

# The Gatekeeper

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Volume 39.4

September 7, 2009

## Peru mission team encounters series of divine appointments

BY GARY D. MYERS

NEW ORLEANS - A small mission team from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary left for Peru July 2 with great expectations. They expected to see God work in a mighty way.

They were not disappointed.

What the team didn't anticipate was way God would work during their trip. Mark Tolbert, associate professor of evangelism and pastoral ministry, and his team faced several "set backs" that turned into divine appointments long before they even reached Peru and well after they expected to be home. The lesson learned: mission trips begin when you walk out your front door, not when you reach your destination.



see PERU, on page 3



NOBTS Chapel

New Orleans Campus Chapel Schedule

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

Tuesday, Sept. 8  
Dr. C. Duane McDaniel  
Executive Director of Missions  
Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans

Thursday, Sept. 10  
Dr. Reggie Ogea  
NOBTS Faculty

Tuesday, Sept. 15  
Dr. Mike Miller  
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Kenner

Thursday Sept. 17  
Dr. Jimmy Draper  
Retired President  
LifeWay Christian Resources

NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY  
BIBLE READING and  
SCRIPTURE MEMORY PLAN

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



## Student News: Jeremy Wilkerson records praise/worship album

by Paul F. South

NEW ORLEANS - Jeremy Wilkerson is a minister's kid, born two months premature in the Piney Woods of East Texas.

For "preemies" at that time, the survival rate was about one percent. But Wilkerson's parents knew God had a plan for their little son.

"There's no doubt our God is a God of purpose," Wilkerson, a student at Leavell College of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary said.

For Wilkerson, who grew up in a musical family, the latest product of that purpose is Wilkerson's first album, "God of Creation."

A self-described "acoustically-driven praise and worship" project, the album is making the rounds in online music sites and stores, including iTunes, Amazon and Napster.



"The idea behind the songs of this album is to display our God as a God who creates, sustains and is intimately involved in the lives of His people,"

Wilkerson said. "It's an idea that I've been challenged with as I've studied the Psalms. Originally (the album) was going to be 'This is my God; this is who my God is and these are some of the things He does.' But the songs seemed to hit more along the lines of 'God is doing something. Here is what He is doing throughout life.'"

At 12, growing up in Kilgore, Texas, Wilkerson started his musical journey playing drums in a musical family.

"There was a constant flow of music," Wilkerson said. "My Dad was a music minister. My mom played piano and gave piano lessons. All of us -my sister and I- were in band. By the time I was in

see WILKERSON, on page 3

GK  
online

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HERE

for current  
Extension Center News

## Graduation Application Deadline

Graduation Application deadline is Sept. 15 for December commencement

The deadline for submission of graduation applications for the December '09 commencement ceremony is Tuesday September 15, 2009. Any student anticipating graduating in the December '09 should submit their respective graduation application to the Registrar's Office before this date. Applications are available at <http://www.nobts.edu/Academics/RegistrarResources.html>.

Any applications arriving in the Registrar's Office subsequent to this date is subject to a late fee of \$25.00 if the application is accepted.

## Prepare-Enrich Seminar

Prepare-Enrich Seminar set for Sept. 26  
Learn an effective way to do premarital counseling.  
September 26, 8 am - 4 pm  
Room HSC 276

Cost: \$175 for non seminary individuals  
\$125 for Seminary students  
\$100 if commit to do 6 sessions Premarital counseling with a seminary couple preparing to marry.

Price includes materials, snacks, and lunch  
Registration forms in the Counseling office (HSC 268)  
Registration and payment due by September 11, 2009  
Contact Dr. Kathy Steele for details.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jpcox@nobts.edu).

## 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](mailto: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)

## NOBTS You Tube Homepage



Click Here for Bible Reading & Scripture Memory Plan

*from PERU, on page 1*

The divine appointments started with the providential makeup of the 19-member team. Seven team members were from the seminary, seven from Woodland Park Baptist Church in Hammond, La., and a family from Colorado.

“Everybody made a unique contribution,” Tolbert said. “God put the team together in an amazing way.” This was evident early in the trip.

The team planned fly from New Orleans to Miami and catch a flight to Lima, Peru. Storms delayed their arrival in Miami. When they finally made it, their connecting flight was long gone. The next available flight to Lima left in three days.

