

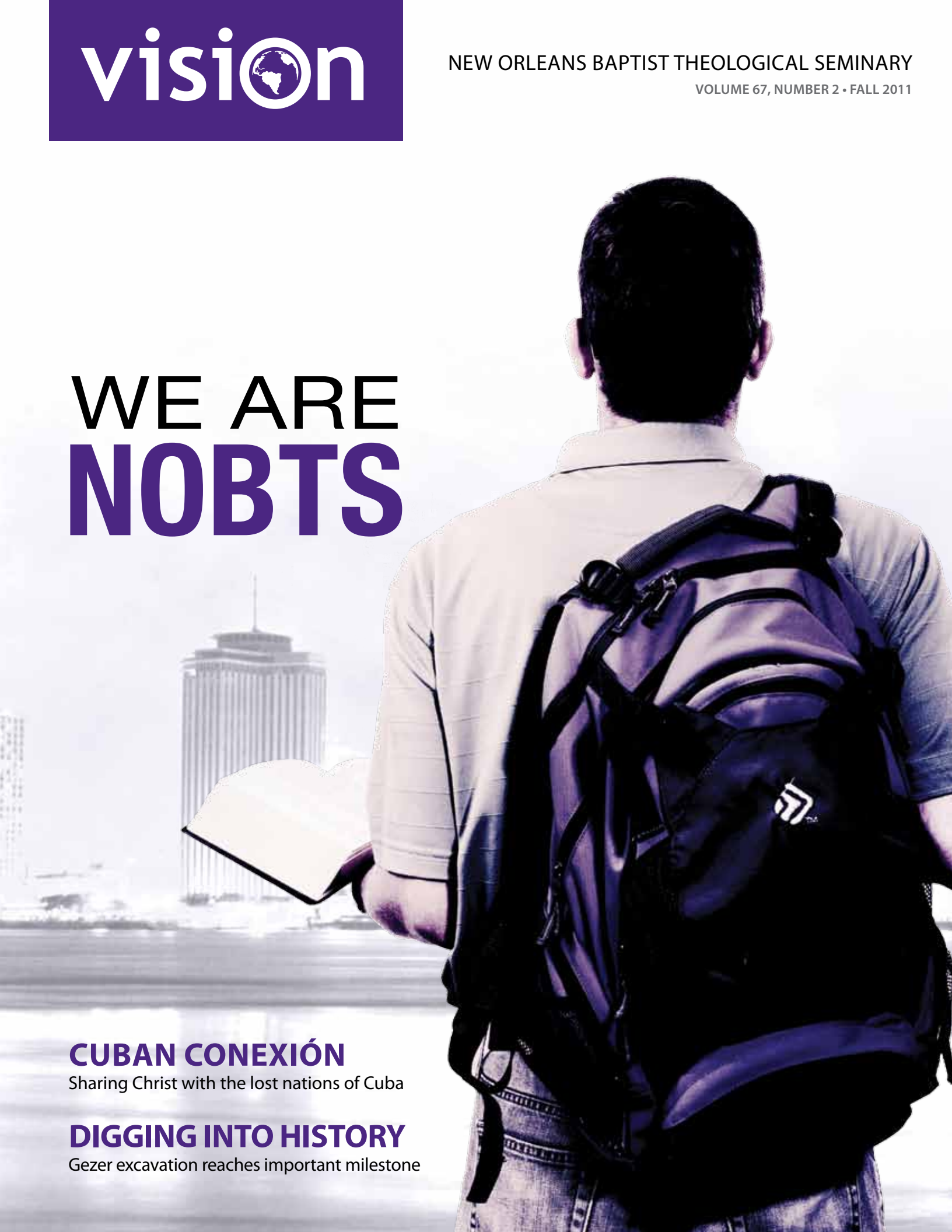
# WE ARE NOBTS

## CUBAN CONEXIÓN

Sharing Christ with the lost nations of Cuba

## DIGGING INTO HISTORY

Gezer excavation reaches important milestone



# Just imagine ...

BY DR. CHUCK KELLEY

**W**hat would it take to have a seminary that provided access to quality theological education for anyone God called into the ministry from anywhere on earth? This is the focus of our attention as New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary moves into the second decade of the 21st century. Never have our churches faced more challenges than they are facing now. Never has the world been so open to the spread of Christianity. Never have there been so many possibilities for training and educating students. In the face of these great challenges and amazing opportunities, NOBTS is in the process of reinventing the seminary experience. Come along and imagine with me . . .



