



INSPIRE

APRIL 2023, ISSUE NO. 15

By Faith; Not Sight

BY MR. JACK HUNTER, CHAIRMAN 2023

My earliest memories trace back to the creaking spindles of a bentwood rocker in which my mother sang to me the songs of Zion and hymns about the deep, deep love of Jesus. She would sing and whisper to me that God had a special plan and purpose for my life. My heart was tuned by songs and stories about God's love, mercy, and grace I heard as a child.

I grew up on Piety Drive in Gentilly Woods in the shadow of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. My family passed the seminary multiple times a week as we made our way across town to First Baptist Church New Orleans. There on Friday night, November 10, 1961, the 6th day of a week-long revival led by Dr. Jaroy Weber, I made my profession of faith public. Shortly thereafter, Dr. J.D. Grey baptized me along with a full score of souls whom the Holy Spirit harvested into the Kingdom that week.

BY FAITH; NOT SIGHT CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

mission

The New Orleans Baptist Seminary Foundation is to raise funds for and awareness of NOBTS and Leavell College, empowering the institution to prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.



The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation

By Faith; Not Sight

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My siblings and I grew up in New Orleans. Our church provided the rhythm and structure of our family life. We were catechized as Jesus following, Bible believing, gospel sharing, Cooperative Program supporting Baptists by parents who both modeled and prioritized our involvement in Sunday School, Training Union, Royal Ambassadors and Girls Auxiliary, Bible Memory Work Drill, VBS, and age-graded choirs.

For most of the 30 years I practiced law in New Orleans, I was church centric. But in 2003, a change began. I agreed to teach the Graduate and Profession (“GAP”) Bible Study at church and joined the class in their ministry at the Florida Housing Project. What began as a Saturday morning class activity soon blossomed into a bivocational ministry.

There, in that hard scabbled housing project, I was startled by unexpected beauty, compassion, and community. At the same time, my spirit grieved and then protested the slow, steady, and seemingly inevitable choke hold that generational poverty had on the hopes and dreams of children born into that small, tight, boxed-in world. I confessed my indifference to its oppression and repented the distance I had placed between myself and those born into its clutch.

I had never been more like Jesus than when I was with the kids of the Florida Housing Project. Most of all, it was there in that jagged part of town that scales fell from my eyes; I began to see Jesus differently, my neighbor, and myself.

A great blessing to following Jesus here is the discovery of others who, like Jesus, are mighty in gospel deeds and proclamation: pioneering women and men who expect great things from God and who attempt great things for God, and mild-mannered men and women going about their work-a-day lives but fully invested in Christ’s kingdom, all believing their life in Christ is the pearl of great price and that He alone can transform hearts, lives, families, and communities.

As our three children completed their educations and started their own lives, the Lord began to reorder Jane’s and my well-ordered lives. I left my law practice, and after what now seems like one of the unexpected journeys of Bilbo Baggins, I now help execute the cooperative, missionary initiatives of the churches of the New Orleans Baptist Association.

I joined the Foundation Board in 2002. JoAnn Leavell had mentored Jane as a young wife and mother, and Dr. Leavell had mentored me as a churchman.

Drs. Chuck and Rhonda Kelley have been friends and ministry partners since we were young, young enough to have thought those days would never end. Many of our best friends have been students, faculty, and administrators at the Seminary, which means we’ve got friends serving the Lord around the corner and around the world.

I share with you this bit of our story so that you may more fully appreciate Jane’s and my wholehearted support of NOBTS’ goal to train students here to serve anywhere, and Dr. Jamie Dew’s passion to prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Time is short. Lostness is vast. Judgment is eternal. If you dare to expect great things from God and if you share the missionary desire to attempt great things for God, then I can think of no better return on your investment than supporting the Cooperative Program through your local church and directly supporting NOBTS through the Foundation Board. ✿



Jack Hunter - Chairman 2023

Repurpose; Access

BY WANDA GREGG- DIRECTOR OF DONOR RELATIONS

At the 2022 Foundation Board meeting, members voted to continue fulfilling the ADA upgrades on campus by installing an elevator in the Frost Administration Building. The President, Provost, Alumni, and Distance Learning offices are all located on the second floor of Frost. Visitors with disabilities do not have a way of meeting in these offices. Soon after the meeting, the elevator was purchased, anticipating a long lead time.

