



# FROM THE EDITOR



By Mark A. Taylor

## My Opinion About the NACC

**“Q**uit griping about your church; if it were perfect, you couldn't belong.”

Why did this quote, in a magazine list of “Christian one-liners,” grab me? Maybe because of my tendency (only grudgingly admitted as I've trudged through midlife) to second-guess, criticize, and complain. I can tell you about my boss's mistakes. I have a list of things that my church ought to do better. And (here's why I've chosen this week to confess) I've never attended a North American Christian Convention where I didn't see or hear *something* I didn't like!

If your response is “So what,” that is exactly my point. If my company, my church, or my convention were perfect, I couldn't belong. And besides, just because I think something ought to be different doesn't mean it should. My opinion is only one among many.

Unfortunately, I've nurtured my opinions so lovingly, repeated them so often, and expressed them with such emotion that I feel compelled to defend them when they are challenged. I'm still learning how to listen to someone whose position contradicts mine. I'm still learning how to attack his idea while embracing him as my brother.

**Convention planners should listen to the critics, who should swallow their pride and support the NACC anyway.**

Some readers of this magazine (this is only my opinion, of course) have the same problem. They don't like a speaker at a North American Christian Convention. They didn't enjoy the music at a session they attended last year. They have a better idea about the workshops or the Bible studies or what the vendors are selling in the refreshment stands. They bluster and babble, and some of them write. They quote Scripture and assert that the Bible proves their position to be true. (Do these complainers actually believe that the people they criticize don't also read the Bible and pray? Is it possible to

tolerate varying opinions about what is an opinion?) I think we should listen to these folks. I think convention planners should swallow their egos and consider the opinions of their critics. Meanwhile, I think the gripers should quench their pride and support the NACC anyway. The convention needs them, and they need the fellowship of this great family gathering; we're all a part of the same body. We learn by listening to each other. We grow as we share ideas, and we mature as we consider propositions that we don't agree with.

Of course, I'm glad to hear your opinion about this subject too.

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