Kelley

**Imagine a whole faculty willing to think outside the box.** This is a challenging time to be a member of the seminary faculty. Professors must learn skills that did not exist when they were students. They have opportunities to create ways of teaching that none of their teachers ever modeled for them. The NOBTS faculty is ready for this challenge. Hurricane Katrina took away our classrooms, our library, our offices, even our homes for a year. Faced with that crisis the faculty literally reinvented the entire curriculum and found ways to continue teaching every course we started before the storm hit.

Building on that experience, we have added to the curriculum ways to teach students that did not exist in the recent past. We base all that we do on the assumption there is more than one way to teach every course we offer. Towards that end, the whole faculty is going through a certificate program to equip them with 21st century teaching skills. We are learning to “teach young,” whatever our age and experience, so that students of all sorts will have access to what we have learned and experienced.

**Imagine a seminary curriculum based on church realities.** Several years ago we asked the question: What do students need to know and be able to do in order to serve a Baptist church? We asked each other. We did surveys with alumni, church leaders, and others. One faculty member did a doctoral dissertation on the expectations church members have for their ministers. Again and again the same

seven competencies appeared. We then took a blank sheet of paper and designed our curriculum to teach the seven basic competencies every minister needs: biblical exposition, worship leadership, interpersonal skills, servant leadership, our theology and polity, disciple making, and the formation of moral and spiritual character. Each course we teach now connects to one or more of these basic competencies in order to prepare our students for the real world they will face.

**Imagine using the technology of today and tomorrow to create a seminary classroom anywhere in the world.** There will always be students taking classes on our New Orleans campus, but we know for some students that is not possible. Today we are able to create seminary classrooms almost anywhere. Using compressed interactive video, a professor in New Orleans is able to teach a class with students listening, talking and interacting with each other from as many as four different cities. With the internet students from anywhere in the world can make wherever they are a seminary classroom and interact with other students and professors. By combining the efforts of a faculty willing to travel and academically qualified people in a community, students can attend classes in regional extension centers close to where they live and work, or even in the maximum security prisons of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Georgia. By using assignments completed before and after the class, students can attend a class for five days that once took a full semester to complete. There are also hybrid classes combining two or more of these elements in classes that only meet periodically. Imagine having these options even if you do not speak English. Korean is our first alternative language. Others will follow. Geography still plays a role in training ministers, but that role is less prominent than ever before.

**Imagine being able to choose a way to receive theological education that best fits your calling, your circumstances, and the way you like to learn.** We are in the process of making everything we teach available in more than one delivery system. If you start off with a basic degree and discover you want to specialize, you can come to the campus, where every specialization is available, at any point in your degree plan. If you are on campus or in an extension center in one state, and get called to a church in another state you can still finish your degree, by taking advantage of our variety of delivery systems. If you want to add some specialized training to a degree you have already completed, or if you need training in only one area of our curriculum, you can get a church ministry certificate that addresses that specific area.

In other words, NOBTS has become a ministry training cafeteria, offering residential programs, extension programs, internet programs, mentoring programs, and visitor programs designed around periodic visits to the campus. We will match how we teach to the calling and circumstances of our students.

**Imagine all of this being affordable to anyone God calls.** That has always been the genius of the Southern Baptist approach to theological education. We want all of our ministers and missionaries, no matter what their income bracket, church size, or family background to have access to quality theological education. When you give to the Providence Fund, you touch every student we have. Every dollar goes to the operating budget of the seminary. Every dollar the Providence Fund receives is a dollar students do not have to pay. Thank you for standing with us as we both imagine and create the future!