The City of New Orleans permit division inspection and further examination by the Fire Marshall revealed that the Frost Building was beyond the fire code for such a project.

The recommendation was to build a new structure outside in front of the Frost building, which dramatically affected the project's cost. Therefore, we needed to propose a revised 2022 project.

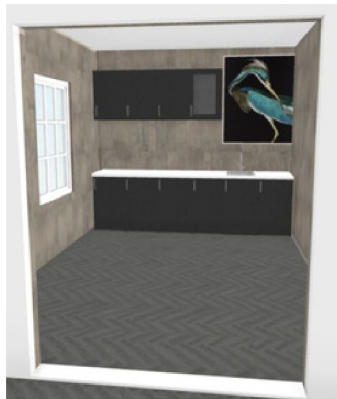
Dr. Larry Lyon, Vice President of Business Administration and the Foundation's Executive Treasurer, stated that the elevator would be repurposed in the cafeteria renovation or consigned to another buyer. If the elevator is sold, the monies from the sale will go back to the Foundation Board's projects fund. We will communicate this to the Board when a decision is made to use or sell the elevator.

Dr. Lyon continued by describing the use of the remaining funds allocated in 2022 to renovate the DeMent Conference Room into a reception space with upgraded furniture, technology, and kitchenette. The proposed updates for DeMent, located on the first floor of the Frost Admin. Building, will convert the space into a student, alums, and donor receiving room for those who visit with the President or other administration members.

The ramp and automatic doors the Foundation sponsored two years ago make entering the Frost Building easier and accessing this new space convenient for our guests. 🌸



New reception and meeting room!



New kitchen to serve guests!



New reception and meeting room - top view.

Upgraded Faculty Technology

BY MARK HAGELMAN - DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Technology moves at a rapid pace. Thanks to the Board members, you are making it possible for our faculty to have capable hardware to remain nimble in today's demanding learning environment.

A Faculty Computer Upgrade Distribution Program was presented as the 2023 Project. This project will provide the faculty with new, up-to-date computers. Your vote for this project was unanimous.

Dr. Laurie Watts, Associate Vice President for Information Technology, provided the details of the purchase:

"From the generosity of the Foundation Board, we will purchase new Dell XPS notebooks with 12th Generation Intel® Core™ i7 processors running Windows 11 (with 32 gigs of RAM & 1 TB solid state drives) for the trustee elected faculty."

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"It is difficult for me to imagine a better faculty than the one God has brought together at NOBTS and Leavell College. "

Dr. Cory Barnes
Assoc. V.P. of Distance Learning

”

Dr. Watts continued, "Each faculty member will also be provided a new office docking station. In addition, a new version of Microsoft Office 365 (cloud & local versions) will be available for them. These hardware and software upgrades will boost productivity and efficiency and encourage the faculty in their work".

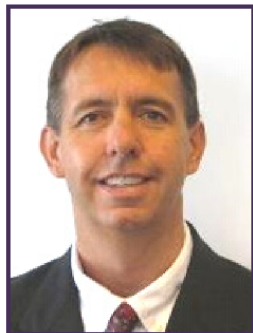
The appreciation for our faculty abounds; we are thrilled the Foundation has made this investment. Reflecting on how our faculty continued to instruct during the pandemic and through hurricanes, your expression of solidarity is not lost on us.

Associate Vice President for Distance Learning, Dr. Cory Barnes, is grateful for your gift. "It is difficult for me to imagine a better faculty than the one God has brought together at NOBTS and Leavell College. Providing our faculty with superior technology equips them to share their gifts, passion, and knowledge with students both on our campus and throughout the world."

Again, thank you for loving NOBTS & Leavell College with such passionate generosity, as it is all for God's glory. ✿

New Members - We've Got Em'

Foundation Board members provide the backbone by which the seminary stands tall. NOBTS and Leavell College need our members' intentional friend-raising focus.



David Brubaker



Doug Gunn



Neal Condrey



Tracy Atcheson



Kurt Auger



Kurt Wamsley



Tom Dobbins

Dr. Tom Dobbins was invited to this year's Foundation banquet and meeting by long-time friend and Foundation member Jack Newton. Tom has made the commitment to join the Foundation!
- Welcome to the family.

