

Convention News

2009 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2009

CINCINNATI, OHIO

Convention Welcomes New Manager

As Convention Manager Ryan Lewis makes final preparations for his first convention, he quickly admits that he is still adjusting to the new role.

With a grin, he says, "I really don't know how I ended up in this position, but I am enjoying the opportunity, and I am grateful!"

The annual meeting has been a constant for the 26-year-old southern Illinois native. "As far as I know, I have only missed one convention in my life—the 1986 convention in Tulsa. It would be hard to imagine my life without it."

It is the task of the convention manager to make sure each convention runs smoothly and efficiently—no small task when you consider the average attendance of nearly 6,000 people and the wide variety of meetings and events taking place over a six-day period. Planning begins at least 10 years prior to each meeting and demands careful organization, communication, and record keeping.

"It is definitely a challenge," said Lewis. "The biggest surprise for me has been the many years of planning that go into a single convention. Thankfully, I am an organized and people-oriented person, and these skills have proven valuable in the convention-planning process."

The young planner is quick to point out that he has big plans for the event. "I would like to build on the great success of my predecessors, and I realize I have big shoes to fill. I want to continue to develop the opportunities for growth, fellowship, and encouragement that this convention has to offer."

In addition to planning the national convention, Ryan serves as executive administrator for the Executive Office. He is responsible for the logistics of the annual Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference (held in Nashville, Tennessee, each December), coordinates disaster relief efforts for the denomination, implements stewardship training, and manages www.fwbpastor.com, a website currently



under revision for pastors and church leaders.

"Every pastor needs resources, and I want the website to become one of the best. From sermon topics to illustrations, outreach ideas, and helpful articles about life and ministry, I want fwbpastor.com to be a relevant and helpful tool for every pastor and church leader." The revised site is expected to launch late this fall.

As he looks back, Ryan points to his dad as the biggest influence on his life and ministry. The long-

time pastor of Blue Point FWB Church in Cisne, IL, Ernie Lewis is also the assistant clerk of the National Association. "Dad has been the greatest example of a ministry-minded, selfless servant that I have ever seen," Ryan said. "He lives a 'real' Christian life, and it is evident in everything he says and does."

When asked what he would be doing if he had not embraced his new role as convention manager, Ryan smiles broadly. "Who knows? I coached a high school basketball team last year and loved every minute of it. But God has directed my steps to this position, and, honestly, right now, I don't have time to think about anything but getting through my first convention."

Well said, Ryan.

"I really don't know how I ended up in this position, but I am enjoying the opportunity, and I am grateful!,"



TEN GREAT REASONS TO VISIT CONVENTION EXHIBITS

ONE AREA OF THE CONVENTION is often overlooked by attendees—the Exhibit Hall. A virtual beehive of activity, the Hall buzzes with excitement from the moment it opens (Monday, 3 p.m.) until it closes at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday night.

Why should convention attendees carve time out of their already busy schedules to visit the exhibits? Exhibit Hall coordinator Debbie Burden says, "It is a great place to catch up with old friends, review the latest in ministry resources, and pick up great souvenirs for the folks back home!"

If those reasons aren't enough, consider the following great (and sometimes humorous) reasons to visit the hall:

- 1. Freebies.** The delightful little trinkets distributed by many exhibitors will entertain your children all the way home.
- 2. Author signings.** Author Jimmy Holbrook will sign copies of his book *Shelter* at the Randall House exhibit Monday, following the evening service. J. Matthew Pinson will also sign copies of his new book, *Perspectives on Christian Worship*, at the Free Will Baptist Bible College

booth after tonight's service.

- 3. Find relief for tired feet** on the comfortable overstuffed furniture in a number of exhibits.
- 4. Empty your nest.** Hustle your high school students by each of the Free Will Baptist college exhibits.
- 5. Learn more about Free Will Baptist** ministries—local, state, and national.
- 6. Take home fresh ideas for home and church** as you examine new Christian products and gain insight from ministry professionals.
- 7. Find someone you're looking for.** You know they are in there somewhere.
- 8. Win a prize.** Fill out an entry card for a chance to win Exhibit Hall prizes.
- 9. Fill up.** Duke Energy Center concessions are just a curtain away.
- 10. Get a Free Subscription to ONE Magazine.** Stop by the Executive Office exhibit.

Visit Exhibit Hall B in the Duke Energy Convention Center daily from 10:00 a.m. to 10 p.m.

FAST FACTS ABOUT RYAN

- Born December 1, 1982
- Saved at an early age; grew up in Blue Point FWB Church, Cisne (IL)
- Worked his first job as a summer counselor at Camp Hope (IL)
- Graduated from FWBBC in 2001 with a B.S. degree in Biblical Studies and Exercise Science
- Married Ashlee (Christian), January 2, 2009
- Served as director of recruitment, FWB Bible College (2004-2006), and associate pastor, First FWB Church, Amory (MS)
- St. Louis Cardinals fan

2009 Convention Nominees

HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Earl Hanna* (SC) replacing Loyd Locklear (MI) who is ineligible for re-election

Ron Parker (LA) replacing himself

Frank Wiley* (OK) replacing James Puckett (OK) who is ineligible for re-election

BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Jack Daniel (GA) replacing himself

Rick Dement* (MO) replacing William Ferguson (MI) who is ineligible for re-election