*Charles S. Kelley, Jr.*

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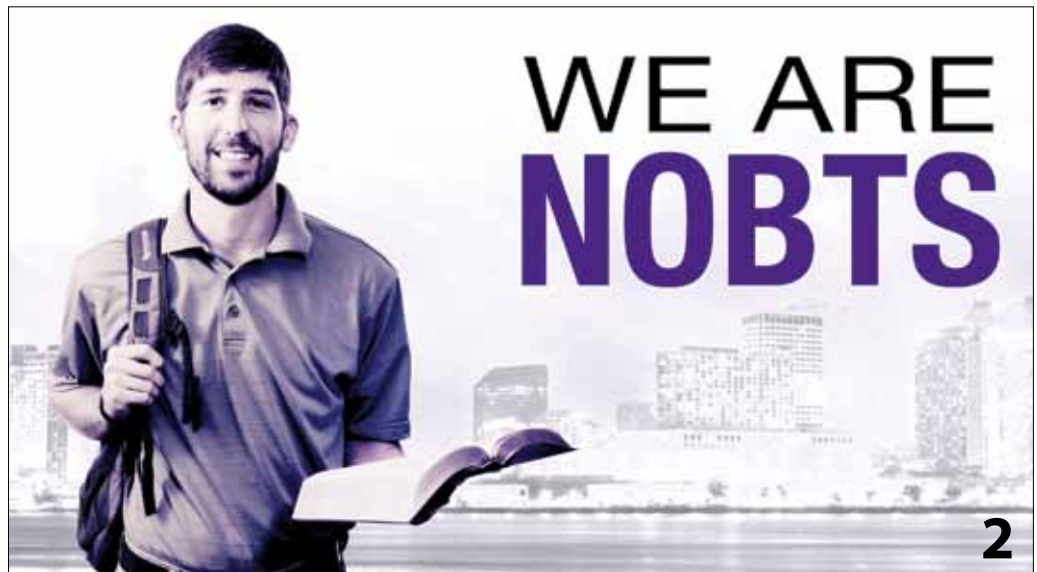


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**On the Cover:** Photo illustration by Boyd Guy. Art direction by Sean Payne.





# WE ARE NOBTS

We are NOBTS! That is not a statement we make lightly. When we say it we mean something important. We are called. We're both practical and innovative. We are passionate. We are committed to excellence in all that we do.

We are an extended family of students, professors, staff members and alumni – God called men and women – working together to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. We are leading churches and training the next generation of church leaders. We believe in missions, we support missions, and we are involved in missions.

“We Are NOBTS” is a reoccurring series designed to explore what it means to be a part of this vibrant community of believers. **We are NOBTS and these are exciting days at the School of Providence and Prayer.**

PHOTO BY BOYD GUY

Mike Massaro is a Master of Arts in Missiology student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Mike and his wife, Heather, will pursue international missions after seminary.

# WE ARE CALLED

BY GARY D. MYERS

**M**ike Massaro first sensed God's call to ministry in 9th grade while attending First Baptist Church in Chalmette, La. – just down the road from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. A California native, Mike had moved to Chalmette a few years earlier and was already planning a career in the military.

"The military was my plan. Ministry was God's plan," Mike said.

Ultimately, God would call Mike to prepare for the international mission field. However, when Mike first experienced God's call, he had no idea where that call would lead. He just knew that God was calling him to prepare and be open to any type of ministry.

## EXPLORING THE CALL

Mike had numerous opportunities to participate in mission trips as a high school student, and he also found ways to serve in his church. Mike's youth minister encouraged him to get involved in different types of ministry. Following that advice, Mike worked with children, youth and even senior adults.

"Through that involvement, I became passionate about doing mission work and spreading the Gospel," Mike said.

## A CALL TO PREPARE

Mike realized early on that if he wanted to follow God to the mission field, he would need focused training. As he prayed for guidance, God led him to apply to Leavell College, the undergraduate college at NOBTS.

Mike started at Leavell College in 2002 but left the next year. Mike said that he tried to run from God's call.

"It was during that year that the Lord really shaped me and told me 'you are not going to be satisfied doing anything else but what I've called you to do,'" Mike said. So after a year away, he returned to Leavell College to continue his studies.

## A MISSION FOCUS & MISSION PARTNER

In 2007, Mike traveled to Africa for his first overseas mission trip. While in Africa, God confirmed Mike's calling to international missions. That assurance came one day during a quiet time on the side of a gorge.

Mike finished his undergraduate degree in 2009 and began seeking God's direction for master's level study. Initially, he planned to attend Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, but God led him to stay at NOBTS. He is currently studying in the Master of Arts in Missiology program.



PHOTO BY SCOTT DRUMM

Mike and Heather Massaro are training for the mission field.

