

Convention News

2009 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2009

CINCINNATI, OHIO

WHAT WE DID...

THE CONVENTION NEWS FOLLOWS ONE FAMILY THROUGH THE 2009 CONVENTION

By Mary Kathryn Driggers, convention intern

From Saturday morning until late Sunday night of each year's convention, families and churches arrive at their hotels in cars, trucks, vans, and buses filled with luggage. They come for a variety of reasons. Some come to watch their children and grandchildren compete. Others simply enjoy worshipping with thousands of other Free Will Baptists. Among those who arrived for this year's convention are the Inmans.

Originally from Chicago, David Inman has been youth minister at Fellowship FWB Church in Park Hills, Missouri. His wife Tara, a native of Iowa, is a full-time student studying psychology in preparation for a career in counseling. Before moving to Missouri, the couple spent more than seven years at Good Springs FWB Church in Tennessee. They have three boys, Ethan (age nine), and five-year-old twins Caleb (who wants to be a missionary to Africa when he grows up) and Carson (who wants to be a basketball player). The family has been attending national conventions five years.

On Saturday, the Inman family, along with 27 other church members, piled into two church vans and set out for Cincinnati. They left at 5:00 a.m. and arrived nine hours later at their destination. Each day, the Inman family participated in a variety of activities. David enjoys convention seminars while Tara loves the activities for the younger children, which provide parents with an opportunity to en-

joy what the convention has for them. Ethan really enjoyed 456 Worship time with Steve Greenwood, and Caleb and Carson liked the *Veggie Tales* movie and craft time.

Each year, David and Tara look forward to and participate in Reach that Guy with their youth group. They invested Monday cleaning out an old apartment building to be used for a drug and rehab clinic. Tara said, "It was such an eye-opening experience. We all realized how truly blessed we are."

They also watched competition from their church, and attending the GPS-X sessions (Global Purpose Seekers Experience). As a parent, Tara is quick to point out, "It is exciting to see the opportunity the kids have, and how they learn to use their skills and talents at the national."

Both David and Tara enjoy the teen services each night. They describe the services as outstanding, and they were amazed to see God moving among the young people.

When asked about their experience, the boys quickly put the convention in perspective. Caleb had fun in the church van with the big kids. Carson, on the other hand, quickly responded, "I like to ride the escalators!"

About the Writer: Convention News Intern Mary Kathryn Driggers is a senior majoring in elementary education at Free Will Baptist Bible College. She is a member of Horse Branch FWB Church (SC).



Above and Below: Dave and Tara Inman with their boys Ethan (9) and twins Carson and Caleb (5).



ANTICIPATING 2010

By Deborah St. Lawrence, communications manager, FWB International Missions

Next year sparkles with historic anniversaries:

- + Greece will mark 2,500 years since the first marathon;
- + Classical music enthusiasts will observe the 200th birthday of acclaimed composer Frédéric Chopin;
- + The Boy Scouts of America is preparing for its 100th anniversary;
- + The 65th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day) marked the end of World War II;
- + Côte d'Ivoire will observe 50 years of independence from France;
- + And, Free Will Baptists will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the initiation of the modern era of worldwide missions.

It was 1935 when a courageous, 28-year-old, single, southern woman, set out fearlessly to follow God's call on her life. In the midst of the Great Depression, Laura Belle Barnard boldly determined to ignore all obstacles in her path and undertook a month-long ocean voyage to India.

In so doing, she encouraged the fledgling Free Will Baptist denomination to look beyond its boundaries and set its eyes on a global harvest field. Free Will Baptist International Missions was born as a result of her determination and grit. It was the start of an incredible journey.

For the next 74 years, countless children, women, and men in India, Cuba, Panama, Venezuela,



Ecuador, Côte d'Ivoire, Brazil, France, Spain, Germany, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, China, Mongolia, Russia, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, and other countries have heard the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. More than 1,000 churches and mission works have been established, and believers continue to worship weekly in 12 of these countries.

As this important anniversary approaches, we have much to celebrate! International Missions

International Missions Anticipates 75th Anniversary Celebration

is sponsoring a variety of initiatives to help our denomination rejoice in God's work among and through us.

Go10 Walk for the World invites young people to experience a life-changing commitment to missions by participating in a 2,500-mile walk for the world. Retracing Laura Belle's journey, the walk commemorates her courage and encourages a new generation of young people to be involved in sharing the gospel with their friends and the world.

The walk will start on Easter Sunday at Miss Barnard's home church in Glenville, Georgia, and conclude in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the 2010 National Association. Visit www.go10walk.com for more information or stop by the booth at the entrance of the exhibit hall.

Into the Darkness offers a pictorial walk through International Missions' history. Beautifully written and illustrated with rarely seen photos, this coffee table-style book is available in two versions: a jacketed hardcover, 196-page volume (\$49.95) or a limited-edition, leather-bound volume with an additional 32 pages of unique content and a DVD containing historic footage (\$500). Advance orders may be placed at the IM booth or by visiting www.fwbgo.com.

While visiting the website, don't miss the **Interactive Missions History Timeline** which gives everyone an opportunity to help write the history of Free Will Baptist International missions. Current and former missionaries may share challenges and victories, or mark historic milestones in their ministries. Participants in short-term mission trips can

chronicle their experiences. Church members are able to share the impact a missionary had on their lives or a memorable missionary service they experienced.

During the 2010 National Association, International Missions will sponsor a multi-sensory museum-style display chronicling the Mission's history through artifacts, photos, and video. With the assistance of a museum curator, the Mission plans to create a stunning walk through history.

An invitation-only reception will be held Saturday preceding the 2010 convention for those who purchase the leather-bound edition of *Into the Darkness*. Christians from Japan to Brazil and countries in between will join former missionaries

and current workers. This will offer a singular opportunity to have the book signed by those whose lives have written it.

Representatives from countries in which Free Will Baptists have works, the entire missionary family, and many former missionaries will be present at the 2010 National Association. The Celebrate! dinner and extravaganza will offer a spectacular opportunity to rub shoulders with missionary heroes as well as FWB leaders from many countries.

Every service at the 2010 convention will be impacted by the celebration. Greetings from international guests, music from around the world, and the presence of all living missionaries will make this a unique experience you will not want to miss!

Talking Hands

Introducing Jameie Combs, convention interpreter

"FOR SOME REASON, PEOPLE ASSUME THAT I know Braille," laughs Jameie Combs, a Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma, native and the American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter for the convention.

"But that is not the biggest confusion about signing," she continues. "Lots of people think that signing is just gestures and motion, but it is so much more. It is a language—a real language for real people."

She should know. She has been signing for 16 years—14 as a professional.

"I knew I wanted to be a signer when I was eight and read Shel Silverstein's poem, *Deaf Donald*," she continues. "From that moment, there was never any doubt. I went right into it after high school and never looked back."

"I love signing," she says. "It is a wonderful opportunity to meet people and to be a blessing. Through signing, I meet people from all walks of life—from mental health patients to doctors and legal professionals. I never know how God will open the door for me to share my faith or pray with the people I meet."

Jameie attended her first convention in 2003, when Handz-Up (her youth sign language choir) competed in the new signing competition. She became the official convention ASL interpreter two years ago and has no plans to stop.

"It's such a challenge. When the speaker uses auditory terms, I have to make 'cultural mediations' on the spot. That is, I make phrases like *amazing grace, how sweet the sound* make sense to the deaf by signing something they will understand."

When asked to share the most remarkable thing she has learned through her career, Jameie's answer comes quickly. "The deaf do not consider themselves to be handicapped—just a cultural minority. I think we could all learn something from their attitude."



UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2010 Convention Interns

College students who would like to earn credit by serving as a convention intern in 2010, stop by the Convention Office for more information. Being a convention intern is a great experience and a valuable opportunity to develop leadership skills.

Claim Your Prize!

Be sure to stop by the Exhibit Hall tonight to see if you are a prize winner. The Exhibit Hall will close promptly at 9:30.

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.

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

2009 Convention Registration

At noon Wednesday, July 22, the total number of people attending this year's convention was **5,546**. The number of people registered for the three separate conventions was:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| National Convention | 2,993 |
| National Youth Conference | 4,184 |
| WNAC..... | 776 |

Lost and Found

- + Blue sweatshirt (small)
- + Child's hoodie sweatshirt (flower design)
- + Lockheed Martin sunglasses
- + Necklaces (3)
- + White Bible (Hannah Woolard)
- + New Testament
- + Blue hoodie sweatshirt (XS)
- + Child's necktie
- + Green glasses case
- + Bistro café journal
- + Eddie Bauer backpack
- + Child's wallet
- + Vivitar camera
- + Ladies rings (3)

Reached That Guy

OVER A THREE-DAY PERIOD, more than 175 Free Will Baptists volunteered 2,412 service hours to various organizations and ministries throughout the Greater Cincinnati area. From feeding the homeless to remodeling, the volunteers—largely students—participated in more than 400 opportunities.

One creative group bought and distributed hamburgers to the homeless community. In another initiative, nearly 100 convention attendees donated blood to the Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday. The effort collected 69 units of blood.

The Reach That Guy program has been an exciting part of the annual convention since it began in Fort Worth, Texas in 1996. Learn more about Reach That Guy at www.randallhouse.com.

Oklahoma City

Where the Convention Comes Sweeping Down the Plain

O — Oklahoma City is the capital of Oklahoma (a state since 1907). The seventh largest city in the nation, with a population of more than a half million, it is home to one of the top livestock markets in the world and is situated in the middle of an oil field.

K — Known for its Native American influence, Oklahoma City became an Indian Territory in 1828, when Congress ruled that the area would be reserved for Indians. Five tribes—Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole—established five independent nations under U.S. protection.

L — Located in downtown Oklahoma City, the Bricktown community features a magnificently restored neighborhood filled with historical attractions, restaurants, sports facilities, shops, and a spectacular canal and riverwalk.

A — Assorted museums are located in Oklahoma City. The Kirkpatrick Air and Space Museum preserves and honors contributions of Oklahomans to aerospace. The International Photography Hall of Fame is a tribute to the art and technology of photography, and the Red Earth Museum is dedicated to Native American cultures and lifestyles.

H — Home of the Sooners and Cowboys football teams, the capitol city also claims the Oklahoma City Redhawks, Triple-A affiliate of the Texas Rangers.

O — Overflowing with natural venues, Oklahoma City has numerous parks including the Zoological Park, Martin Park Nature Center, Will Rogers Gardens, and Myriad Botanical Gardens, a large urban park.

M — Many love to visit Oklahoma City's amusement parks, Frontier City and White Water Bay. Frontier City is an Old West-themed amusement park. The park also features a recreation of a western gunfight at the O.K. Corral, and many shops line the town's picturesque "Main Street."

A — Another prominent feature of the capitol city is the National Memorial located in the northern part of downtown. The memorial was created to honor victims, survivors, and rescue workers whose lives were changed forever when the government building on the site was bombed April 19, 1995. The outdoor memorial is open 24 hours a day.

C — Commonly known as "The Sooner State," the Oklahoma Indian Territory was opened to settlers in 1889. As a result, thousands lined the border and raced into the territory to claim their land when the signal was given. Some people, however, left the starting line early. They became known as "Sooners."

I — Interestingly, the name Oklahoma comes from the Choctaw words *okla*, meaning people, and *humma*, meaning red. Literally translated, the name means red people.

T — Tornadoes are common in Oklahoma. The state ranks second for frequency of tornadoes.

Y — You're okay, Oklahoma! Oklahoma, OK.

Join the rush when the National Association of Free Will Baptists meets in Oklahoma City, July 18-21, 2010. The convention theme will be, "Who Will Go?" based on Isaiah 6:1-8. For more information, visit www.nafwb.org.

