

2011 NATIONAL CONVENTION

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MISSION VENTURE

Highlights from the 66th National Convention held in Coral Ridge, Florida, June 23-26, 2011.

Attendees of the 66th National Convention of Open Bible Churches, held June 23-26, 2011, in Coral Springs, Florida, were challenged to a Mission Venture to reach their world for Christ. Nearly 120 dedicated and capable volunteers worked incredibly long hours to make certain this convention would go down in history books as one of the best ever.

"The level of excellence and resources that Jim Beaird, Southeast Regional Executive Director, and Karl



Francis, South Florida District Director, brought to the convention was unparalleled," said President Jeff Farmer. Months ahead of convention, Dyrie Francis mobilized a team of intercessors to pray for the event. Fun-filled programs for the youngest of attendees to anointed evening services provided a well-

earned season of Sabbath rest and rejuvenation for the Open Bible family.

Worship, orchestrated by Stephen Reeves, was "out of this world," according to those present. For the first time ever, the convention was "streamed" live on the Internet, allowing access to those unable to participate in person. Sound/Recording Technician Jameel Rose and his team arrived early each morning and stayed late into the night. Hospitality workers were well trained and easily identifiable. Rooms for the



children's programs were delightfully decorated and well staffed. For the first time at a National Convention, services were translated live onstage. "It's just like Karl Francis to pick volunteers with the gifting and skills to match their area of service," Farmer noted.

An affordable cruise following convention and a golf tournament, both organized by Jim Beyer, added to the Sabbath experience.

John Simmons, Don Bryan, and Paul Leavenworth were honored for their years of service to Open Bible and each given a book of letters from people whose lives they had influenced. Lt. Col. USAF John Simmons (Ret.) stepped down after serving with great distinction as the Director of Chaplain Ministries since 1997. Dr. Don Bryan's responsibilities as Executive Director of Mission USA will be transferred to the five regions by December 31, 2011. Dr. Paul Leavenworth, former Executive Director of Leadership Development, will consult through 2011 as requested with Regional Executive Directors to help complete the transition of leadership development from the national office to regions and local churches.

Friends and family came to help honor recipients of the 25- and 50-year awards as well. These awards are given to those who have completed 50 years of uninterrupted ministry and those who have completed 25 years of ministry in Open Bible. Those honored for



50 years of uninterrupted ministry in Open Bible were Harold M. Garrettson (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), Marlys M. Garrettson (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), Larry R. McCarty (Sparta, Missouri), Allen V. Nebergall (Oldsmar, Florida), James A. Ringseth (Murrieta, California), and Elsie M. Rogers (Urbandale, Iowa). Chaplain Rear Adm. Robert F. Burt (Ret) was this year's recipient of the Frank W. Smith Excellence in Ministry Award.

Rev. Nancy Clark, President of NAE's Evangelical Women Leaders, spoke prophetically to the women on the "Anointing of Advancement," to go beyond the natural capacity of the past. She shared that it is not the time for Open Bible to shrink back, but to transition forward into the godly alignment that is happening. It is not time to hide with busyness, but to ask God for creative anointing.



Trinidad, challenged convention goers to keep souls as their priority and reassured them that God is faithful to fulfill His promises.



A farewell reception was held Friday evening in honor of President Dr. Jeff Farmer and Ramona, his wife, for the past 16 years Jeff has served as Open Bible's president. The couple was deeply moved as they received meaningful gifts



from the regions and various individuals. They were also presented a memory book, which included cards and letters from many people whose lives they had touched and pictures from various



stages of their ministry to Open Bible. As a delightful surprise to Jeff and Ramona, two of their three children were flown to the convention earlier in the day.

Jeff will step down as President of Open Bible Churches effective January 2, 2012. Randall A. Bach, Eastern Region Executive Director, was elected as

the new President for Open Bible Churches.