About that same time, Heather Beeland, a young woman from Mississippi, was also seeking God's direction about seminary. She had sensed a call to urban missions. God led her to leave her career, sell her house and come to NOBTS to prepare for ministry. After Heather came to seminary, God began leading her toward international missions.

Mike and Heather met at NOBTS and the rest is history. The two missionaries-in-training met and began dating. And in October 2010, they married.

Mike and Heather are currently seeking an international missions assignment. They hope to serve in Africa. But like so many other NOBTS students, the two are not waiting until graduation to get "on mission" for Christ. Mike volunteers at Global Maritime, a ministry to seafaring internationals, and helps with evangelistic sports camps in the summer. Mike and Heather both reach out to international students by volunteering with International Collegiate Ministry, a ministry of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry program at the University of New Orleans.

## WE ARE NOBTS

When asked what the phrase, "We are NOBTS," means to him. Mike shared freely.

"It means that we are here to represent Southern Baptists in New Orleans. We are here to better prepare ourselves, to fill up our 'toolbox' to equip ourselves to be effective ministers of the Gospel here in the city and worldwide," Mike said.



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# Cuban Conexión

## SHARING CHRIST WITH THE LOST NATIONS OF CUBA

BY FRANK MICHAEL MCCORMACK

**The Great Commission – Jesus’ call to make disciples of all nations – has been an epic endeavor for every generation of believers. The call to “go therefore” is the same today as it was for the disciples 2,000 years ago.**

Modern communications and technology, though, have allowed Christians today to locate and identify more precisely those yet-to-be-reached people and develop strategies for introducing them to Jesus. Now, as in the first century, the Great Commission is a tall task.

It’s a heartbreaking fact that millions of people around the world will live their entire lives without hearing the name of Jesus or hearing the Gospel in a meaningful way.

The International Mission Board divides the 7 billion people in the world today into about 11,000 distinct people groups. These people groups share ethnic, linguistic and cultural similarities, but not necessarily geographical location.

Of the total 11,000 people groups the IMB identifies, 61 percent – 6,734 in all – are considered “unreached” because evangelical Christians make up less than 2 percent of the population. Many of these people groups have missionaries ministering among them, but about 3,800 of them have no active ministry work. Those 3,800 groups are considered “unengaged.”

“Because of location and government restrictions, no one is actively seeking to reach them with the Gospel, that we know of, at this time,” said Philip Pinckard, professor of missions at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and director of the school’s Global Missions Center.

In 2010, the IMB launched the “Getting There” campaign which introduced Southern Baptists to these unreached and unengaged people groups scattered throughout the world.

Now, through the “Embrace” campaign, the International Mission

Board is asking churches and individual Christians to identify an unengaged people group and develop a strategy for planting the Gospel among the people. SBC President Bryant Wright has also extended that challenge to the entities of the convention, including New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

NOBTS officials have been working since June to identify which group to target with the Gospel. And during Global Missions Day at the seminary in September, NOBTS President Chuck Kelley announced that the school has adopted the seven unengaged people groups in Cuba.

“The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has always been the glue that held us together, the reminder of what we’re all about,” Kelley said. “We’re delighted to be partners with them in the Embrace project.”

Many of the unreached and unengaged people groups live in hard-to-reach, secluded or mountainous regions of the world or in countries hostile to the Gospel. And often, those people groups, from an American perspective at least, live on the other side of the globe.

But as NOBTS officials searched the International Mission Board’s map of unreached and unengaged people groups, the cluster of people groups in nearby Cuba – just 100 miles from Key West, Fla. – quickly caught their attention.

NOBTS has long partnered with Cuban Baptists to provide music, counseling and Christian education training in two Cuban seminaries. Surprisingly, there are seven unengaged people groups living in Cuba. And adopting those groups made perfect sense.

“NOBTS has partnered for a number of years with IMB, the Florida Baptist Convention and some churches to train leaders in the 5,000 house churches in Cuba,” NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke said. “About a dozen NOBTS faculty members have made over 30 mission trips to train various Cuban leaders in the equivalent of master’s degrees in worship leadership, discipleship and



**Every one of us, regardless of what your ministry calling may be, has a responsibility in the work of getting the Gospel to the ends of the earth – Dr. Chuck Kelley**

counseling, and these leaders in turn train house church leaders in these skills.

“So now we are excited to build upon these existing relationships to reach these seven unreached people groups in Cuba.”

