

The Gatekeeper

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Gatekeeper Archives

NOBTS State of the Seminary: Kelley celebrates School of Providence and Prayer

BY PAUL F. SOUTH

NEW ORLEANS – New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Chuck Kelley celebrated the school's heritage of providence and prayer in his annual "State of the Seminary" address to the students, faculty and staff.

Ninety-three years after its founding, Kelley said, the seminary remains, "In the grip of God."

In 1917, Southern Baptists decided to create a seminary from scratch in New Orleans, one of the nation's most non-Baptist cities. He called the history of the seminary the story of "the little seminary that could."

Now one of the largest seminaries in the world, NOBTS has weathered epidemics, economic upheaval and epic storms, including the worst natural disaster in American history. Thanks to God's providence the seminary still thrives, training God-called men and women for ministry.

There are five principles at the heart of the seminary's success story, Kelley said.

1. The seminary has survived and thrived because, Kelley said, "It was willing to embrace the unconventional – to be willing to see this region that is so utterly un-Baptist as not a threat or a difficulty, but as an opportunity to do something great for the kingdom of God."

The seminary also embraced and applied new technologies on an unprecedented scale to deliver theological education to students both on the main campus and at extension centers throughout the Southeast and even in maximum-security prisons.

"We have learned that if we are going to do the work of the kingdom of God, we can't simply do it in the conventional traditional ways," Kelley said. "Though there's nothing wrong with those ways, they became conventional for a reason – they worked. We must also be committed to pushing the edge of the envelope, to get out of the box, to do those things that are opportunities for something

new, rather than what has been done in the past."

2. The seminary also places an emphasis on what Kelley called, "the nuts and bolts of practical ministry," as well as the more academic aspects of theological education, including sound biblical exegesis and hermeneutics, theology, church history and polity.

"We have decided at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary that we are going to embrace both those aspects of ministry – what you know and what you are able to do," Kelley said. "We want to embrace the reality of the local church and the necessity of excellent scholarship. What we have discovered is you don't have to sacrifice one to have the other."

Kelley cited the school's commitment to faculty who are not only world-class scholars, but are accomplished servants of the local church.

3. The seminary is also committed to extending its reach beyond the traditional campus setting through its network of extension centers and online learning. While education at the main New Orleans campus remains the seminary's "gold standard," Kelley said, the school understands that because of life circumstances, alternatives are needed to deliver quality theological education.

"We believe God can use a trained minister in fabulous and important ways," Kelley said. "The more tools you have in the toolbox, the more likely you are to do something great for the kingdom of God. And we are determined to make those tools available as widely as we can to as many people as we can."

4. Throughout its history, hard lessons learned through cataclysmic events – from epidemics, to economic travail to hurricanes – also forged the present-day seminary. The seminary nearly closed its doors in the wake of the Great Depression. Kelley

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NOBTS
Chapel

New Orleans Campus
Chapel Schedule

Chapel Services are held
at 11 a.m in Leavell Chapel

Tuesday, May 4
Celebration of Excellence

Thursday, May 6
Missions Commissioning
Dr. Ted Traylor, Pastor
Olive Baptist Church
Pensacola, FL

Commissioning Chapel
Service on May 6

On Thursday, May 6, we will be having a Missions Commissioning Chapel Service for the last chapel service of the school year. At this service we will pray for all those that are going to be taking part in mission trips this summer. We will take the names that we receive and make a master list for student and faculty so that they may pray for you throughout the summer. If you are going to be going on a mission trip, whether it be international or domestic, or if you will be serving on a camp staff, please send your name and where you will be going (if that information can be published) to Mandy Gilmore at the Global Missions Center, 504-282-4455 ext. 8124 or globalmissionscenter@nobts.edu. Please contact us as well if you have been appointed for service with NAMB or IMB since May 2009.

GK
online

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HERE

for current
Extension Center News

German Classes Available

The Providence Learning Center is pleased to be able to offer German classes for the purpose of preparing students to meet the language requirements necessary for entry to NOBTS Research Doctoral Programs. Part one will take place May 31-June 18, from 9:00 am-1:00 pm Monday-Friday. Part two will take place June 28-July 16, from 9:00 am-1:00 pm Monday-Friday. The cost is \$500 per part. For more information, please contact J.P. Cox in the Providence Learning Center at jpcox@nobts.edu or at ext. 8442.



NOBTS Ties on Sale

- Student price: \$15 (regularly a \$50 value)
- Cash only, please
- 100% pure silk
- NOBTS logo and colors
- Fleur-de-lis embossed
- Regular and long sizes
- Available while supplies last at the Alumni/CMR office, 2nd floor Frost building during regular business hours

Save the Date – Marriage Workshop Weekend May 14-16

Williams Boulevard Baptist Church is hosting a Marriage Workshop Weekend May 14 - 16, 2010. The cost is \$15 for seminary couples. A Children's Event is provided during the Marriage Workshop and costs only \$1 per child per day needed.

<http://williamsblvd.org>
Click [here](#) for the brochure

For Library Patrons

Please stop by or check your on-line library account at www.nobts.edu/library to see if you have fines accruing or items overdue. Stop by, email, or call the Circulation Desk with questions and to take care of outstanding accounts before the end of the semester, library@nobts.edu or (504) 816-8018. Thank you!

Joey Wolfe Recital

The Division of Church Music Ministries presents Joey Wolfe in his Graduate Voice Recital on Friday, May 7, 2010 at 7:30 P. M. in the Recital Hall of the Sellers Music Building. Admission is free, and all are invited to attend.

We've got Baptist publications

Free copies of SBC Life, the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, the Louisiana Baptist Message and the IMB missions magazine CommissionStories are available in the PR office.

Manuscript copyediting/proofreading for degree candidates and authors. Metro NOLA. Reasonable. K. L. Burns Editorial Services (985) 725-9380.

The Gatekeeper

Gatekeeper Submissions

The Gatekeeper is published weekly during the school year and twice in the summer.

Items for The Gatekeeper are due Wednesday at Noon to appear the following issue.

Submissions to The Gatekeeper appear as space allows and are subject to editing.

Email your Gatekeeper submissions to gmyers@nobts.edu.



Angelfood Ministries in New Orleans

Order at: www.angelfoodneworleans.com or Celebration Church 2701 Transcontinental Dr. Metairie, LA

Mondays May 3 & 10 from 9AM-11AM & 2 PM – 4 PM

Cash, Food Stamp Card, Debit or Credit Cards – No checks
DISTRIBUTION DAY: Sat. May 22nd

Job of the Week

Company Name- CVS
Job Description- Cashier/Clerks
Contact Person- Andrew Brennan
Phone- 504-466-1478 or 225-806-7833
Address- 2530 Williams Blvd., Kenner
Hours/Info- Full Time and Part Time jobs available - \$8-9/hr based on retail experience
Date Posted- 4/13/10

Scholarship of the Week

Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines:
North Carolina WMU – May 13
Memorial Baptist – May 15
Arizona Scholarship – June 1
Louisiana WMU Scholarship – June 15
Champions for Christ – July 1
Baptist Foundation of Texas – July 15

H1N1 Vaccine

The H1N1 vaccine is available at the Walgreens on Gentilly Boulevard Monday-Friday from 2-4pm. The cost is \$18.

Lifeway Accepting Applications

LifeWay is currently accepting applications for the position of Assistant Manager. It is a 40 hour/week position with benefits. Please apply online at www.lifeway.com/jobs and send an email of interest to Brantley.scott@lifeway.com.

NOBTS You Tube Homepage



Click Here for Bible Reading & Scripture Memory Plan

from KELLEY, on page 1

recalled how students and faculty, upon returning from their churches on Sunday nights, would bring donated food to feed the seminary family.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina punched New Orleans and the seminary with unprecedented power, leaving 70 percent of the Crescent City underwater. Kelley recalled the days after the storm.

"Through the years, God has taught this school of providence and prayer to roll with the punches," Kelley said

5. A fifth lesson is that despite all that it has accomplished, the seminary's work is never done. "The lesson we had to learn is that sunrises are more important than sunsets. . .New Orleans seminary has always tried to keep its vision on the sunrise, knowing there was always something more to do for the Kingdom of God."

Key decisions have shaped the seminary, Kelley said. First, NOBTS is committed to making excellent theological education as accessible as possible to any God-called man or woman anywhere in the world. In addition, the curriculum addresses the core competencies needed for successful real-world ministry.

During Kelley's presidency, class schedules have become more flexible. Classes now meet every day – some once a week, others twice a week. There are also night and weekend classes, and concentrated workshops.

Bucking a trend in higher education that has seen a move toward adjunct faculty, NOBTS has built a residential faculty. The New Orleans campus is at the heart of the entire seminary does, but there are faculty who are involved in day-to-day ministry who still serve in teaching roles at NOBTS.

The seminary has also made a commitment to continuing scholarship for the faculty, as well as a commitment to centers and forums for scholarship, including the Haggard Center for New Testament Textual Studies, as well as the Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum, in which leading scholars from around the globe –both evangelical and atheist -- debate key issues of faith.

Other initiatives like the Youth Ministry Institute and the Church Leadership Certificate provide focused training, not only to seminary students, but also to laypeople. These dreams that became reality are at the heart of the seminary's identity, Kelley said.

"This is who we are: We are a group who is facing the sunrise, who is embracing the unconventional, who is determined to do everything we can to make theological education accessible and who are determined to do it together for the glory of God," Kelley said.

So, where is NOBTS today?

Enrollment continues to grow, Kelley said. That increase has brought challenges, especially in Katrina's wake. The seminary lost 92 apartments. Efforts are underway to replace that lost campus housing. However, by year's end, the seminary expects to have 3,600 students.

Turning to economics, in what Kelley called a "miracle of God," the seminary's endowment appears to have weathered the recession. While other institutions have lost as much as 30 percent of their endowments, it appears that barring any strange events, the NOBTS endowment will emerge intact. More money for scholarships is expected in the 2010-11 academic year. The seminary has received a gift of \$800,000 for music scholarships, the most in school history. The seminary has also received \$2 million for an endowed chair in evangelism and church health. Another gift will allow the seminary to endow a chair in pastoral leadership.

"God has really done a miracle in protecting the investments that people have made in the school of providence and prayer," Kelley said.

Sixteen new two-bedroom apartments will be ready by early June. Additional units are expected to be completed by the fall. Kelley asked his audience to pray for more apartments.

Kelley left his audience with a main thought, buttressed by images of today's blossoming NOBTS campus, and the waterlogged post-Katrina campus of nearly five years ago.

"There was a day when if you had told me what we were going to look like today, I would have had a hard time believing you. God had to convince me," Kelley said. But the journey from there to here is a reflection, not of my leadership as president, not of the people who give money and the people who work here. It's a reflection of how strong God's grip is on His people and His purposes."

"And the same God who did that journey, that's the same God who has that same grip on you, and on your life," Kelley added. "That's where we are now – in the grip of God."

Just for girls!

Teens In Action is a four-day discipleship camp for 7-10th grade girls who want to learn how to better love Jesus with their whole hearts. The speakers and leaders for the week are college-aged girls who love God and love ya'll! At TIA you can count on awesome small group times, horseback riding (for everyone interested), swimming, amazing games, elective tracks (music, drama, art, etc.), friends for life, and a life-changing experience!

Teens in Action began in 2005 out of a desire to help teenage girls move beyond the drama of their daily lives to live set-apart, Christ-centered lives that will astound the world around them. The camp is held at Judson Baptist Retreat Center in St. Francisville, Louisiana, June 7-11, 2010. For more information, contact Amy Clark: 225-571-3367 or amyco2005@gmail.com. To register now, visit: www.judsonretreat.org.

Finals Flapjack Feast

Come out and join the NOBTS BCM for midnight pancakes! From 10pm-midnight on Wednesday, May 5, the BCM will be serving pancakes, bacon and orange juice to give you a break from studying! Meet us at the gym for a fun midnight breakfast, or just drop by and eat if you have to run. Hope to see you there!

Church Planting Volunteer Needed

NAMB Church Planter, Heath Rohner is seeking a volunteer Youth Leader to serve in an internship role in a new church plant 60 miles North of New Orleans. Church plant (Cross-Point Church) is located in Amite, Louisiana. We have a full court gym and a fast growing youth group. For more information contact: Heath Rohner @ 985-517-3303 or e-mail crosspointmission@yahoo.com.

Church in need of Summer Missionaries

Grace Baptist Church in 9th Ward New Orleans is seeking two male summer missionaries to help staff our seven-week youth camp. The camp runs from June 1 to July 16. Housing and a NAMB-funded stipend are included. To apply, contact Jenny Guillory at 985-688-2093 or Jenny@GraceForNewOrleans.com.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and
The Providence Educational Foundation present
A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

December 29, 2010~January 8, 2011

Featuring Teaching and Devotions with
Dr. Bill Warren • Dr. Jimmy Dukes • Rev. Clay Corvin



Trip Cost is \$1,895 for Enrolled Students

Join other NOBTS students, faculty, staff, and friends as we travel to the Biblical sites of Israel. The trip itinerary is below. If you are interested in this opportunity of a lifetime, please complete the application and return it with your down payment of \$500.

This trip is first-come, as space is available.

Part-time Childcare Needed

Part-time childcare worker needed for First Baptist Church New Orleans Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program. For information contact Sandy Dantin (504) 669-2289.

Youth Intern Needed

Do you have a heart for students grade 7-12th? Do you see yourself possibly serving in student ministry when you graduate? Are you looking for an opportunity to serve this summer and also make some money? If so we may have an opportunity for you. Harp's Crossing Baptist Church in Fayetteville GA (just south of Atlanta) is looking for 2 interns this summer. We are looking for 1 male and 1 female who would serve May 30th- August 8th. If interested please contact Chris Watson at 770-461-5318 ext. 20 or email cwwwatson@harp crossing.com by April 30th.

Voice or Clarinet Lessons:

Jennifer Hoover, a graduate music student, is offering beginning to intermediate clarinet or voice lessons. Scheduling is somewhat flexible.
Cost: 12.50/30minute lesson; 18.75/1hour lesson.
7852139725 or omagnify31@yahoo.com

YOUR WORLD May 24-28, 2010

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

A conference and a class featuring guests including **Paul Turner, Allen Jackson, Scott Kindig, Mark Matlock**, and others!

Youth Ministry Discussions Include:

- **Starting Strong** - Models, Vision, and Purpose
- **Confronting Culture** - The World We Minister In
- **Building on the Basics** - Volunteers, Middle Schoolers, Budgets, and Legal Issues
- **And More!**

Syllabi and pricing are available at
www.youthministryinstitute.org

Academic participants must register by **April 24.**



A ministry of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary