

The Gatekeeper

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Gatekeeper Archives

Seminary mission team spends Christmas in Moscow, sees God move in new church

BY GARY D. MYERS

MOSCOW, Russia – Even with heavy coats, gloves and hats, cold air stung the volunteers as they slowly circled the Kremlin stopping often to pray for Russia and its people.

For the mission team from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary prayer walking in the middle of a Moscow winter was no easy task. Temperatures dipped to 10 degrees Fahrenheit as the group made the long trek around the massive, 500-year-old fortress. Snow crunched under their feet. The falling snow and cold temperatures were punctuated by brisk winds and gray skies.

The experience offered the American volunteers a rare opportunity to identify with one of the major struggles of life in Russia – cold, dreary winters. Snow that is beautiful to visitors quickly becomes a nuisance to those who deal with it for months on end.

The NOBTS trip to Moscow in January was the



latest in an ongoing commitment that began in 2003. International Mission Board missionaries and New Orleans Seminary forged an informal bond designed to promote and strengthen church planting efforts in the Russian capital. NOBTS professors took the first exploratory trip to Moscow in 2004 to plan future mission trips.

The first major NOBTS mission trip to Moscow came in 2005, just months before Hurricane Katrina devastated the New Orleans campus. Katrina put a hold on the trips until 2007 when a small NOBTS group returned to reaffirm the seminary commitment to church planting in Moscow. Another trip followed in 2008.

The seminary's 2010 trip was different from the earlier journeys. This time volunteers spent most of their time helping just one church – the newly launched Dedication Church. When the group arrived in Moscow, Dedication Church was just 50 days old. The church is led by two Russian pastors named

see RUSSIA, on page 3

Student-led prayer and praise group calls for 1000 hours of prayer for week of Feb. 1-5

Right here on the campus of NOBTS, a genuine movement of God is growing and you can be a part of it! A passion for community-wide, continual, focused Praise and Prayer is stirring in the hearts of students.

We realize that personal time in prayer and scripture is not enough for a vibrant spiritual life. Nor is a church service or small group once or twice a week enough for a vibrant spiritual life. Rather, it is when we steadfastly and continually come together as a community and call upon God that we will see healing in our lives and families. This healing will then naturally spread to our churches and communities and lives will be transformed. What a better time for this than now? And what a better place to see the start of this movement of God than within the community of NOBTS?

Our desire is to eventually see praise and prayer ringing out from servants of God on the campus of NOBTS day and night! Does our Father's glory deserve any less praise than this? Because of this, we are asking everyone on campus to join us in a week of 1000 hours of prayer, February 1-5 from 6am to 7pm in Martin Chapel. Everyone will choose two or more times during the week to come pray for one hour or more. This will completely saturate the days of the week with coordinated praise and prayer to our father!

To sign up for your time slots for the week of 1000 hrs of prayer, see the Dean of Students Office or sign up in chapel. You can choose



the time slots that are most convenient for your schedule or even grab a group of friends and family and sign up to pray together. There will be worship music playing and optional prayer stations provided to help guide you in prayer. You can even bring your own guitar, drum or other musical instrument to worship God during your time slot!

This semester, we will have many opportunities to come together as a campus to get in touch with the will of our King. Prayerfully consider joining us and be a part of what God is doing here on the campus of NOBTS. When God's people pray, mountains crumble, walls fall and lives change. But most important of all, our God responds.



NOBTS
Chapel

New Orleans Campus
Chapel Schedule

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

Tuesday, February 2
Dr. Ron Herrod, President
Conference of Southern
Baptist Evangelists

Thursday, February 4
Dr. Jim Parker
NOBTS Professor

Tuesday, February 9
Colonel Mike Durham, Chaplain
U.S. Military Academy
West Point, NY

Thursday, February 11
Dr. David Uth, Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church
Orlando, FL

GK
online

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Extension Center News

Scholarship Highlights

Scholarship Name/Originator. Clark Prize In Apologetics Award

Who is eligible? Awarded annually for an original essay in Apologetics. The form, style and clarity are important. Must display a knowledge of secular, religious and Christian philosophies. May be Broad or narrow in scope.

Application Procedure. Information and application can be found [here](#)

1098-T Tax Statement for 2009

Students may now be requesting their 1098-T Tuition Tax Statement for 2009. The statements will be made available starting January 31, 2010. Requests can be made via e-mail to boclerk@nobts.edu or by filling out a 1098-T Request Form, available at the Business Office window. Your request should include your full name, your NOBTS ID#, and the address where the form should be mailed (unless indicated for pick-up at the Business Office). For more information, contact Donna Parker at 504.282.4455 ext 3277 or boclerk@nobts.edu.

Life Beyond Seminary Conference

The Life Beyond Seminary Conference will be held Feb 22-24 in Hardin Student Center. LBS is an event where students can meet with local state conventions about ministry opportunities. On February 22 between 5:30 and 7:30pm free food will be provided in the Atrium.

H1N1 Vaccine

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

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.