The unengaged groups in Cuba include Han Chinese, Haitians, Jamaicans, Jews, Basques, Russians and deaf Cubans.

There is a population of about 110,000 Han Chinese living in Cuba at this time. The next largest unengaged group in Cuba are deaf Cubans, with a population of about 54,000, followed by about 40,000 Haitians living there. Jamaicans, Jews, Basques and Russians in Cuba number 5,000, 1,500, 600 and 200, respectively.

Ministry work is going on with each of these groups around the world, but not with the populations living in Cuba. The IMB reports that none of those seven groups has had any active church planting within the past two years.

Kelley, Pinckard and Lemke all said they anticipate New Orleans Seminary taking steps to equip Cuban students for the task of identifying and engaging the unengaged people groups there in Cuba. There are also partnership possibilities with Florida Baptists who are already doing extensive work in Haiti.

Cuba has a rich history often overshadowed by the 50-year-old embargo with the United States. Christopher Columbus “discovered” Cuba on his famous 1492 journey from Spain to the New World. Cuba soon became a trade hub as European exploration bloomed. With Cuba’s sugar industry exploding in the mid-1800s, thousands of workers from China came to Cuba to harvest sugarcane, which accounts for the large Chinese population there today.

Cuba finally gained its independence from Spain in 1902, and the island nation became a popular travel destination in the first half of the 20th century. Then in 1959, Fidel Castro seized power and instituted the first communist state in the Western Hemisphere. The clash between the United States and communist Cuba soon reached

a climax with the Cuban Missile Crisis and the institution of the trade embargo in 1962. While Cuba’s economy and infrastructure remained largely static over the last half of the 20th century, tourism has grown over the past decades.

The Gospel has also been taking root over the past 20 years. According to the IMB, there were only about 210 Baptist churches in Cuba in 1960. Through 1990, that number stood at just 238. Then in the 1990s, a fast-moving church planting movement took place, and now churches in Cuba number more than 6,200, according to the IMB.

Cuba isn’t the only nearby country that’s home to unreached and unengaged people groups. According to the IMB, unreached peoples dot the Caribbean islands and line the U.S.-Mexico border. A searchable map of unreached people groups throughout the world is available online at <http://IMB.org/GettingThere>.

Resources like the “Getting There” map are crucial to helping believers strategize and mobilize for tackling the Great Commission. After all, that call to “go therefore,” Kelley said, applies to every believer.

“Every one of us, regardless of what your ministry calling may be, has a responsibility in the work of getting the Gospel to the ends of the earth,” Kelley said. “Some God calls to go to other countries and other cultures and other languages. Some God calls to stay and provide support and encouragement and mission involvement in our community. Some God calls back and forth to stay and to go. But each of us has a role to play.”

### ● You Can Help!

The greatest need in any effort to reach a people group with the Gospel is prayer. Please join us in praying for the unreached and unengaged peoples of Cuba.





PHOTOS BY ART BEAULIEU

**LEFT** Vinnie DeJesus, left, Dudley May, center, and Jeff Hagans steady a large bag of debris as a crane lifts it out of the Gezer Water System.

**ABOVE** Team members explore the natural cave at the end of the Gezer Water System on the last day of the 2011 excavation project.

## Gezer excavation reaches important milestone

BY GARY D. MYERS

According to a popular archaeology axiom, “the best finds always come on the last day.” For the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary team excavating the Tel Gezer water system this summer that was almost the case. The find came just two days before the end of the dig season.

The Gezer Water System Expedition, about 20 miles west of Jerusalem, is a joint project of NOBTS and the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA). Dan Warner, Associate Professor of Old Testament and Archaeology at NOBTS, and Tsvika Tsuk of INPA are directing the excavation of the ancient Tel Gezer water system, which dates as early as 1800 B.C. NOBTS professors Dennis Cole, Jim Parker and Harold Mosley are also involved with the dig. Cole and Warner co-direct the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at the seminary.

It is believed the Canaanites cut the massive tunnel around the time of Abraham using flint tools. Measuring nearly 13 feet wide by 24 feet high at the opening and stretching 150 feet into the ground at a 38 degree slope, the Gezer tunnel is the largest ancient water system ever unearthed.

