

Researcher Bill Day seeks to identify keys to New Orleans church recovery

Two local churches find post-Katrina life under one roof

By Michael McCormack

Grass covers the lot where Elysian Fields Avenue Baptist Church building stood for nearly 50 years. Like thousands of structures in New Orleans, it was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Even though the church building did not survive the Aug. 29, 2005, storm, members of Elysian Fields continue to impact the church's community.

Theirs is a story of recovery and partnership.

For about a year now, Bill Day, associate director for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health, has been studying the 1,500 places of worship in the five parishes that make up the greater New Orleans area – Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes.

"I would like to know what the impact of Katrina is and was on places of worship in this area to find out which ones will die, which ones will survive but be weaker and which churches, despite Katrina, will actually grow," Day said.

While many are fighting for survival, others, like Elysian Fields, have found traction in the otherwise muddy road to recovery in New Orleans. The purpose of Day's study is to identify what factors have



NOBTS professor and Elysian Fields Church pastor Ken Taylor stands in front of where the church worshipped before Katrina.

impacted local congregations' ability to recover.

The first phase of Day's research was finished by the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. New Orleans Seminary students canvassed the area to contact churches that Day could not reach by phone. Day divided churches into two groups: Places of worship classified as "functioning" were worshipping at their pre-Katrina site and those worshipping elsewhere or not at all were deemed "not functioning." At the time, roughly 61 percent of New Orleans places of worship were functioning.

Day updated those numbers April 30 and the number of functioning places of worship had climbed to just over 70 percent.

"I'm planning to have a six-month

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This Week in Chapel

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Dr. Craig Conner

Pastor, FBC Panama City, Fla.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Dr. Perry Sanders

Pastor Emeritus, FBC Lafayette, La.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Dr. Tony Merida

Dean of the Chapel

Next Week in Chapel

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Dr. Thomas Strong

NOBTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Dr. Jerry Barlow

NOBTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Dr. Tony Merida

Dean of the Chapel

Hurricane Season

Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. During hurricane warnings, all seminary residents are advised to stay tuned to either WBSN FM 89.1, television station WWL Channel 4 or radio station WWL 870 AM for up-to-date information.

It's a boy!

Adam Thomas McJunkin was born to Jenny, Tim, and sister Anna on Aug. 29, 2007 at 4:07 p.m. He weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.

Houseparents Needed

Providence Ministries Boy's Homes, in Dalton, Ga., is seeking a Christ-centered couple to care for up to six boys between the ages of five and seventeen. Relief houseparents will work twelve days per month and up to four weeks per year. This is an ideal position for a retired couple or Bi-vocational pastor. Case manager will have a caseload of twelve. Former DFCS case managers are welcome. These positions can be combined for one full time position with possible housing included.

We are non-denominational but lean very much Baptist. We are accepting of Bible-believing, Christ-centered people. If you have parenting/case management skills and a heart for children we want to hear you. A Master's degree is preferred; a BA. required for the case manager.

Email resumes and testimonies to Curtis Adair at pmadmin@optilink.us. Visit our website providenceministriesinc.com

NOBTS Clinic Info

Dr. Wirfs (family nurse practitioner) is full-time professor of nursing and Mike Abernathy (medical assistant) is a full-time nursing student at William Carey University. Therefore, the NOBTS Family Health Care Clinic is open on a *part-time* basis with variable hours to serve the primary health care needs of the seminary family. Monthly schedules are posted and appointments are always preferred (504.816.8596).

Patients with urgent or emergency needs for health care should call 911 or proceed directly to a hospital emergency department. Maps and directions to area hospital with emergency departments are available in the clinic.

Baby Fair at FBNO

The Health Ministry of First Baptist Church New Orleans will host a baby fair on Wednesday, Sept. 19, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. New and expectant parents as well as parents of young children are invited to come and meet representatives from local resources and services geared to this special time in your life. For more information, call 504.482.5775.

NOBTS Preschool Jobs

The NOBTS Preschool is looking for Part-time/Full-time teachers. If you love children and want to become a part of quality care for the children of the community and the Seminary, please fill out an application and come by the Preschool. The Preschool tries to work around students' class schedules and provides training to help students learn more about the field of early education.

FBNO Seeks Preschool Teachers

First Baptist Church New Orleans has openings for a teacher and assistant in the weekday preschool. Hours are 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and possibly Fridays. Openings are also available for after care assistants. Hours are 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Anyone interested can call Karen Farrell at 504.482.5775, ext. 128.



ESL Workshop

The Carver Baptist Center invites you to an ESL (English as a Second language) workshop on Sept. 22 and 29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (attendees must complete all 16 hours to receive certification). You will receive information on how to begin a literacy mission, lesson planning and teaching others the love of Christ through literacy outreaches. Cost is \$20 for a workbook (lunch and snacks will also be provided by the Carver Baptist Center).

The deadline for registration is Sept. 15. For additional information contact Jennifer Fannin at 504.897.2434 or carvercenter@bellsouth.net. Carver Baptist Center is located at 3701 Annunciation Street in New Orleans.

Work Opportunity

Herff Jones & Collegiate Apparel needs students to work at a local medical convention on Oct. 7. No distribution experience is required. You will be assisting in the set-up and distribution of caps and gowns to doctors of the American College of Surgeons for a convocation they have pertaining to their annual trade show. This is a great opportunity. You need to be customer service-oriented as you will be talking to doctors from all over the world. There is some moving of cartons during set-up and after the ceremony. Doctors will drop their regalia off in cartons and we will repack them for shipment back to our plant. That's it. It's fun and easy money! Hours of work will be from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Hurry, only 4 people are needed for this day so tell your friends and work together as a team!!!

Location is the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel Ballroom. Pay is \$12 an hour CASH and is paid at 9 p.m. on Oct. 7.

Please contact Ted Collins at thcollins@herffjones.com or directly at 800.552.3228, ext. 5527 for questions or details.

Sports Ministry

Have you considered how your love for sports can intersect with your passion for serving Christ? On Oct. 11-13, Youth Ministry Institute will offer the workshop "Intentional Sports Ministry" to be taught by Dr. Judi Jackson with guest presenter Dr. Tommy Yessick of Upward Unlimited.

Utilizing the principles of the successful Upward sports ministry leagues, Jackson and Yessick will challenge students to consider how they can impact their culture for Christ.

Registration deadline for this workshop is Sept. 14. Contact the YMI office at 816.8103 for more information.

NOBTS
Homecoming
OCTOBER 4-6
www.nobts.edu/homecoming

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update for the next couple of years,” Day said. “It’s helping me, a church growth person, to answer the question, ‘What are the important things to deal with after Katrina?’”

At the second anniversary of Katrina, Day is beginning to give more attention to identifying the deciding factors and methods of recovery.

“I’m interested to see the different ways that denominational entities have chosen to deal with Katrina,” Day said. “What have Southern Baptists, Methodists and the Catholic Archdiocese done to assist their churches?”

“My suspicion is that having a denominational affiliation is an advantage,” he said.

Ken Taylor, Elysian Fields’ pastor, agrees. “Through the whole thing, partnerships have been unbelievably valuable to Kingdom work,” Taylor said. “The way God has blessed, I have no complaints.”

About four months after Katrina, Elysian Fields began meeting again in a member family’s gutted home. In June 2006, Elysian Fields and Gentilly Baptist churches began meeting together at Gentilly Baptist Church’s campus. Gentilly Baptist also received major damage from the hurricane but its building was repairable. Taylor said it didn’t take long for the two congregations to sense they might be together for quite some time.

“I’d say that within our first two months, when we were still meeting outside, we fell in love with the place,” Taylor said. “It wasn’t but a few months before I and others began to sense that this is where God wants us.”

For more than a year, the two churches have been worshipping, mobilizing, serving and healing together. They have a partnership with the Arkansas Baptist Builders through August 2008, through which thousands of volunteers have come to New Orleans to aid in the recovery effort.

“They told us last week that we’ve housed 4,500 volunteers since the storm, and 1,500 since March,” Taylor said.

“Volunteers have mowed yards around our church like crazy,” he said. “Our church has gotten cards from all kinds of people thanking us for the surprise of coming home to find their yard had been mowed.”

Baptist churches around the country — and even individual Bible study classes — also have aided Elysian Fields and Gentilly Baptist churches by covering ministry, rebuilding and insurance costs.

Taylor mentioned one particular church that threw a block party for the church’s neighborhood last November.



Bill Day is associate director of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health at NOBTS.

“I’ll never forget that day,” Taylor said. “I’ll always remember people just coming and sitting for hours. It was a turning point for our church and our neighborhood. They’re coming down again in October for another block party.”

In fact, Taylor said Elysian Fields and Gentilly Baptist churches have been so busy coordinating volunteer groups and staging neighborhood recovery projects that they have made little progress toward formally merging. Although the churches already are functionally one, Taylor said they plan to finalize the merger sometime this fall.

Not every place of worship in New Orleans has experienced the same kind of burden-bearing care Elysian Fields and Gentilly churches have enjoyed. The recovery pace for places of worship in Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes — the three parishes that received the most catastrophic flooding — has been much slower.

In Orleans Parish, 43 percent of the 786 pre-Katrina places of worship are still not functioning. Churches in Plaquemines Parish are only 59 percent back, and in St. Bernard Parish, half of the places of worship are still shuttered. Many Southern Baptist churches are among those still out of commission.

“We had about 140 churches before the storm,” said Joe McKeever, director of missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans. “Right now we have 94.”

There is much recovery work left to be done, and churches around the country have a great opportunity to help churches in New Orleans get back on their feet. **gk**

Have What it Takes?

2008 SPRING BREAK, SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

NAMB’s church planting initiative, The Nehemiah Project, seeks motivated, mission-minded students to serve 1-2 weeks helping a church plant in one of six target cities: Montreal, Baltimore, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, or Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Ten Couples or single students available during March 22-30, May 31-June 8, or May 31-June 15 will work alongside an experienced church planter doing personal evangelism, community service, and learning hands-on what it takes to plant a church and win people to Christ. (Plus some time off to see the sights or enjoy the beach.)

Students will be carefully screened. For trip details and initial assessment, contact Linda Jackson at 504.816.8060 or linda@missionlab.com. Stipends are available for a limited number of qualified students. Apply today!

IMB Representative On Campus

IMB Candidate Consultant Bob Dilks will be on-campus Sept. 25 and 26. He will be taking individual appointments throughout the day both days. Please contact his assistant Mindy McCord at 1.800.765.0011 to make an appointment.

Dilks is also hosting a Missions Information Conference on Tuesday night, Sept. 25, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Leavell Center. This conference is for students exploring potential missionary service through the IMB. This will be preceded by a free meal for any of those attending the conference. The meal will be from 6 to 6:45 p.m. in the Cafeteria, buffet style and open to children. Childcare will be provided for the conference time only.

Meal reservations must be made with Linda Jackson in the Providence Learning Center by Sept. 18. Contact Linda at linda@missionlab.com or ext 8060.

Spanish-speaking Pastor Sought

First Spanish Baptist Church, in Youngstown, Ohio, is seeking a Bi-vocational Spanish speaking Pastor to lead their congregation. Please contact the Church-Minister Relations office at NOBTS for more information.

New Fellowship for Women in Ministry

A statewide Fellowship for Women Ministers is being formed. This network is for women in leadership who have responded to God's call to vocational Christian service.

The inaugural event will be held **Monday,**

Nov. 12, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Alexandria, La.

The purposes of our network will be to provide Christ-like models for spiritual leadership; to develop partners and mentors in calling, ministry and accountability;

and to form deep and lasting friendships through the bond of Christ.

For more information, please contact Andrea McKenzie at tantepoche@juno.com or Dr. Jeanine C. Bozeman at jbozeman@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

- Judson Baptist Church, Walker, La.; youth (85)
- Bayou Sorrel Baptist Church, Plaquemine, La.; pastor (95)
- First Baptist Church, Roseland, La.; pastor (78)
- East Fork Baptist Church, Kentwood, La.; pastor (90)
- First Baptist Church, Zachary, La.; children (98)
- Part-time
- Bridgedale Baptist Church, Metairie, La.; pastor (10)
- First Baptist Church, LaPlace, La.; youth (31)
- Believer's Fellowship, Denham Springs, La.; education (87)
- Barataria Baptist Church, Lafitte, La.; youth (34)
- Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Covington, La.; youth (43)
- New Life Baptist Church, Hammond, La.; music and youth (60)
- St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, La.; youth (10)

- Bayou Blue United Methodist Church, Houma, La.; youth and children (59)
- Hope Church of Waldheim, Covington, La.; music (43)
- First Baptist Church, Albany, La.; music (64)
- Gretna United Methodist Church, Gretna, La.; music (11)
- Lake Vista United Methodist Church, New Orleans, La. youth (5)
- Big Level Baptist Church, Wiggins, Miss.; music (102)

Pastor

Full-time

- Fairview Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S.C.
- First Baptist Church, Noel, Mo.
- First Baptist Church, Swartz, La.
- First Baptist Church, Willow Springs, Mo.
- Morningside Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga.
- First Baptist Church, Geneva, Ala.
- Baptist Temple, Alexandria, La.
- Part-time
- Carolina Free Baptist Church, Carolina, R.I.

Music

Full-time

- Dry Creek Baptist Church, Mendenhall, Miss.
- Adamsville Baptist Church, Goldsboro, N.C.
- Bogue Falaya Baptist Church, Folsom, La.
- Onancock Baptist Church, Onancock, Va.
- Part-time
- New Beginnings Baptist Church, Lakeland, Fla.
- Church Acadiana, Youngsville, La.

Youth

Full-time

- Bethel Baptist Church, Monticello, Miss.
- Parkway Baptist Church, Natchez, Miss.
- Bogue Falaya Baptist Church, Folsom, La.
- North Peachtree Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.
- Part-time
- New Beginnings Baptist Church, Lakeland, Fla.

- WestGate Baptist Church, Trenton, Ill.

Children/Preschool

Full-time

- Highland Baptist Church, Florence, Ala.
- Hillcrest Baptist Church, Nederland, Texas
- First Baptist Church, Zachary, La.
- Part-time
- Jackson Way Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.

Combination

Full-time

- First Baptist Church, Belleview, Fla.; Associate Pastor/Minister of Music and Media
- Rice Memorial Baptist Church, Greenwood, S.C.; Children and Youth Minister
- First Baptist Church, Denham Springs, La.; Education and Administration
- Macedonia Baptist Church, Brookhaven, Miss.; Students and Activities
- First Baptist Church, Highlands, Texas; Evangelism and Discipleship
- Harvest Baptist Church, Harvest, Ala.; Youth and Education
- Covenant Baptist Church, Collierville, Tenn.; Youth and Recreation

Other

Full-time

- First Baptist Church, Blytheville, Ark.; Education
- Sacramento Association, Elk Grove, Calif.; Director of Missions
- Arkansas Department of Corrections, Grady, Ark.; Chaplain



NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

September 10, 2007

Student Life NEWS

Fellowship of Black Seminarians to host forum

The Importance of Multi-Racial Unity

Sept. 11
7 p.m.
HSC 280

The Fellowship of Black Seminarians is hosting its first forum, called, "The Importance of Multi-Racial Unity." The panel will include students as well as professors, discussing the imperative of unity among us, and our responsibility in achieving it. It will take place on September 11 at 7 p.m. in HSC 280. All are invited.

[Recreation News]

Pool open through Sept. 29; Karate begins

The POOL

The Recreation Center would like to everyone to take advantage of our pool on Fridays and Saturdays and well as the Monday and Wednesday Lap Swim time (6-7 am) before it closes for the season on September 29. Also, the pool is still available to rent for private pool parties from 8:00 to 10:00 pm on Fridays and Saturdays as well as 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturdays. Contact the Rec. Center for prices and availability.



KARATE

The NOBTS Karate Club would like to announce it is accepting new students during the month of September. After September, new students won't be accepted again until January. If you are interested in learning some good self-defense or just getting a good workout, then come by and sign up anytime this month.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Don't forget that Intramurals, Youth Activities, and Children's Activities will be starting up again soon. Keep your eyes open for more information, schedules, etc. to be announced! God Bless!

[Financial Aid]

Don't Forget

Make sure to apply for a NOBTS grant for the Spring semester. The application is available now through September 30th at www.nobts.edu. We have many grants available because of the generosity of donors so I encourage every full-time student to apply.

Apply for NOBTS Grants through Sept. 30
www.nobts.edu

[Social Work Club]

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

Come see how you can be a part of your community through the Social Work Club. You don't have to major in social work to care about your city.

September 18, 2007

5:45 p.m.

Carey Hall Parlor

You don't have to be a social worker!!

Did we mention free food?

If not...FREE FOOD!!



COMING SOON

**Katrina Ministry Day
Story and Photo Archive**

www.nobts.edu/publicaitons/K+2.html