Ping Pong Tournament

On February 4th we will have a Ping Pong tournament in the gym. Come by the gym or send Jonathan an email at LCbailey81@hotmail.com to sign up today. The tournament will begin promptly at 6:00PM. You need to be at the gym by 5:45PM in order to make the brackets and go over the necessary rules. Thanks and we hope to see you there!

Graduate Piano Recital

Bill Nesbitt

February, 4 2010

2:00 PM Sellers Recital Hall

Featuring songs by Ravel, Kuhlau, and Gershwin

NOBTS Women

Student Wives

A Progressive Valentines Dinner For Student Wives, Profettes, and Their Spouses Thursday, February 18 – 6:00 pm (The meal begins at the President’s Home.) Tickets are \$10.00 per couple and are on sale in the Dean of Students Office (Mon.-Fri. 8-5). Tickets will be on sale up until Monday, February 15.

Childcare during this event will be provided through the NOBTS preschool for children up to 8 years. To make childcare reservations contact the preschool at 504-816-8585. Reservations must be made by Monday, February 15.

Monday Brown Bag Bible Study

For all NOBTS women: every Monday starting Monday, January 25 from 12:00-1:00 pm in the Balcony Room (in the Cafeteria). Bring your lunch and join us. We will do the study during the lunch hour and there is no homework!

NOBTS You Tube Homepage



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

[Download February Menu](#)

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

Cash, Food Stamp Card, Debit or Credit Cards - No checks

Distribution Day: 10am-12noon Saturday, Feb. 27 at 2001 Airline Dr. Metairie, LA

Job of the Week

Company Name- New Orleans Country Club
Job Description- Outdoor jobs on the Golf Course

Contact Person- Neil Mayberry

Phone: 504.427.7571

Address- 5024 Pontchartrain Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70118

Hours/Info- Full Time and Part Time Positions Available

Date posted- 1/29/10



Click Here [for Bible Reading & Scripture Memory Plan](#)

from RUSSIA, on page 1

Andrei – Andrei Serihk and Andrei Kornashenko. Kornashenko, the younger of the two, is the assistant pastor and is affectionately called Andrei the Second by church members.

IMB missionary Rhenn Cherry works alongside the pastors of Dedication Church. Cherry is clear about his role. He is in Moscow to assist and support the work of Russian believers. He is not in charge.

Cherry wants Dedication to become a self-sustaining, Russian-led congregation. He believes that the best way to reach Russians for Christ in this vast city of 15 million is to partner with other Russian believers.

“We start groups of new believers that are led, sustained and reproduced by Russians,” Cherry said, explaining the IMB team philosophy. “What we do, we do with an existing church.”

The young church meets on Saturdays in a rented room at the Christian Center in southern Moscow. Owned by several evangelical denominations, the Christian Center offers a meeting place for churches and Bible study groups with no building of their own. Twenty-two churches currently rent meeting space in the building. With only three or four meeting rooms, scheduling is difficult.

Andrei Serihk led the three-hour prayerwalk around the 68-acre Kremlin complex and through Red Square on Jan. 6 – days before Russians celebrate Christmas. For Serihk, the Kremlin serves as a symbol of the Russian nation; its power, its people, its history and its pride. He led the team in prayers for the government; for the people of Moscow and for the people throughout the Russian Federation.

At this once-feared fortress the NOBTS group prayed that the light of the gospel would shine bright in Moscow and all of Russia. Some reached out to touch the cold, thick walls as they prayed.

The experience was clearly overwhelming for those in the group who could remember the Cold War days when Soviet tanks and missiles paraded through Red Square as a warning to the world. On this day the Kremlin and Red Square were transformed into places of prayer.

A Christmas to Remember

On Christmas Day (Jan. 7 on the Julian calendar), the NOBTS group faced the most difficult challenge of the trip – distributing flyers for a Jan. 9 evangelistic service at Dedication Church. The original plan called for the team to distribute the flyers just outside a Metro (subway) stop near the Christian Center.

Due to the language barrier, this would be a tough task in the best weather conditions. But the bitter cold and blowing snow created yet another obstacle. On this White Christmas, Pastor Serihk decided that the team should move inside and distribute the invitations in the food court of a nearby mall.

The small food court was too small for the group of 11 volunteers. Four members of the team



A nighttime view of Red Square and Lenin's Tomb in Moscow, Russia

decided to brave the cold and distribute flyers at the Metro stop. At times the response to the flyers was as cold as the weather. Many refused to take the literature. Others took it, but quickly threw it on the snowy ground. One group of young men took a flyer, tore it into pieces and threw it in the air. Others took the flyer and offered their thanks in Russian.

As the NOBTS team walked to the Christian Center for Dedication Church's Christmas service, some in the group wondered if their efforts accomplished anything.

The Christmas service included worship, testimonies, preaching and fellowship. The American volunteers were also treated to a traditional Russian meal complete with Coca-Cola and cups of hot tea. The Christian fellowship was sweet -- transcending all language and cultural barriers.

The Evangelistic Service

The days passed quickly for the volunteers. Soon it was time for the evangelistic service and the culmination of the team's prayer walking and literature distribution efforts. The church, which averages 15-20 people, had 40-50 in attendance on this day. It was the largest crowd in the church's brief history.

Jake Roudkovski, an NOBTS evangelism professor who grew up in Kazakhstan, preached the evangelistic message in Russia. The group members watched and prayed.

At the end of the message, Roudkovski urged the audience members to confess their sins and put their faith in Christ alone. One man came forward and prayed to receive Christ as Savior. Before closing the service, Roudkovski encouraged others to talk with the pastors if they had questions about following Christ.

During the fellowship time following the service, two women approached the pastors. After both women prayed to receive Christ, the members of Dedication Church gathered around them for

prayer. The church joyously welcomed three new believers that day. One of the new believers said she received an invitation flyer at the McDonald's in the mall food court.

“To be able to observe the principle of sowing and harvesting at work in a cross-cultural urban setting is Encouraging,” Roudkovski said. “We are called to sow the seeds of the Gospel into the lives of lost people. As we do so, God is able to give us a harvest of souls for His glory.”

“As the group along with Russian believers prayed, promoted, and participated in an intentionally evangelistic Christmas service, we saw people come to know Christ as their Savior and Lord,” he continued.

Mission Investment

The NOBTS was trip was different from other seminary trips due to the makeup of the team. Only four volunteers on the trip were related to the seminary. The rest of the team came from Southern Baptist churches in Louisiana and Mississippi. Gary Watkins, president of International Equipping Ministries (IEM), also went on the trip. IEM assists the seminary with visa applications and logistics for its trips to Russia.

Roudkovski believes the high cost of overseas travel is a hindrance for student participation.

“The greatest challenge for our work in Moscow is for our students to be able to raise more than \$2,500 for travel, lodging and other expenses associated with the trip,” Roudkovski said. “I am praying that God will speak to the hearts of individuals to give financially so that we can have sizable scholarships to help students go.”

“I am praying that the day may come that we have resources that will enable every student at NOBTS to go at least once on an international mission trip,” he continued. “It will forever change their outlook on the Cooperative Program and the work of the International Mission Board.”

I WEEK 1,000 HRS OF PRAYER



THE WEEK OF FEB. 1-5

All of NGBTS

**Will choose 2 times during the week
to come pray for 1 hour w/
Prayer stations & Worship Music**



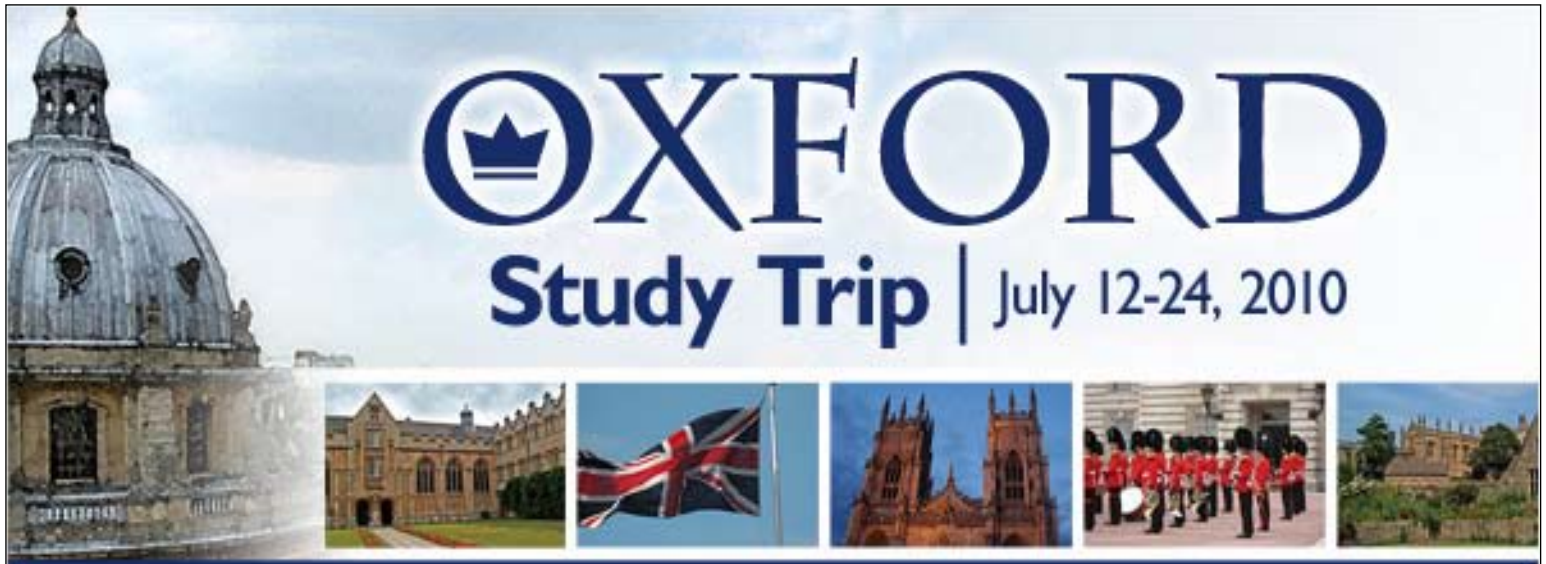
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In Martin Chapel


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OFFICE OR IN CHAPEL**

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