

Stevens celebrates 20th year teaching New Testament and Greek at NOBTS

By Michael McCormack

For 20 years, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary New Testament and Greek Professor Gerald Stevens has been beating the curve – and by necessity, so have his students.

Since 1988, much has changed for the typical Stevens class, but his passion for New Testament, Greek and students hasn't. For him, these two decades have gone by in a flash.

"I can't believe how much time has passed so quickly," Stevens said.

Stevens' path to NOBTS professorship was no straight shot. Stevens double majored in math and physics at the University of Southern Mississippi. Toward the end of his college days, his call to ministry began to take shape.

"It was probably somewhere in the junior-to-senior-year transition that I began to recognize that ... God was working in my life in a very special kind of way," Stevens said.



NOBTS Professor Dr. Gerald Stevens spends the 2nd Katrina anniversary working from the rafters of a Habitat for Humanity house.

After graduation, he and his wife, Jean, moved to New Orleans for seminary.

While earning a master's degree at NOBTS, Stevens pastored a nearby church. Out of that ministry came personal direction.

"Whenever I was in a teaching mode,

I always got this strong response," Stevens recalled. "It was the pastoring experience that led me to the realization that God had gifted me for teaching."

That sense of calling led Stevens to enter the doctoral program at New Orleans Seminary. But near the end of his doctoral studies, his sense of call was challenged. The field of teaching was flooded. And despite all his efforts, he couldn't get a teaching job.

"I sent out probably 60 résumés the spring of graduation and got not one response," he said. "That was a real challenge to my sense of call."

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Leavell College student witnesses both sides of Operation Christmas Child annual ministry

By Paul South

Leavell College student Blanca Montero is featured in a media release from the headquarters of Operation Christmas Child. Montero, from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, has been involved in Operation Christmas Child at NOBTS and internationally.

She has seen the ministry from both sides,

collecting boxes locally and distributing boxes to children in her Bolivian hometown.

"If a person could see the faces of these children receiving the boxes, it would make more sense," Montero said. "When they fill one of these boxes, they know that it is going to a child. But when they see the other side, it's something different."

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, a
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This Week in Chapel

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Dr. Dennis Phelps

NOBTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Church Planting Emphasis

Dr. Jack Allen

NOBTS

Next Week in Chapel



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Dr. Richard Land

President, Ethics & Religious
Liberties Commission, SBC

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Dr. John Gibson

NOBTS

Look Inside!

For a break down of local, state and national election results that directly impact you, look for the Election 2008 graphic on page 2.

Also note important information from Financial Aid regarding scholarships and from the Clinic about obtaining a Flu shot.



Election 2008 Wrap-up



For the United States, the State of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans, the Tuesday, Nov. 4, ballot carried a number of high profile and important candidates and initiatives. Listed below are the outcomes of some of the local, state and national races. As Christians and citizens of the United States, use this list as an aid for prayer, a challenge to stay informed and a reminder to be civically active.

Barack Obama

President of the United States

Mary Landrieu

U.S. Senator from Louisiana

Steve Scalise

First Congressional District Representative

William Jefferson

*Second Congressional District Representative
(general election against Joseph Cao to be held Dec. 6)*

Leon Cannizzaro

New Orleans District Attorney

New Orleans Master Plan

Approved (nolamasterplan.org)

Financial Aid News: Spring 2009 Scholarship

Cole Gilbert, who has served NOBTS students in amazing ways for the past two years as Director of Financial Aid, is resigning her position to care for her family full-time. Owen Nease, a 2007 M.Div. graduate of NOBTS, has now taken Cole's position. Because of this transition, the Financial Aid office is about a month behind in the processing of this spring's scholarship awards.

Please be patient with us as we work to complete this process as efficiently as possible; we are hoping to have all of the letters distributed by the middle of December. Also, if you ever have any questions about scholarships or financial aid in general, don't hesitate to contact Owen or Tracy Manning at financialaid@nobts.edu or stop by the office in the Hardin Student Center.

NOBTS Public Network Password to Change

The NOBTS Public Network provides wireless Internet to students, faculty, staff and visitors in several public areas around campus (HSC, Providence, Library, Frost, Dodd, Bunyan, Leavell Center, Cafeteria, Sellers and the ProDoc building). The network's password will change Nov. 3 to 5042824455. For help setting up your computer, email wireless@nobts.edu with the word "Setup" in the subject and you will receive a document to assist you.

Seeking Theology/ Biblical Studies Tutor

Brian Kelly of New Orleans is seeking a tutor in Theology and Biblical Studies. If you can help, contact Gary Myers in the NOBTS Office of Public Relations for more information: 504.816.8003 or gmyers@nobts.edu.

Student Theological Fellowship Weekly Symposia

Would you like a chance to discuss theology outside the classroom? Every Friday from 12 to 1 p.m., the Student Theological Fellowship meets in front of Café New Orleans for a time of fellowship and tutorial.

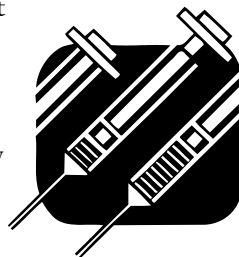
Come and eat your Lunch with theologians and discuss theological issues that impact your lives and ministries.



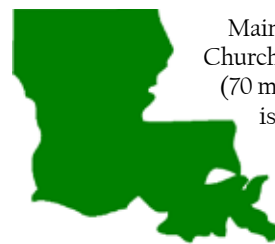
Now Available: Flu Shots for Children and Adolescents Ages 4-18

Get ready to roll up your sleeve. The NOBTS Family Health Care Clinic has received a LIMITED supply of the flu vaccine for children. The flu is a very unwelcome visitor in anyone's home. It causes significant loss of time at school, at work, with the family, and for Christian ministry! It can, and does, cause a significant loss of life each year. The only contraindication is allergy to eggs.

The fee is \$25. Please reserve your dose by calling the clinic at 504.816.8596 or sending an email to clinic@nobts.edu. You will be asked to provide your name, age, NOBTS ID# and contact number(s). ANOTHER



Bogalusa Church Seeks Ministry Support



Main Street Baptist Church in Bogalusa, La. (70 miles from NOBTS), is seeking someone who can help the church in any capacity (youth, music, education or

senior adult). The church has a home in which the student and his or her family could live and will provide a monthly stipend.

For more information, contact Pastor Charlie New at 985.735.8184 or 985.294.1847 or thegoodnews@bellsouth.net.

Carols and Candlelight

Before final exams begin and the rush of the Advent and Christmas seasons overwhelm, the seminary family is invited to spend an evening in The Quad – gathered with family and friends, bundled in warm clothing, holding candles – hearing and singing the story of Christ's birth. Place: The Quad. Date: Tuesday, Dec. 2. Time: 7 p.m.

Picayune Church Needs Interim Youth Minister

Roseland Park Baptist Church in Picayune, Miss. (50 miles from NOBTS), is hiring an interim youth minister. The job entails 20 to 30 hours a week and pays \$400-500 per week plus mileage. For more information, contact Pastor Kriss Haymes at 601.798.5620.

OPTION FOR CHILDREN is the Greater New Orleans Immunization Network. All childhood immunizations, including the flu vaccine, are free through the GNO Immunization Network for children and adolescents through 18-years-of-age. No appointment is necessary. Flu shots will be available when their shipment is received. The GNO Immunization Network "clinic" is a bus that travels to various easily accessible sites in the Metro New Orleans area. For further information about the GNOShots4Kids Bus Schedule, visit www.gnoshots4kids.com or call 504.733.3268.

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Learning flexibility

Stevens said that “just by *lagniappe*” he decided to interview with the Alabama Baptist Campus Ministries. With no other opportunities in sight, Stevens saw no reason not to. Soon enough, Stevens became the campus minister of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

“I loved [college students’] energy, their excitement for life,” Stevens said. “I love being a part of someone’s life when they were making major life decisions about faith and commitment to a spouse.”