One team member, a former airline ticket agent, used her skills to find a solution. She found seats on a flight to Mexico City and a connecting flight to Peru.

“We didn’t know we needed her, but she was there with us,” Tolbert said.

On the flight to Mexico City, Tolbert experience yet another divine appointment. A flight attendant noticed the NOBTS logo on Tolbert’s shirt and asked if he was going on a mission trip. Tolbert said that he was and shared the details of the missed flight in Miami. He told her, “I wasn’t supposed to be on this plane.”

The attendant replied, “I wasn’t supposed to be on this plane either.” Her schedule had also changed due to the weather in Miami.

She told Tolbert that her husband had recently been baptized as a believer, but that she was not a Christian. Tolbert had an opportunity to share the gospel with her for 45 minutes on the plane.

“Although she didn’t make a decision with me, it was incredible how she wanted to know (about the gospel),” Tolbert said.

After they reached Lima, the team traveled six hours to the city of Huancayo to lead a training conference for church leaders. The city, with a population of 400,000, is located in the Monterro Valley, nestled high in the Andes Mountains at an elevation of 10,000 feet.

The Baptist church in Huancayo hosted 204 pastors, pastor’s wives, children’s workers and other church leaders from the Monterro Valley for the four-day conference. Tolbert’s team led the sessions.

Sponsoring churches in the United States paid the way for church leaders to attend the

conference. The accommodations were austere. Participants slept on the church floor and ate simple meals provided by the church.

Tolbert and his team taught with the second Masterlife workbook. Leadership training, Tolbert said, is one of the most critical needs facing the church in underdeveloped nations.

“We teach them the workbook and they go back into the villages and teach it all year long,” Tolbert said. “It has been really well received. The people were eager to learn.”

Tolbert believes the training is being reproduced many times over as pastors return to their villages. He estimates that each pastor teaches the Masterlife workbook to between 10 and 50 people throughout the year.

The conference also included evangelism training and on the last afternoon the mission team and conference participants took to the streets to practice personal evangelism. In less than two hours, 100 people made professions of faith.

#### A burden for Peru

It was no accident that Tolbert led this team to Peru. The trip is part of a long-term commitment that started years earlier.

Tolbert started traveling to Peru while serving as a pastor at South Side Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark. His church was mobilized for missions, going each year on a mission trip, but Tolbert wanted to be strategic. During a mission conference in his association, Tolbert met a mission couple serving in Peru.

The couple utilized an International Mission Board strategy called REAP (Rapid Entry Advance Plan). The strategy pairs a large church or association in the United States with an unreached people group overseas. People from the church or association effectively become “the missionaries” to this unreached group. The plan is to launch and foster an indigenous, self-supporting church.

The approach requires a major, strategic commitment from the church or association. They must commit to minister among the people group four times a year for five years.

South Side Baptist, along with the association, committed to participate in the REAP strategy in Peru. The partnership was in its second year when

Tolbert joined the NOBTS faculty.

Tolbert’s situation had changed, but his burden for Peru had not. He continued to go, however, Tolbert shifted his focus to leadership training. He made a new three-year commitment to offer training to church leaders in Huancayo. This year’s trip marked the second of that three-year commitment.

Tolbert is now pondering the future. Next year he will return to lead a conference based on the third Masterlife workbook and is contemplating a fourth trip to train leaders with the fourth Masterlife workbook.

#### Returning home

After days of travel and set-backs-turn-opportunities, a successful leadership conference and a phenomenal time of evangelism and “harvest,” it was time for the mission team to return home.

As they prepared to leave, two team members realized they had made a mistake in booking their flight home. The airline was correct, the flight number was correct, but the date was wrong. They would be staying an extra day in Lima, Peru.

“We had to leave two of (our team members) behind,” Tolbert said. “We didn’t want to do that, but it was just too expensive to change the tickets. We prayed over them and made sure they had enough money and left.”

This mistake turned into yet another divine appointment. The next day two were left behind had the opportunity to share the gospel with a maid at their hotel. She found and read a tract left by the team the day before. She asked the two team members to tell her more about God.

The group left New Orleans expecting to see God at work. They were not disappointed. Amazing things happened long before they reached their intended destination and continued all the way home.

