

Convention News

2009 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2009

CINCINNATI, OHIO

THE CASE FOR CREATION

NYC Director Danny Conn Explains the importance of the conference's emphasis on creation science.

The world recently celebrated the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin, the "father of evolution." His naturalistic "survival of the fittest" philosophy has permeated our culture. It is the worldview that dominates the natural and biological sciences and has even extended to social sciences (anthropology, economics, psychology, education, etc.) and humanities (philosophy, literature, art, religion, etc.).

The question of death and suffering was a factor in Charles Darwin's embrace of evolution. He could not comprehend how a loving God could allow suffering, so Darwin sought for an explanation of the origin of life without God. Ironically, this "survival of the fittest" mentality has attributed to untold suffering and death through the atrocities of those who adopted his views.

Though Darwin studied theology at Cambridge, he rejected the God of the Bible. Sadly, many today follow in his footsteps. Recent research indicates that even those who regularly attend Sunday School are likely to believe the Bible is not true and will eventually leave the church.

The foundation of faith must be durable to withstand the forces that seek to undermine and destroy it. The questions of life must be given valid answers that will endure scrutiny and withstand cross-examination.

The foundation for the Christian faith is the Word of God. The cornerstone of that Word is the book of Genesis. This first book of Scripture addresses some of the basic questions of life: "Why am I here?" "Where did I come from?" "Is there a God?" "Can I know Him?" If we permit this book to be riddled with holes of doubt and uncertainty, it will be insuffi-

cient as a foundation for a solid faith.

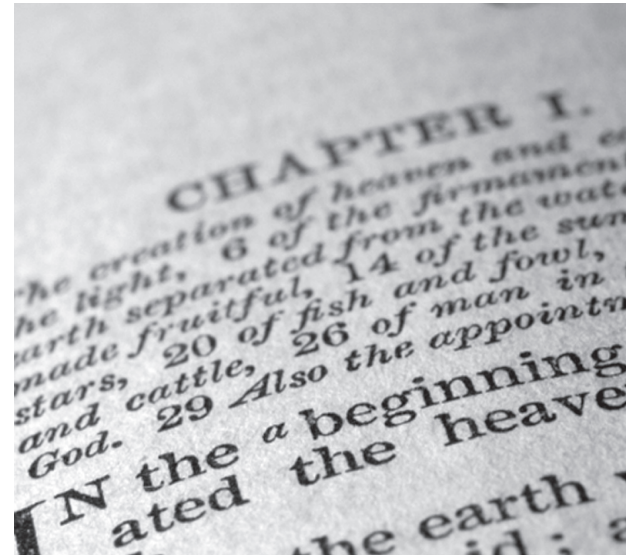
This year, the National Youth Conference is challenging young people to spend time in the study of God's Word to "seek the Lord and His strength." God's Word has the answers to the difficult questions of life.

To build confidence in the reliability of the Word, we are also offering several video seminars from Answers in Genesis. These videos counter the naturalistic evolutionary worldview with a biblical creation worldview. Care is taken to demonstrate the scientific reliability of the biblical record. The Bible is recognized as the only authoritative account of the history of the universe. Regardless of the theories and speculations, science must bow to the authority of Scripture.

Cincinnati offers a special opportunity for NYC participants to visit the Creation Museum. This state-of-the-art facility houses life-size models of Bible characters and events in realistic settings. Adam and Eve live in the Garden of Eden. Dinosaurs meander along the rivers of Eden. The serpent lurks in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Noah and his sons build the ark.

The Creation Museum planetarium demonstrates how the heavens declare the glory of God. Dramatic videos are presented in the various theaters. Fossilized dinosaur eggs and skeleton castings can be explored in the dinosaur den. This is truly a unique museum.

NYC participants can get a discount coupon at the NYC Booth for tickets to the Creation Museum. The coupon is good for the entire week.



“The foundation of faith must be durable to withstand the forces that seek to undermine and destroy it.”

Ken Ham, president of Answers in Genesis/Creation Museum, will speak Tuesday night during the teen service. Teens and youth workers alike will enjoy Ken's wit and Australian accent as he presents the truth of the creation account.

Answers in Genesis provides excellent creation science resources for all ages. Be sure to visit their booth in the Exhibit Hall.

[re]FOCUS

The Evolution of Reach That Guy Student Outreach by Eric K. Thomsen, convention press officer

THE QUESTION CAME UP DURING A TRUTH and Peace staff meeting in August 1995. "How can we turn the collective focus of the National Youth Conference outward?"

The answer came in the form of a service and evangelism initiative called "Stormin' the Streets of Fort Worth." When the program was launched during the 1996 conference in Texas, more than 250 students and group leaders spent mornings landscaping, sorting donated clothing, and working with homeless children and adults at the Fort Worth Union Gospel Rescue Mission. Afternoons were spent at the Fort Worth Area Food Bank, where volunteers sorted more than four tons of donated food.