But at the same time, Stevens said he was becoming restless. His seven years of campus ministry were extremely fulfilling, but he still felt called to teach. After seeking some counsel, Stevens decided to be as open and flexible as possible. Maybe, he thought, God was leading him in another direction. Not long after, an opportunity with the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay) came his way. He accepted, found a condo in Nashville, and even agreed to serve as singles minister at a local church.

“All of that was already in place when my phone rang at the BSU one day,” he said.

The unexpected phone call was from Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Leavell was to the point: “Gerald, do you want to teach?”

“I was in instant career crisis,” Stevens said. “I thought I was doing all the right things, and then suddenly, out of the blue, there was this invitation to teach.”

He called Leavell back the next day – this time armed with four hurdles to his coming to NOBTS. To his surprise, none of them was a problem for Leavell. After another long night of prayer, Stevens agreed to come to New Orleans for an interview.

“I knew without a shadow of a doubt, after all the spiritual struggle I went through over that two-day period, this was God’s will,” Stevens said. “So in the fall of 1988 I started teaching at New Orleans. The rest is history.”

A standout teacher

A Gerald Stevens classroom is technologically intense. By Stevens’ own admission, technology has always been a driving force in his presentations. At New Orleans Seminary, he’s always been on the forefront of technological developments.

“I’ve always been the one who was hanging ten on the front of the wave,” he said. “If anything’s happening technologically, I’m there.”

Stevens even connected his widely used Greek grammar textbooks to technology. About the same time Stevens came to the conclusion that students needed a more graphics-oriented and user-friendly Greek textbook, a new technology called “desktop publishing” was hot off the presses.

That first textbook has led to an updated primer, an intermediate Greek grammar and, due out Fall 2008, *Syntax in New Testament Greek*, written in conjunction with fellow NOBTS New Testament and Greek professor Dr. Bill Warren.

And all of it is student focused. Throughout his tenure, Stevens has been committed to students, and it shows. In 20 years, Stevens has never missed a class.

From 1988 to 2008, students are both

different and the same, Stevens said.

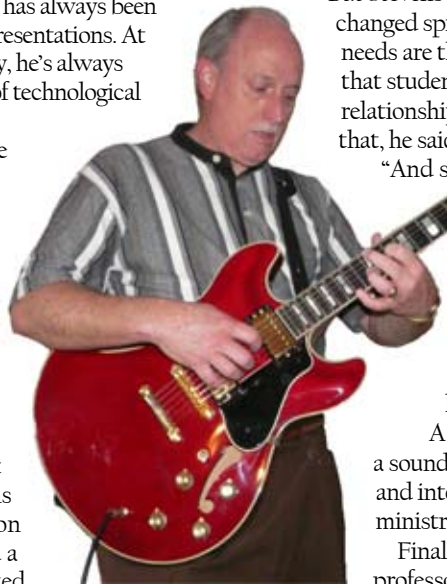
“Culturally, they’ve changed because the culture they confront is different,” he said. “The life around them is much more fast-paced. News and information come at an alarmingly fast rate, to the point that you have to respond to something without reflecting on it. And that’s dangerous.”

But Stevens said students have not changed spiritually; their spiritual needs are the same. He pointed out that students first need a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. Without that, he said seminary makes no sense.

“And students still need a mentor,” he continued. “No matter how you’re getting the information, somewhere along the way you still need a mentor to guide you along the way of learning how to become a minister.”

A student’s mentor acts as a sounding board for digesting and integrating information into ministry, Stevens said.

Finally, he said that students need professors to be personable. And for 20 years now, Stevens has been just that.



Dr. Stevens Fast Facts

● **PERFECT ATTENDANCE:** In 20 years of teaching at NOBTS, Stevens has never missed a class. “I can’t help it,” he said. “I just have to be in that classroom.”

● **THE DOC OF ROCK:** While a campus minister, Stevens earned the nickname “The Doc of Rock.” He’s an accomplished guitarist and writes his own music.