Tolbert plans to return to Peru next summer with another seminary group. He hopes to develop a course to be taken in tandem with the trip so participants can earn class credit. For more information about the 2010 trip, contact Dr. Mark Tolbert at [mtolbert@nobts.edu](mailto:mtolbert@nobts.edu).

*from WILKERSON, on page 1*

sixth grade, there was always some type of music in the house.”

From that foundation, there were other musical influences, as diverse as the late contemporary Christian music pioneer Keith Green, Rich Mullins, Michael Card, Lincoln Brewster and the Irish rock band U2.

“My heart has been for a long time for people to connect with an almighty God, an almighty living God and through everything that they do, God would be glorified. My heart is writing

songs for the church that they can sing.”

Wilkerson, 29, added, “My prayer is that people will have this and maybe it will spark something in their lives that says, ‘We do have a God of creation who is doing things in our lives and changing our lives. And that makes me happy. I want to sing about it.’ I want to write songs that people want to sing.”

Wilkerson will receive his bachelor’s degree in Christian Ministry from Leavell College in December. His academic work at the seminary has influenced his music.

“(The seminary) has impacted how I study scripture,” Wilkerson said. “I believe some of the songs I have written would not have been written had I not had some of the foundations that I’ve gotten here, in terms of a better understanding of scripture and who God is. So that played a big role.”

For more information on Jeremy Wilkerson’s God of Creation, contact: [www.worshipconnex.com](http://www.worshipconnex.com)

## E-4 Preaching Conference

E-4 Preaching Conference set for Sept. 21-22  
There is a special student discount rate for registration -- \$25. This includes two meals and all conference materials. This is a GREAT PRICE for this quality of a conference.

Students can register by calling Jo Lynn Chesser at the Louisiana Baptist Convention Pastoral Ministries office at 318-449-4292 or 800-622-6549.

Please feature in the Gatekeeper for a few weeks in order to allow time for students to plan their possible attendance and to register.

## Replicate Chattanooga set for Oct. 9-10

Christian or Disciple? Before ascending into heaven, Jesus said to his disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). The word Christian is used three times in the Bible. In two of those instances, it carries a negative connotation. Only recently has the word carried a positive meaning. On the other hand, the word disciples is used 269 times in the New Testament and 238 times in the Gospels alone. Is Jesus interested in producing disciples or Christians?

Replicate Chattanooga is a conference designed to help you do just that-make disciples. Through worship, preaching, powerful breakout sessions, and interaction with men and women who have given their lives to "making disciples," you will be equipped with valuable resources to assist you on the journey.

When: October 9-10, 2009

Where: Brainerd Crossroads, Chattanooga, TN  
Cost: \$39, students; \$59 until October 1; \$79 after R.S.V.P. Register at [www.awordfromhisword.org](http://www.awordfromhisword.org). Seating is limited. All attendees receive a free copy of Creating an Atmosphere to HEAR God Speak and the companion journal.

## New Louisiana Traffic Law

New Louisiana Traffic Laws Aim for Seatbelt Use, Bicyclist Protection

Back seat passengers will have to buckle up, drivers will need to give a wider berth to bicyclists and slow-driving sightseers will need to stick to the right lane on Louisiana's highways under the new state traffic laws that went into effect Aug. 15.

Details at: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southcentral/2009/08/17/103071.htm>

## YMI Leaders Needed

Looking for Youth Ministry Leaders!

The Youth Ministry Institute (YMI) office receives calls from churches regarding requests for small group leaders, worship leaders and speakers for DNow weekends, fall retreats and the like. To be considered for these ministry opportunities, please send an electronic copy of your resume to the YMI Office/Kristin Wilkerson at [jacksonsec@nobts.edu](mailto:jacksonsec@nobts.edu) Be on the lookout as we connect you with these ministry opportunities.

## Orleans Parish in Need of Volunteers

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](http://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.

## BCM Fall Leadership Conference

BCM travels to Ignite Collegiate Conference Sept. 25-27

Join the BCM for a road trip. Ignite is a 3-day conference where you will join 800+ college students from Louisiana for worship, teaching, break out sessions and late night fun. The group will leave NOLA at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 25 and return Sept. 27.

Cost: \$30 person + meals.

