

Network of Biblical  
Storytellers

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[www.NBSINT.org](http://www.NBSINT.org)

## 2010 Festival Gathering Frequently Asked Questions

### *What is a Festival Gathering? (FG)*

The Network of Biblical Storytellers' annual Festival Gathering is both a festival (open to the public, inviting all who are interested) and a gathering (a "family reunion" of the geographically dispersed members of NBS). It is a get-together characterized by a lot of storytelling, humor, and deepening spirituality. Once every year for the past 23 years NBS has hosted such an event.

The Festival Gathering lasts four days and is filled with many wonderful opportunities to hear and tell stories, to learn from the nationally known keynote speaker, to be entertained by various storytellers, to participate in top notch workshops, to be a part of moving worship services.

### *What is a Theme Story?*

Each year NBS picks a theme for the FG and daily biblical stories that address that theme. The daily stories are first told in worship, and are then referred to during the keynote address. Later you will have the opportunity to take a workshop based on the story of the day.

### *What is the "Epic Telling"?*

One of the most popular FG features is our "Epic Telling", a kind of tag-team performance of a whole book or major portion of Scripture for which participants have each prepared a piece in advance. This year's "Epic Telling" will be chapters from the Gospel of John. This is an incredible experience on many levels, as you hear many different styles, voices, and techniques in the tellers. You hear an entire section of the Bible told uninterrupted, which is a very rare and unique experience! Through this you may get a sense of what it might have been like for early believers as they listened and told the stories of the Bible. It's an eye-opening experience of the power of a well-told story.

You may sign up to be a part of the Epic Telling by submitting your first, second, and third choices to the NBS Office, NO SOONER THAN FEBRUARY 11, 2010, AT 10:00 AM EST. Every effort will be made to give you the story you want to tell.

### *What About Worship Services?*

The worship services are the highlight of the conference for many participants. We plan creative services that are faithful to spiritual truths. There are 4 services in all, with the first 3 focusing on the story of that day. Then on Saturday, the FG concludes with a communion celebration worship. Since we represent a wide range of traditions, we strive to honor everyone and seek to make our services inclusive and ecumenical. We depend on volunteers for their gifts of leading prayers and songs and telling stories; so if you have a special talent or can help out with worship, please don't be shy! This year's Worship Leader will be Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones. You may contact her at [pastorlori@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlori@gmail.com).

### What is “Lighting the Fire”?

“Lighting the Fire” is an old NBS tradition. It takes place after hours, when people get together informally and tell whatever kind of stories they want. Anyone is invited to tell a story. It’s a great way to get to know all kinds of people and hear some really wonderful stories. This is a time to tell humorous stories, folk tales, or any of your stories that have become important to you and need to be heard. Because so many people like to tell, there is a limit of 10 minutes per story. The convener for “Lighting the Fire” keeps things moving and also decides when it’s bedtime. But be forewarned, our folks can really get going into the wee small hours! It’s casual though so you can drop in or out as you see fit. It’s a great arena for less experienced tellers, because of the warm, accepting environment with lots of willing listeners. Sign up for Lighting the Fire when you arrive at Ridgecrest.

### What is “text telling”, or Scripture Story Learning?

This describes a word for word telling of text from a standard translation of the Bible, as opposed to a monologue or other creative adaptation. The NBS guideline for text telling is to aim for 75% word accuracy and 95% content accuracy. The usual translation that we use is NRSV. This is also the translation that we ask you to use if you are signing up for the Epic Telling.

### How Do I Register?

Registration for the Festival Gathering itself should be made through the NBS Office:

on line at [www.NBSINT.org](http://www.NBSINT.org) or by phone at 1-800-355-6627. Questions are happily answered either by email or phone.

### How Do I Reserve Rooms and Meals?

Festival Gathering attendees are responsible for making their own room and board reservations with Ridgecrest by calling the Reservations Desk at 800-588-7222. Ridgecrest has lovely hotel-like rooms, with many amenities available. They have reserved their finest accommodation (Mountain Laurel Inn) for our Festival Gathering attendees, so be sure to tell them that you are with the NBS. Ridgecrest does not have an official street address. Go to [www.lifeway.com/ridgecrest](http://www.lifeway.com/ridgecrest) for more information.

### What is the Dress Code?

Dress casually and come prepared for a great experience. Bring a friend or two or three. It’s always fun, and you will meet a nurturing group that will support one another as you return to your communities armed to fulfill the commandment “Go and tell”.

Networking Opportunities Exhibitors’ Hall will include the NBS bookstore, Sign Up area, Networking, Exhibitors/Vendors, and an Artist’s Nook.

Books tore There will be a NBS Bookstore filled with storytelling resources that will be open during meals and breaks over the four days. If you are an author and are interested in selling your books, artwork, CDs, or other materials in the Festival Gathering Bookstore, please contact Ellen Handlin at the NBS Office. The Bookstore is located in the Exhibition Hall.

Airport If you are flying, the closest airport is in Asheville, NC, Ridgecrest is located 17 miles east of Asheville, Exit 66, off I-40.