● **iTUNES AND THE WEB:** Stevens has a website, DrKoine.com, and his album is available on iTunes. Search for “Jean and Jerry Stevens.”

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project of the Christian relief organization Samaritan’s Purse, has collected and hand-delivered more than 61 million shoebox gifts to hurting kids in some 130 countries. The boxes contain candy, socks, school supplies and other necessities. A booklet containing the gospel message accompanies the boxes.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary will serve as one of the national collection sites for OCC. Last year, more than 4,300 shoeboxes were collected at the seminary and sent to children around the world.

Shoeboxes will be collected on the NOBTS campus Nov. 17-24 in the Hardin Student Center. Along with filled shoeboxes, volunteers are also needed to help during. Lifesongs 89.1 has teamed with NOBTS to promote the local Operation Christmas Child effort.

Although the official collection week is Nov. 17-24, Operation Christmas Child is not limited to just one week a year or during the holiday season. It is a year-round project, requiring months of organization and preparation to reach millions of kids around the world. Volunteers and shoebox gifts are needed during all seasons to help spread Christmas cheer and the spirit of giving that lasts all year long.

Montero knows first hand the power of a simple gift, like a Teddy Bear, a piece of candy or a box of pencils.

“These were kids whose parents didn’t have money to feed them. Once they got their box, they wanted to open it right then and there,” said Montero. “They were sharing everything

they got – gum and candy – things we don’t get in our country. I wanted to cry and laugh at the same time because I was seeing something that was touching someone.”

HOW TO HELP

● **PREPARE:** Enlist families, churches, community groups and businesses to take part in making shoebox gifts for needy children.

● **PACK:** Fill shoeboxes with toys, necessity items, school supplies, candy and a letter of encouragement.

● **VOLUNTEER:** Help is needed during National Collection Week, November 17-24, at Hardin Student Center. For more information, contact Dr. Lloyd Harsch at 504.343.3144, or lharsch@nobts.edu.



Church-Minister Relations

Ministry Opportunities

The following are a few of the ministry positions received by the Church-Minister Relations office. Churches are listed according to the type of ministry position needed and whether the position is classified as part-time or full-time. All positions within a 2-hour radius of New Orleans are listed separately with the approximate distance in parentheses. To contact any of these churches, or to have your resume sent to other unpublished ministry opportunities, visit the CMR office (second floor, Frost Building) or contact them at 504-282-4455 or 1-800-662-8701, ext. 3291, or cmrconsultant@nobts.edu.

New Orleans Area

Full-time

- Evans Creek BC, Pearl River, La.; Senior Pastor (45)
- Hays Creek Southern BC, Franklinton, La.; Pastor (77)
- FBC, Plaquemine, La.; Pastor (88)
- Steep Hollow BC, Poplarville, Miss.; Music and Education Minister (70)
- Roseland Park BC, Picayune, Miss.; Youth Minister (49)
- FBC, Kenner, La.; Minister of music (16)
- FBC, Franklinton, La.; Minister of Music/Worship (71)
- Memorial BC, Bogalusa, La.; Minister of Music (68)
- FBC, Greensburg, La.; Pastor (89)
- Baker FBC, Barker, La.; Pastor (93)
- Harmony BC, Picayune, Miss.; Pastor (48)
- The Lord's Church, Kentwood, La.; Youth and Music (88)

Part-time

- Greenwell Springs BC, Greenwell Springs, La.; Preschool Minister/ Director (85)
- Westside BC, Ponchatoula, La.; Minister of Children (54)
- Palestine BC, Bogalusa, La.; Music Minister (63)
- Thompson BC, Smithdale, Miss.; Music minister (123)
- Hebron BC Soso, Miss.; Youth Minister (145)
- Calvary BC, Slidell, La.; Minister of Music (26)
- Seminary BC, Seminary, Miss.; Minister of Music (127)

- FBC, Hammond, La.; Minister of Music or Combination including Music (60)
- Big Level BC, Wiggins, Miss.; Youth director (96)
- Memorial BC, Bogalusa, La.; Minister of music (68)
- Bogue Falaya BC, Folsom, La.; Youth Minister (51)