Mark Ousley* (TN) replacing James Lowe (OH) who is ineligible for re-election

MASTER'S MEN BOARD

Eddie Hodges* (TN) replacing Cliff Donoho (TN) who is ineligible for re-election

Johnny Fowlkes (AR) replacing himself

Rick Stone (KY) replacing himself

RANDALL HOUSE BOARD

Joe D. Wilson* (MO) replacing Michael Waddell (AL), resigned

FWB FOUNDATION BOARD

Len Blanchard (GA) replacing himself

Rick Locklear (MI) replacing himself

Phil Whitaker (AR) replacing himself

COMMISSIONS

Commission for Theological Integrity

Steve Ashby (OK) replacing himself

Historical Commission

Robert Picirilli (TN) replacing himself

Music Commission

Daron Dwyer (NC) replacing himself

Media Commission

Keith Fletcher (TN) replacing himself

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mike Wade (OK) replacing himself

Glen Johnson (VA) replacing himself

Keith Woody (TX) replacing himself

GENERAL OFFICERS

Moderator: Tim York (TN) replacing himself

Assistant Moderator: William Smith (GA) replacing himself

Clerk: Randy Bryant (FL) replacing himself

Assistant Clerk: Ernie Lewis (IL) replacing himself

Earl Hanna pastors Bethany FWB Church, Timmonsville, South Carolina. Earl is a 1974 graduate of FWB Bible College.

Frank Wiley pastors Sunnyside FWB Church, Del City, Oklahoma. He is a 1975 graduate of Hillsdale FWB College.

Rick Dement pastors First FWB Church, O'Fallon, Missouri.

Mark Ousley pastors Forest Grove FWB Church, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Eddie Hodges pastors Hendersonville FWB Church, Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Joe D. Wilson pastors First FWB Church, Lebanon, Missouri. A 1990 graduate of FWB Bible College, he has taken graduate courses at Southeastern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.

***New nominees only.**

Music Commission Presents Seminars

Take advantage of four helpful seminars sponsored by the Music Commission and designed for church pianists of all skill levels.

The first seminar, "Piano Improvisation and Modulation 101," is scheduled Tuesday, 2:00-4:00 p.m., in Millennium Hotel, Colonnade B. During this session, Dr. James Stevens will teach practical techniques for keyboard, including smooth modulations and transitions between songs and the basics of understanding a chord chart. The cost is \$15 per person, and tickets can be purchased at the Music Commission Booth.

The second seminar, "Sound Advice: Practical Advice for Church Sound," will be led by Monte McKenzie, Wednesday, July 22, 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," Wednesday, July 22, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Millennium Hotel Pavilion A. The session, sponsored by the Music Commission, will be hosted by Chris Truett.

The free, open forum will discuss various worship topics faced by worship leaders around the country. Participants will share ideas, ask questions, and form networks with others involved in music ministry.

The final seminar, "Piano Improvisation 201 for the Church," (also led by Dr. James Stevens) will introduce several advanced improvisational techniques for the church keyboardist. The seminar will be held Wednesday, 2:00-4:00 p.m., in Millennium Hotel, Colonnade B, presented by the Music Commission.

Tuesday Highlights...

Randall House will sponsor a writer's workshop on Tuesday morning from 10:00-11:45 in Room 211 at Duke Energy Convention Center. The panel-styled seminar will feature presentations from Allan Crowson, Brenda Evans, Rob Morgan, Michelle Vincent Orr, Jacob Riggs, Eric Thomsen, Jack Williams, and Ron Hunter Jr.

After being abandoned to the streets at age eight, with no adult supervision for five years, the Lord connected Maxim Chesnov with a caring Christian refuge. The Hanna Project is working to develop a safe haven for others like Max. You will not want to miss this session hosted by THP Director Mike Cousineau. Meet a special guest, watch a poignant video depicting the need, and learn how you can help. Tuesday, July 21, 9:00-9:45 a.m., DECC, Room 252.

CONVENTION 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 Times

Registration is open Tuesday and 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:

Monday 5:30 - 6:40/8:40 - 9:30

Tuesday 5:45 - 6:40/8:40 - 9:30

Wednesday 4:30 - 5:30

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

No Handouts

Please refrain from distributing flyers or materials within the Worship Hall following the evening service. Materials may be distributed in the East Concourse, as long as the flow of people exiting the worship service is not restricted.

For more information about announcements and other forms of communication, please contact Convention Managers Keith Burden or Ryan Lewis.

2009 Registration Totals

As of noon today, the convention had registered the following:

National Convention..... 2,684

National Youth Conference..... 4,022

WNAC..... 734

Unique Total..... 5,157

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.

Monday, 11:00-11:45 a.m., DECC, Room 238

Tuesday, 11:00-11:45 a.m., DECC, Room 238

Wednesday, 2:00-2:45 a.m., DECC, Room 238

E-TEAM Alumni Reception

The annual reception is scheduled for tonight, 9:00-11:00 p.m., in Bronze Ballroom B, Millennium Hotel.

Blood Drive Rescheduled

The Reach That Guy blood drive originally scheduled for Wednesday will be held throughout the day Tuesday in Ballroom C of Duke Energy Convention Center.

Committees Announced

Credentials: Gary Fry (MO), chairman, Billy Keith (NC), Todd Smith (SC), Glenn Johnson (VA), George

Harvey (AZ).

Nominating: Mark McCraney (AL), chairman, Bobby Shepherd (AR), Millard Sasser (CA), Ed Hutchinson (FL), Ron Helms (MI), Mark Price (OH), Keith Woody (TX).

Resolutions: Jeff Crabtree (CAN), chairman, Rob Morgan (TN), Chris Clay (IN), Jim Puckett (OK), Len Blanchard (GA)

Obituary: Jim Price (KY), chairman, Luther Morgan (WV), David Shores (IL), Richard Adams (TN), Gene Norris (MI).

