **877-767-7659** or [questions@nafwb.org](mailto:questions@nafwb.org).

Hopefully, we can all take advantage of these resources to grow together as we minister to the Lord.

- + Attorney **David Gibbs III** of the National Center for Life and Liberty will host a Q&A session, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. in BJCC North C-D.
- + The **Randall House Board Dinner** will be held Wednesday, 5:00 p.m. in the Westin Hotel Orchid Boardroom (2nd floor).
- + **GPS Experience: A Missions Experience for Every Age** will be held Wednesday, 9:00-11:00 in BJCC East O.

## 2022 COMMITTEES

**Resolution Committee:** Stan Bunch (MO), chairman; Mike Trimble (MI); Jeff Jones (NC); Chris Todd (SC); Jeremy Estep (KY)

**Nominating Committee (22-23):** Ben Crabtree (OH), chairman; Tim Eaton (OK); Isaiah Hatfield (WV); Terry Hinds (IN); David Taylor (AR); Elizabeth Hodges (TN)