Pastor

Full-time

- Big Stevens Creek BC, North Augusta, S.C.
 - Pitts BC, Pitts, Ga.
 - Wrens BC, Wrens, Ga.
 - Second BC, Angleton, Texas
 - Calvary BC, Bel Air, Md.
 - Sunrise BC, El Paso, Texas
 - Grace BC, Philadelphia, Miss.
 - Whitewater BC, Oglethorpe, Ga.
 - Pineview BC, Barnesville, Ga.
 - Arboles BC, Arboles, Colo.
 - Eagles' Nest BC, Fruitland Park, Fla.
 - Wagarville BC, Wagarville, Ala.
 - Northwoods BC, Shreveport, La.
 - Black Creek BC, Darlington, S.C.
 - FBC, Coushatta, La.
 - FBC, Franklin, N.C.
 - FBC, Alice, Texas
 - FBC, McAllen, Texas
 - Portico, Joplin, Mo.
- ##### Part-time
- Faith BC, Emporium, Pa.
 - Expressway BC, Freeport, Pa.
 - Lakeside BC, Battle Creek, Mich.

Music

Full-time

- Houston River BC, Sulphur, La.
 - FBC, LaBelle, Fla. (Bi-Vocational)
 - South Mountain Church, Short hills, N.J.
 - Central BC, Brookhaven, Miss.
 - FBC of Battlefield, Battlefield, Mo.
 - FBC, Willow Park, Texas
 - Central BC, Waycross, Ga.
 - Lakeview BC, Selmer, Tenn.
 - Calvary BC, Florence, S.C.
- ##### Part-time
- Oak Hill BC, Meridian, Miss.
 - FBC, Irvington, Ala.
 - Crestview BC, Shelby, N.C.
 - St. Clare BC, Boyce, La.

Youth

Full-time

- Adaville BC, Spindale, N.C.
- Buffat Heights BC, Knoxville, Tenn.
- FBC, Opelousas, La.
- Cornerstone BC, Hartwell, Ga.

- Chillicothe Baptist, Chillicothe, Ohio
 - Mt. Vernon BC, Columbus, Miss.
 - Mountain View BC, Hickory, N.C.
 - Jubilee BC, Daphne, Ala.
 - New Beginnings BC, Bixby, Okla.
 - Beallwood BC, Columbus, Ga.
 - FBC, Middleburg, Fla.
- ##### Part-time
- Glory Fellowship BC, Jasper, Ala.
 - Teamon BC, Griffin, Ga.

Children and Preschool

- FBC, Broussard, La.
- FBC, Cumming, Ga.
- FBC, Crestview, Fla.; Children's Minister
- Hickory Grove BC, Charlotte, N.C.; Children's Minister
- FBC, Fairhope, Ala.; Minister to Children
- Jubilee BC, Daphne, Ala.

Combination

Full-time

- FBC, Jasper, Tenn.; Minister of Music/ Youth
- Eastgate BC, Burton, Mich.; Minister of Youth/ Music
- Hueytown BC, Hueytown, Ala.; Associate Pastor of Music/ Education
- Sans Souci BC, Greenville, S.C.; Associate Pastor of Music and Education
- East Thomaston BC, Thomaston, Ga.; Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults
- Mount Calvary BC, Albertville, Ala.; Youth and Children Minister
- Victor BC, Greer, S.C.; Minister of Music/ Youth
- FBC, Odessa, Texas; Junior High Student/ Recreation Pastor
- Eden BC, Brooksville, Fla.; Associate Pastor/ Minister to Youth
- Parkway BC, Houston, Miss.; Minister of students/ Associate Pastor

Other

Full-time

- FBC Marlow, Marlow, Okla.; associate pastor
- Ogletown BC, Newark, Del.; administrative pastor
- Northcliffe BC, Spring Hill, Fla.; Education
- Trinity BC, McAllen, Texas; Associate Pastor (Mandarin Speaking)



NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY