

The Gatekeeper

Volume 39.2

August 24, 2009

GKLinks

Facebook

Twitter

Gatekeeper Archives

Seminary hosts Hispanic pastors and leaders for conference on revival

BY PAUL F. SOUTH

NEW ORLEANS - Luis Muriel, a university-trained economist from Peru and associate pastor of Alliance Community church in Athens, Ga., left a recent conference for Hispanic pastors with a lasting lesson: Scripture alone is sufficient for revival.

"Many Christians believe the Bible is the Word of God," Muriel said. "But at the same time, many Christians believe the Bible is not enough. They use psychology, marketing, anthropology, sociology. It is a problem in the church now. But in my heart, I have the conviction that I am going to use the Bible for every problem in my church."

The drive for revival was at the heart of a three-day conference at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Aug. 6-8, the Second Congress of Hispanic Baptists of the United States sponsored by the National Fellowship of Hispanic Churches of the SBC. More than 100 pastors to the Hispanic community attended the conference, and more than 400 attended a Saturday festival.

For Muriel, who has about 80 involved in the Hispanic ministry at his small, but growing church, prayer is also critical. Each Monday, he gathers with other men to pray specifically for revival, not just in his neighborhood, but throughout Athens and around the world. Sometimes those prayer sessions last for seven hours.

"Our burden is to see revival in this country," Muriel said. "That is the reason I came to this conference. This conference is about revival." Several Spanish-speaking members of the NOBTS faculty hammered home the revival theme. Conference. David Lema, director of the New Orleans Seminary's Miami-based Center for the Americas, taught on true spirituality,



focusing on revival in personal life.

Main-campus professors Tim Searcy, Bill Warren and Ed Steele, all former missionaries to Spanish-speaking countries, also participated in the conference. Searcy taught on true discipleship, revival in knowledge. Warren taught on revival in a world of change and Steele taught on the elements of revival. According to the 2000 Census, there were 35.3 million Hispanics in the United States, not including those who may be in the country illegally. One of the biggest challenges facing pastors in the Spanish-speaking community concerns dealing with illegal immigration. By 2050, the government projects that more than 102 million Hispanics will call America home.

It's also a challenge for churches with traditionally Anglo congregations. Muriel experienced this first hand when he came to Alliance from Peru.

"The church knew nothing about immigrants, problems with immigrants or illegal immigration, because the Anglo church was always around Anglos. When I started my ministry here, some church members thought that for me, it was a new thing to use a microwave," Muriel said.

But the church had a vision to become a truly



NOBTS
Chapel

New Orleans Campus
Chapel Schedule

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

Tuesday, August 25
Dr. David Crosby
Pastor, FBC New Orleans

Thursday, August 27
TBA

Tuesday, September 1
Convocation
Dr. Chuck Kelley, President
NOBTS

Thursday, September 3
Dr. Fred Luter, Jr.
Pastor, Franklin Avenue BC
New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY
BIBLE READING and
SCRIPTURE MEMORY PLAN

Begins Sept. 1 | [Click for Details](#)

Spiritual Vitality
core value emphasis

GK
online

CLICK
HERE

for current
Extension Center News

In the Family

Kwon welcomes baby daughter
Jin Kwon and Aikyung Ra have a new daughter, Hawon Julia Kwon, who was born Wednesday, August 12. She weighed 7 lbs., 12 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches long at birth. This is the family's second daughter.

BCM Tour of Churches

The BCM is hosting a Tour of Churches. Each Sunday morning you will be able to meet us outside Carey Hall or at the churches for worship and lunch.

After the service each week the churches will be serving us lunch and giving you a chance to meet the staff and some church members.

You won't want to miss out on these amazing churches, which have places for you serve and be served while you grow in your relationship with the Lord at seminary.

- August 30: First Baptist Kenner - worship starts at 10:30 or meet us at Carey Hall at 9:45
 - September 6: Vintage - worship starts at 10:30 or meet us at Carey Hall at 9:45
 - September 13: Edgewater - worship starts at 9:30 or meet us at Carey Hall at 9:00
 - September 20: Lakeview/ Sojourn - worship starts at 10:15 or meet us at Carey Hall at 9:30
- For more info contact Beth Masters at NOBTSBCM@gmail.com or 504-289-7074

Catalyst Conference – Special Event Course

Catalyst Conference
Conference: October 7-9, 2009 in Atlanta
Registration Deadline: September 7, 2009
Course: CMCM 3374-01 Catalyst Conference
Cost: Tuition + \$209 Conference fee
Please contact Dr. Grubbs for more details.
Visit www.catalystconference.com for more information.

Students can earn course credits at the conference as follows:

- Undergraduate - CMCM3374-01- Catalyst Conference - Dr. Norris Grubbs
- Graduate - DISC5399 - Special Event: Catalyst Conference - Dr. Jerry Pounds
- DMin - CESE8301- Transitioning to a Vision-Driven Church - Dr. Jerry Pounds

Friendship/Family Program – minister to international students in New Orleans

The Baptist Collegiate Ministry at University of New Orleans needs the help of loving families who wish to minister to international students while they are studying in the U.S. Families at NOBTS can minister to international students through participation in the Friendship/Family program. Through this program, interested families can “adopt” an international student and commit to occasionally invite the student into their home and seek to share the love of Christ with their student in personal ways. Many international students who study in the U.S. never have the opportunity to visit an American home. Imagine what an impact this personal way of caring could have on a student who is far from home and probably missing his or her own family and friends. If you'd like more information about the Friendship/Family program or are interested in participating, please contact Kimberly Myers, BCM coordinator of International Collegiate Ministry.
Phone #: 450-9555 E-mail: kimberly-icm@cox.net

John T. Christian Library Hours

Mon-Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed
The Library is closed for Chapel Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:55 a.m.-12 noon.

Ridgecrest on the River needs Volunteers for Sept. 12

Ridgecrest on the River is looking for a limited number of volunteers to assist with the conference on Saturday, September 12. Volunteers would be needed from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided, and volunteers would also be permitted to attend sessions between shifts. If you are interested, please contact J.P. Cox in the Providence Learning Center as soon as possible at ext. 8442 or by e-mail at jpcox@nobts.edu.

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.

Suits for Servants coming to North Georgia and Main Campus

For almost 50 years, Jim Tatum, a clothier from Jacksonville, Fla., has been outfitting ministers with new suits. At a conference years ago, Tatum had the idea to help ministers and missionaries buy quality suits at affordable prices. The idea became a powerful ministry known as Suits for Servants. Tatum will make two stops at NOBTS campuses this fall to sell suits. Tatum will be at the North Georgia Hub Sept. 21 and at the main campus in New Orleans Oct. 5-7. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase a great suit at a great price.

For more on Tatum's ministry read the following articles:
<http://www.nobts.edu/Publications/News/SuitsforServants2.html>
<http://www.floridabaptistwitness.com/2548.article>

Suits for Servants Schedule:
North Georgia Hub
September 21
(Monday)

New Orleans Campus
October 5-7
(Monday-Wednesday)



Click Here for Bible Reading & Scripture Memory Plan

from CONFERENCE, on page 1

multicultural church in Athens. As home to the University of Georgia, Athens has a multicultural population. Muriel estimates that about 17 percent of Athens' population is Hispanic.

"We don't want to be an Anglo church or Hispanic church. We have Mexicans, Americans, Canadians, Koreans, people from El Salvador and Guatemala," Muriel said. "The vision of a multicultural church is happening now."

God is also moving among the Hispanic community on the North Shore of Lake Ponchartrain in suburban New Orleans. Humberto Medina is a graduate student at NOBTS from Peru, and is Hispanic pastor at FBC Mandeville, La. Sixty-five Hispanics regularly attend worship at the church, Medina said.

In reaching the community for Christ, the lack of education is a hurdle in sharing the gospel, Medina said. And, there is the matter of immigration, as well as the cultural differences that can exist between different Spanish-speaking countries, despite a common language.

"A lot of Hispanic people have trouble understanding the gospel message because of they don't have an education," Medina said. "The issue of illegals is difficult, but my responsibility is to carry the gospel to lost people."

Like Muriel, Medina believes the Bible alone is sufficient to spark revival.

"It's most important to reach people with the Bible," he said. "The Bible changes people. We're not teaching the history of America or Latin America, just the Bible and Jesus Christ, his work of salvation. Some churches have programs, like entertainment. But we need revival."

But both pastors say that revival needs to spark not just in neighborhoods or in cities, but globally.

"My vision is to share the gospel not only in my neighborhood, but with all people, all cultures. We want to build a 'Bible culture' in our church. We want to worship according to the Bible, not according to fashion," Muriel said. "Months ago, I was praying, asking God to help me put my light over the table, not under the table. I need to know that every step is from God. We are walking, step by step."

NOBTS officials used the conference as an opportunity to meet with Hispanic leaders to discuss current and future training needs. NOBTS Provost said the school plans to expand training options in Florida in the coming years.

"We were honored to host the National Fellowship of Hispanic Churches on our campus in New Orleans," said NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke. "NOBTS is committed to expanding the certificate and undergraduate level theological training we currently offer for Hispanics in Florida."

"During the meetings, we profited from a listening session with some key Hispanic leaders about what the greatest needs are to improve the delivery of quality ministerial training for Hispanics," Lemke said.

Representatives from SBC entities Golden Gate Seminary, GuideStone, LifeWay, NOBTS, North American Mission Board, International Mission Board and Southwestern Seminary also participated in the conference.

Next year's event will be hosted by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. The dates for the event will be announced later.

For more information about the National Fellowship of Hispanic Churches of the SBC, visit www.confraternidad.net.

Make a difference in a child's life: volunteer at an Orleans Parish school

New Orleans Outreach recruits volunteers who will enrich the educational experiences of the students we serve. Outreach is a non-profit agency that partners with open-enrollment (non competitive), charters schools across Orleans Parish. Outreach provides enrichment programs such as culinary arts, African dance and drumming, spoken-word poetry, as well as general tutoring and teacher support.

Visit the Outreach website for volunteer opportunities: www.nooutreach.org. Click on the following link to see a short vignette of the programs New Orleans Outreach provides: <http://www.operationkids.org/noo>

For more information, contact Joshua P. Fertitta - 504.486.2887 or 504.952.7466.



Dr. Richard Land to speak on The SBC and the Environment

Aug. 28 | 11 a.m. | Hardin Student Center Room 280
Sponsored by The Student Theological Fellowship