

Freedom Experience 2006 tour sees records crowds of over 30,000

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Nashville, TN – Freedom Experience just finished its third annual tour of the US, shattering its previous attendance records for the third straight year.

More than 31,000 people turned out to one of the 5 FX tour stops. In New Castle, KY, a town of 900 people, more than 6,700 people attended over the three nights of the event. Mississippi-based rock group Wavorly (formerly known as Freshman 15) and Nashville Hip-hop artist B. Reith attended the event with BMX stunt team Chaos on Wheels and the event headliner, illusionist Brock Gill.

The fall tour stops featured Flicker Records pop-punk group Eleventyseven and Fervent/Warner Brothers new hip-hop artists Group 1 Crew, with pro freestyle skateboarder Tim Byrne and Chaos on Wheels, along with Brock Gill.

During the five events 2,887 people made decisions to surrender or rededicate their life to Jesus Christ. Of them 1,876 were to surrender their lives to Christ for the first time. “The thing that makes Freedom Experience different,” says Brock Gill, “...is that 80% of the crowd is doesn’t go to church. By holding the event in a location like a school gym or an arena, we are able to talk to people that we wouldn’t see in a church environment.”

Freedom Experience (FX) saw a new addition in 2006 – the bullet catch. This new death defying stunt featured audience members signing their name on both the tip and the casing of a bullet. The bullet was fired in Brock’s direction as he would attempt to catch it in his mouth. “When I decided to do this, my friends and family told me not to. But I knew that I had to—I’m willing to risk my life to tell you this: I’m not willing to risk my eternity,” said Gill, speaking of the decision he made to surrender his life to Jesus Christ years ago.

In Palm Coast, Florida more than 5,200 people attended over three days despite the fact that Hurricane Ernesto was headed straight for the town. “When we arrived on Sunday we began to pray that the storm would dissipate or move away from Palm Coast... why was everyone so surprised when it did?” says FX staff worker Kim Callender, referring to the weather forecasters both local and national who couldn’t understand or explain why the storm mysteriously slowed down, dissipated to nothing just before going over Palm Coast, and then grew back to a category

one hurricane as it hit Carolina coast just days after the show. “It left everyone guessing—did Brock just make a hurricane disappear?” jokes Callender.

In Hattiesburg, Mississippi more than 6,200 people attended during the three day event. Freedom Experience brought a new component to Hattiesburg—freestyle motocross with professional motocross group Team Faith. “We’ve always offered motocross to hosts, but this was the first time we’d ever been able to bring it,” says FX coordinator Scott Crews. “We were really excited to see this component of the FX vision finally made a reality.” Crowds sat amazed as pro riders Kevin Johnson and Willy Watts of Team Faith delivered an unforgettable performance. “We had a great time,” commented Johnson. “I hope we get to come back out with FX more next year.”

In Williamston, North Carolina more than 6,200 attended the three day event. On the final night Eleventyseven joined Group 1 Crew on stage for the first ever FX collaboration. Performing their hit song, “Forgive Me,” Eleventyseven came out and joined Group 1 on stage, bringing a new sound that “took the energy level that was already at a 10, and turned it up to, like 17,” says Eleventyseven bassist Caleb Satterfield. Also at the event Tim Byrne debuted his new “match this trick” contest. In a contest that could be compared to a skateboarding version of “Horse,” local skaters brought their boards and attempted to win a \$500 prize if they could do 4 of Tim’s tricks in a row. No one was able to win the contest.

In Prattville, Alabama a record breaking 6,800 people attended over three days to see Tim Byrne perform for the first time a triple kickflip—blindfolded. After donning a blindfold and missing the trick once, Byrne successfully landed the kickflip—a trick that only a small handful of people in the world can do without a blindfold. Upon landing the trick, Byrne was greeted with thunderous applause and a swarm on stage of high fives from other FX performers. “I spent a long time learning that trick” said Byrne after the show. “It was totally for Jesus, you know?” By the third night in Prattville all chairs had to be removed from the floor area to make room for the crowd. Brock performed his signature Water Coffin escape and held the 2,700 person crowd in complete silence as he escaped from the donated locks and chains and coffin in two minutes and nineteen seconds without being able to come up for air. Over the course of three nights, over 900 people made decisions to surrender or rededicate their lives to Christ.

Freedom Experience is currently scheduling dates for the 2007 fall tour. To learn more, visit www.freedomexperience.com or www.myspace.com/freedomexperience.