For more info, contact Beth Masters at [nobtsbcm@gmail.com](mailto:nobtsbcm@gmail.com) or 504-289-7074.

## Women's Ministry Upcoming Events

Student Wives Fellowship

Thursday, September 10

7:00-9:00 pm

Creole Room (in the Cafeteria)

Speaker: Kathy Frady

For fellowship meetings childcare arrangements can be made through the Preschool (x.8585) for a small fee by the Tuesday before the meeting.

## Programs for All NOBTS Women

Prayer Partners I.N.C (In the Name of Christ)

New Ministry Premier

Thursday, September 17

7:00-9:00 pm

President's Home

Prayer Partners will be randomly matched at the meeting. With this ministry prayer partners will be encouraged to pray together weekly.

## Monday Brown Bag Bible Study

Every Monday beginning September 21 from 12:00-1:00 pm in the Balcony Room (in the Cafeteria) - no homework  
Study topic: TBA

## Women's Auxiliary Scholarship

\* Must be a wife of a currently enrolled full-time seminary student (12 hours Undergrad/9 hours Masters or more) who has been enrolled for a minimum of one semester prior to your application.

\* Must show evidence of financial need.

\* Must provide 3 letters of reference.

\* Applications located in the Financial Aid Office

Deadline for the Spring is September 30th

For more information about any of the above information contact Christian Parrish at 282-4455 x.3334 or [cparrish@nobts.edu](mailto:cparrish@nobts.edu).

## NOBTS Rec Center Hours

The Recreation Staff would like to welcome everyone to NOBTS! Our Recreation Center is a great place to hang out with friends, fellowship, exercise, play games, relieve stress and more! The recreation staff is working hard to provide activities for students, faculty, staff, and their families. The Recreation Center hours are:

Mon.-Fri.	5:30-7:30 am
Mon., Tues., Thur. & Fri.	1:30-10:00 pm
Wednesdays	1:30-4:30 pm
Saturdays	1:00-10:00 pm

## On-going Activities

We have several on-going activities happening right now or starting soon including:

- Home School P.E.      Gym (Mon & Fri)  
1:00 - 5:00 pm
- Play & Pray Basketball      Gym (Tues & Thur)  
8:00 - 10:00 pm

Homeschool P.E. Classes

The Home School P.E. classes are broken down by grades. Following is the schedule:

- Monday: P.E.- Gym  
10:30 - 11:00 2's,3's, 4's and 5's  
11:00 - 11:30 Kindergarten  
1:00 - 1:55 1st - 3rd grade  
2:00 - 2:55 4th - 5th grade  
3:00 - 3:55 6th and up
- Friday: P.E.- Gym  
10:30 - 11:00 2's,3's, 4's and 5's  
11:00 - 11:30 Kindergarten  
1:00 - 1:55 1st - 3rd grade  
2:00 - 2:55 4th - 5th grade  
3:00 - 3:55 6th and up

## Rent the Rec Center

The Recreation Center can also be rented for Church events, birthday parties, special gatherings, etc. If you have any questions about renting the Rec. Center, please call (504) 816-8594 or email [gymdirector@nobts.edu](mailto:gymdirector@nobts.edu).

## Intramural Dodge ball

Intramural Dodge ball will be coming soon and there will also be other special events happening periodically. So keep your eyes open for flyers and more information to come in future issues of the Gatekeeper.

## Children & Youth

The Recreation Center offers numerous activities for the children and youth on campus. These activities range from dodge ball tournaments, lock-ins, eagle ball, and miscellaneous weekend events. The Recreation Center also offers youth boys and girls bible studies with the Campus Youth Challenge program. The dates for these bible studies will be posted soon. Please stop by the Rec. Center for more information. If you have any questions about the Children's or Youth activities, please call Mike Massaro at (904) 248-8352 or ext. 8586.

## Just For Ladies!

Ladies Exercise classes will be starting up again! Ladies workouts will be held in the Recreation Center's Weight Room. It will be an aerobic circuit where the participant will experience an active rotation of strength and cardio stations. The fee is \$2 per class and billed to your Seminary account on a monthly basis. If you have any questions or would like to sign up please contact Mike Massaro at ext. 8586 or email him at [gymdirector@nobts.edu](mailto:gymdirector@nobts.edu).