In 2022, six people joined the Foundation Board. You affirmed these individuals during the annual meeting. Our NOBTS & Leavell College Trustees will confirm Dr. Tom Dobbins, shown below, during their April meeting. Welcome to each of you, and thank you for choosing to join us!

Our membership is made stronger because of you. Dr. Jody Dean is our Recruitment Team Leader. If you have questions or need information regarding recruiting new members, don't hesitate to contact him directly at jdean@nobts.edu. - Jody is the Associate Professor for Christian Education for NOBTS and Leavell College. 🌸



June 13 & 14, 2023

WWW.NOBTS.EDU/VISITNOLA

Honorary Members

There is room for ten pastors with significant influence and love for NOBTS & Leavell College to join the Foundation's recruitment efforts. These pastors will abide by the exact terms of membership less the annual \$5,000 financial gift to the Foundation Endowment.

These seven pastors have agreed to help grow board membership. Please pray for these new honorary members and for three additional pastors to join us. 🌿

President's Prayer

At our Annual meeting on March 8, Dr. Jamie Dew asked the members to join him in praying for three specific areas of the school:

- Structure and strategy
- Enrollment
- Serve and navigate the SBC well

Please join us in praying each day.

"Father, we come before you humbly, praying for our beloved School of Providence and Prayer. We pray the administration will always know the best way to operate the school fulfilling its mission, and above all, honoring you. We also pray that students being called will consider NOBTS and Leavell College a place where "Prepare Here Serve Anywhere" becomes their reality. Lastly, we ask that our faculty, staff, and students serve the SBC in the best way they know how, with humility and integrity - Amen." 🌿



Fred Luter
Franklin Ave. Baptist Church
New Orleans



Waylon Bailey
FBC Covington, LA



Gil McKee
FBC Tuscaloosa, AL



Leroy Fountain
New Orleans Baptist Assoc.
Church Health Strategist



Eddie Wren
FBC Zachary, LA



Thomas Strong
Metairie Baptist Church



Chad Gilbert
First Baptist New Orleans

Long-Arm of Legacy

BY DR. JERRY POUNDS,
RECORDING SECRETARY 2023

NOBTS is home. I grew up here as the son of two professors (Drs Jerry and Bayne Pounds), and as a testament to their love for Christ, I knew at a young age that God loved me and that I needed a savior. I accepted Christ as an 8-year-old boy and was baptized by my father at First Baptist New Orleans (FBNO), where I now serve as a third-generation deacon. I was honored and humbled to serve on the Pastor Search Committee, recommended our current pastor, Chad Gilbert, to FBNO, and I now joyfully serve on the FBNO Personnel Committee.



Photo: Drs. Pounds and children

I married my wife, Dr. Hannah Hunter Pounds, in 2009, and we have three incredible children: Luke (8), Caroline (6), and Elijah (3). Hannah is an amazing mom who also practices as an Internal Medicine physician and serves as the Chief Medical Officer at Baptist Community Health Services (BCHS). BCHS is the only Southern Baptist-affiliated FQHC (federally qualified health center) in the US. Its mission is to demonstrate the love of Christ by providing primary and behavioral health care services to the medically underserved of New Orleans. I am a Rheumatologist in private practice in New Orleans and serve as the President-Elect of the Rheumatology Alliance of Louisiana. Hannah and I have been able to leverage our medical knowledge and background to share the gospel through short-term medical mission trips to Bulgaria, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Lesotho.

Hannah's father, Jack Hunter, who has been a Foundation member for many years, introduced us to this body when considering ways to support Christ-exalting work in our community. We are beyond excited about what God is doing at NOBTS through Dr. Dew's leadership, and we look forward to many years of serving on the Foundation Board. I am equally excited to begin serving as an Officer and cannot wait to start recruiting more members to this faithful body of NOBTS friends. As Dr. Dew says, "Let's help these students push back the darkness!"

-Jerry Pounds, Jr., MD

"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." Ephesians 6:19-20

Reflections; Renewal

BY DR. MIKE WETZEL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY;
VP for INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Thank you so much for attending this year's Foundation Board Meetings. I have been thrilled with the number of members reaching out to me, saying how impactful the meetings were.