The program expanded quickly. In 1997, Spotlight Cincinnati produced 400 volunteers who shared their time with 11 agencies across the city. They landscaped, sorted donated clothing, worked with homeless children and adults, served as counselors at a summer day camp, and cleaned warehouses in record high temperatures. The excitement continued when 300 volunteers participated in "Teens Touching Tulsa [Oklahoma] With Love" in 1998.

Students and chaperones began to realize that the annual service opportunities were more than "just another activity" at the National Youth Conference. For the first time, youth groups began to



plan conference trips for the purpose of participating in outreach projects as well as services and competition.

As the NYC staff prepared for the 1999 conference in Atlanta, Georgia, it was clear that the growing campaign needed a permanent label. After weeks of brainstorming, Reach That Guy (RTG) became reality. The new name gave the event a boost, and after a widespread promotional campaign, more than 600 students participated. Four hundred plus took part in the effort a year later in Anaheim, California, as RTG reached the milestone of more than 1,500 volunteers in its first five years. It was only the beginning!

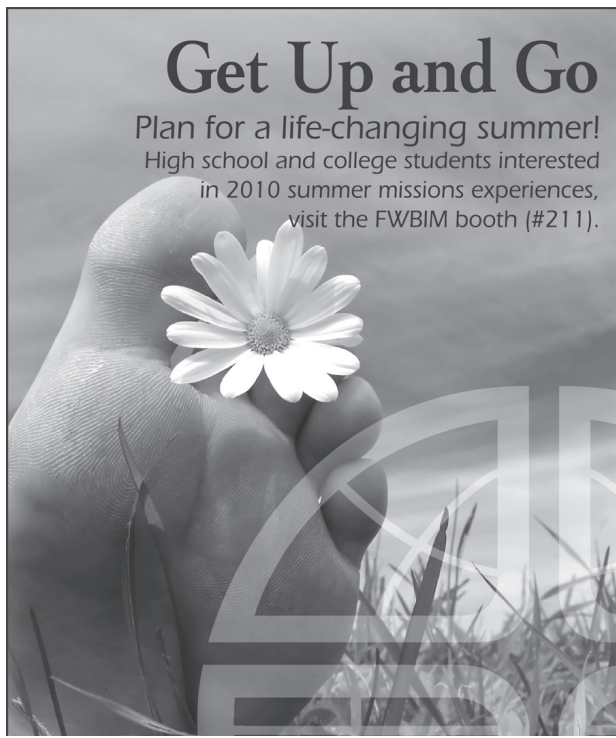
From 2001–2008, RTG continued to expand, with an average of 867 participants per year. Along the

way, volunteers—with their big smiles and brightly colored T-shirts—caught the attention of local media in several cities. The story found its way onto the evening news and the front page of more than one local paper.

More important, however, was the spiritual and emotional impact of the program. According to Dean Jones, former convention manager, "The addition and development of Reach That Guy to NYC not only affected thousands of people in the conference cities, but it also affected the numerous students and youth groups who suddenly had opportunity to experience serving others.

Today, cities continue to marvel at the work ethic and attitude of the student volunteers. One representative at The Salvation Army of Louisville (where volunteers donated more than 3,900 hours of labor in 2005, saving more than \$100,000) said, "These are the hardest workers we have ever had!" As Reach That Guy approaches its 15th year, the future is bright.

Danny Conn, current conference director, puts it in perspective. "Young people are socially conscious. They want to do something to help alleviate suffering in the world. RTG trains young people to focus these social efforts in ways that not only meet physical needs, but also open opportunities to meet spiritual needs."



Get Up and Go

Plan for a life-changing summer!
High school and college students interested
in 2010 summer missions experiences,
visit the FWBIM booth (#211).

2009 Registration Totals

National Convention	2,923
National Youth Conference	4,162
WNAC	775
Unique attendees.....	5,467

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, make the most of seminars and workshops designed to make your church more effective in ministry.

- + The Music Commission will sponsor *Sound Advice: Practical Advice for Church Sound*, led by Monte McKenzie, 9:00–11:00 a.m., in the Colonnade B room of Millennium Hotel. The cost is \$20 per church. Tickets can be purchased at the Music Commission Booth.
- + Take part in the *Music Ministry Summit*, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. in Millennium Hotel Pavilion A. The session will be hosted by Chris Truett and will explore various challenges faced by worship leaders around the country. Participants will share ideas, ask questions, and form networks with others involved in music ministry.
- + Get an inside look at the new *Elements Kids Worship* curriculum when Randall House presents a demonstration from 2:00–3:00 in Rooms 230–233 of the Duke Energy Center.

- + Help the students in your church (or home) survive the financial pain that often accompanies the college years. Free Will Baptist Bible College will present *Cash Crunch: Making College Affordable*. The workshop, hosted by Jeff Caudill, will be held from 2:00–3:00 p.m., in the Pavilion B room of the Millennium Hotel.
- + *Competition Guidelines for 2010*, 11:00–11:45 a.m., Room 212, Duke Energy Convention Center.
- + *The Collapse of Christian America*, led by Ken Ham, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., Room 251, Duke Energy Convention Center.
- + *Talk to the Hand: A Sign Language Seminar*, led by Amanda York, 2:00–2:45 p.m., Room 237, Duke Energy Convention Center.
- + *War of the Worldviews*, led by Ken Ham, 2:00–2:45 p.m., Room 251, Duke Energy Convention Center.
- + *Counterfeit Reality*, led by Bill Jack, 3:00–3:45 p.m., Room 251, Duke Energy Convention Center.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF WNAC

WNAC WILL CELEBRATE A MONUMENTAL 75th anniversary in 2010. As we look at the past 75 years, we stand in awe of the pioneer spirit of the many who dedicated their lives to the cause of WNAC. This spirit must continue both now and in the years to come.

The journey officially began in 1935, although Free Will Baptist women had long been passionate about carrying out their role in the Great Commission. The pioneers of WNAC tackled impossible odds to share the gospel of Christ. They would not take no for an answer in their pursuit to follow God's perfect will. They recognized the source of their strength—God and God alone. They believed Proverbs 29:18a, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." They understood the importance of embracing and sharing their vision while involving many in the needed areas of service.

Seventy-five years later, the need for vision, passion, hard work, and perseverance still exists. Although the culture around us has changed, the need for spiritual guidance within homes, church-

es, communities and world remains. However, women's ministry today does not look the same as it did in 1935. Today, the women who fill the pews of our churches have different needs. And once again, we face seemingly impossible odds. We must decide whether to back down or move forward.

The coming year will be one of celebration. In the months leading up to the 2010 convention, we will focus our studies on some of the feelings women know well—feelings of doubt, fear, disappointment and discouragement. We will learn from the lives of countless others serving in the past and present whose legacy leaves a lasting impression on our lives.

We will focus our efforts on ministering to the needs of women in every season of life while providing an array of ministry ideas and opportunities to serve within their personal spheres of influence and beyond. Our vision for the present and future is to offer a balanced ministry that contains both tools for spiritual growth and opportunities to put faith in action. Our name says it well; we must be

By Danita High, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

spiritually strong *Women Active for Christ*.

As we launch this new ministry effort, we invite everyone to come along. We know support from our pastors and church leaders is essential to our mission. We understand the importance of unity and the need to serve with one mind and one accord. Paul said it best in Philippians 2:2, "Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." He goes on to urge us not to look on our own interests but on the interests of others.

The theme of this year's convention speaks of *Great and Precious Promises*. We have the promise of hope in the days to come. It will once again require a pioneer spirit and complete dependence on God's almighty power. It will require embracing change while maintaining values. It will require all of us to "labor together" for the cause. We are 75 years stronger and that much closer to the return of our precious Savior. Will you join us?

Visit www.wnac.org for more information.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Take the Convention Home

Stop by the Convention Recordings Office (East Concourse, Level 1) to pick up a CD or DVD of services and seminars. Each recording contains the complete service including music and speaker. CDs are \$5 each; DVDs are \$10 each.

Registration Continues

Registration will be open Wednesday from 8 a.m.–7 p.m., East Concourse, Level 1.

Music Rehearsals

The **Convention Orchestra and Praise Team** will meet on the main stage each day at 4:00 p.m. **Convention Choir** rehearsals will be held each evening on the main convention stage:

Tuesday	8:40 - 9:30
Wednesday	4:30 - 5:30

Orchestra Members Needed

Anyone interested in playing in the 2010 Convention Orchestra, see Chris Truett, or complete the application at the Music Commission exhibit.

Lost and Found

- + Blue sweatshirt (small)
- + Child's hoodie sweatshirt (flower design)
- + JVC Video Camera
- + Lockheed Martin Sunglasses
- + Beaded necklaces (2)
- + White Bible (Hannah Woolard)
- + New Testament
- + Black Bible (Wayne Hawkins)
- + Burgundy Bible (Linda Cook)
- + Walking Cane
- + Nametags: Roland Luthy, Angelica Anderson, Kera Heatherly

These items can be redeemed at registration. Any other lost items might also be found at Registration, East Concourse, Level 1.

FREE Subscription

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

Learn more about Go10, Walk for the World

Joe Wilson will present details of this opportunity for young people to experience a life-changing commitment to missions through a 2,500-mile walk for the world. **Wednesday, 2:00–2:45 a.m., Duke Energy Convention Center, Room 238**



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.