Here are some of the highlights from my point of view:

- The Team meetings were necessary. I am impressed by the teams' enthusiasm, and I love the feedback we have gotten from most of the captains. Team meetings will be critical in going forward with our mission.
- The program on Friday night resonated with the members. We shared spiritual formation, student life, missions, and building updates. We will continue to provide updates from our leaders.
- Dr. Dew shared about the darkness we face in the world and that we have the answer. Your support is the best help for our students to push back the darkness.
- I am pleased that the Foundation Board Project was approved. Some of you have asked if we could have more than one option to vote on. We will work on providing you with another choice.
- Thank you for approving the tremendous goal of \$200,000 for the Giving Tuesday Matching Goal. We will be sending out more information on that this summer.

Your direct involvement is vital to what God is doing on our campus. We are genuinely grateful for your partnership in prayer and support. ✠



48 Hours = 100 Gifts!

For the first time in NOBTS & Leavell College Spring Giving Day history, supporters may designate their gift to one of four top giving initiatives. These initiatives include our student scholarships, alumni-endowed scholarships, the Providence Fund, and your own scholarship if you have one!

Please pray for NOBTS & Leavell College on Thursday, April 27, and Friday, April 28. Additionally, please consider giving to help meet current and future needs and to provide more affordable education for students.

Thank you for your prayers and your giving!

Membership Requirements

The future of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College is bright! As an active board member, you are vital to our success. When you give your annual Foundation Endowment donation, you are strengthening the ability of the seminary to remain in New Orleans. We are grateful for your support through the years, and we look forward to serving with you for years to come!

- Initial three-year commitment to give or raise \$5,000 minimum per year.
- A commitment to continuing giving on an annual basis.
- Attendance at the Annual Meeting is missed only by excused absence.
- Members are to pray for the Seminary daily.
- A person is eligible for membership by enlisting others who meet the membership requirements or securing gifts from an outside entity that matches the membership requirements. These persons are encouraged to give personally on an annual basis.
- Members who give a minimum of \$100,000 in a one-time gift secure Lifetime membership. These persons are encouraged to continue providing financial support to meet the Seminary's needs.
- Members are encouraged to enlist new members within three years.
- Each board member will be asked to help facilitate regional "NOBTS and Friends" events.
- Members give above their annual commitment to the Giving Tuesday Matching Gift fund.

SEMINARY FOUNDATION

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Board Officers

Jack Hunter - Chairman

Chris Townson - Vice-Chair

Jerry Pounds - Recording Secretary

Larry Lyon - Executive Treasurer

Mike Wetzell - Executive Secretary



Team Captains

Recruitment - Jody Dean

Events - Carol Wilken

Stewardship - Mike Haley

Member Orientation - Kurt Wamsley

Membership Network - Becky Harris

Context Connects Students

BY MARK HAGELMAN - DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Juanita and Jack Cunningham had a solid and lasting relationship with NOBTS. With students firmly in mind, they decided to do something special above and beyond their Foundation commitments. They created an endowed fund to help students walk where Jesus walked, gifting them a trip to Israel.

During the Spring semester, NOBTS has an awards ceremony - Celebration of Excellence. During this time, outstanding students selected by faculty and administrators are awarded the Cunningham Israel Pilgrimage, as well as other awards.

For Juanita and Jack, giving students this opportunity was an easy decision. Their transformational donations will strengthen our students until Christ returns. We are thankful for their love of God and our students.

Like the Cunninghams, you may want to give a gift beyond the work of the Foundation. If you have questions, please get in touch with Institutional Advancement to begin the discussion today at 504-816-8224.



We mourn the loss of our dear friend and Foundation Board member Juanita Cunningham, who passed away on February 14, 2023. Please join us as we pray for her family.

Save These Dates

Spring Giving Days - April 27 & 28

Graduation - May 12 & 13

SBC Convention - June 13 & 14

NOBTS Student Center Dedication - June 14

Fiscal Year-End - July 31

Convocation - August 15

Giving Tuesday - November 28

President's Christmas Dinner - November 30

NOBTS Advancement Team

development@nobts.edu or 504-816-8224

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Director of Donor Relations

Lindsay Holder

Director of Development Services

Elisabet Alfonso

Data Secretary

Laura Glass

Gift Processor



Contact Us!

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