Late in the last week of the 2011 dig, the team found the natural cave at the end of the massive rock-hewn water system – the prime objective of this season’s dig. It is believed that the system’s original water source is located in or near the opening of the cave.

“The research at Gezer is important to Baptists because of our commitment to understand the Bible within its historical

context. Any information we can gain to give better insights into the cultures of the biblical world helps us interpret the Bible,” Warner said.

“Most think of the Canaanites as an old, rustic culture – not so. Digging the water system took great technical and hydraulic skill. This was a very advanced and sophisticated culture that had pronounced impact in biblical times.”

The water system and the cave were discovered by Irish archaeologist R.A.S. Macalister during his excavation at Gezer from 1906 to 1908. French archaeologist Père L. H. Vincent visited the water system and the cave during Macalister’s excavation. Neither archaeologist fully excavated the cave, and they offered conflicting descriptions of the cave and water system.

During next summer’s dig, scheduled for May 27-June 15, 2012, the team will focus on excavating the cave in hopes of answering several lingering questions about the water system. First and foremost, the team will try to discover how

the Canaanites knew about the water source. Warner believes the Canaanites found the water source through an opening in the cave located outside the city walls. He speculates that the tunnel was cut to provide the city with a safe water source during times of siege.

“The tunnel is cut perfectly straight and it’s very artistic, you don’t cut something like that blindly,” Warner said. “You have to know water is down there. You just aren’t going to spend all that time and energy. They had to know water was down there.”

**The research at Gezer is important to Baptists because of our commitment to understand the Bible within its historical context.**

DR. DAN WARNER



Another question involves the date of the tunnel's construction. Macalister, Tsuk, Warner and other archaeologists have proposed an early date for the system – during the Middle Bronze Age (between 1800 and 1500 B.C.) – making the Gezer tunnel one of the oldest rock-hewn water systems ever discovered. Other scholars, including noted archaeologist William Dever, do not believe the system is that old. He has proposed a Late Bronze Age or Iron Age date for the tunnel. Warner remains hopeful that some evidence can be found to settle the long-running debate over the date.

"We might get a better perspective [on the date] inside the cave," Warner said. "There might be carvings on the wall or some type of inscription. There could be pottery remains, and if we find consistent pottery remains from the Middle and Late Bronze Age that at least gives us a pretty good idea that it dates from the start of the Middle Bronze Age."

## CORRECTING THE RECORD

While finding the cave was a major accomplishment, Warner said that one of the significant outcomes of this year's dig was gaining accurate measurements of the tunnel. Vincent's measurements proved to be much more accurate than Macalister's. Since Macalister and Vincent offered differing descriptions of the cave, setting the record straight will be a key component of the 2012 dig. So far Macalister's drawings and descriptions of the inside of the cave correspond better with what the dig team experienced this year, including a series of large flat stones near the mouth. Vincent shows a cave completely obstructed by large rounded rocks. He also indicates an exit at the end of the cave. Macalister's drawings do not show this opening. According to Parker, the NOBTS researchers hope to settle the matter of the possible exit. The team will also provide new measurements, descriptions, drawings and photographs of the cave's interior.

## CREATING A BUZZ

The excavation created quite a stir within the Israeli archaeological community. Numerous archaeological dignitaries made their way to Gezer to tour the site this year. Ronny Reich and

Eli Shukron, two archaeologists who wrote an influential article on the subject in 2003, were among the guests. Sam Wolff and others from the Israel Antiquities Authority also visited the site.

The buzz has continued in the United States. In October, Warner will present his research at the Oklahoma Water Research Symposium and Governor's Water Conference, and in November, he will give lectures at the Near Eastern Archaeological Society and American Schools of Oriental Research meetings in San Francisco, Calif. 🌐

For more information about the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), visit [www.nobts.edu/ArchaeologyCenter](http://www.nobts.edu/ArchaeologyCenter). The Center's blog is located at [nobtsarchaeology.blogspot.com](http://nobtsarchaeology.blogspot.com).



PHOTO BY ART BEAULIEU

Jeff Hagans guides the winch cables as a bag of debris is pulled from the bottom of the Gezer water system.



## The Natural Cave

The natural cave located at the end of the Gezer Water System remains a mystery. R.A.S. Macalister and P  re L. H. Vincent visited the cave and wrote descriptions of what they encountered. However, their reports differ greatly on the details of the cave. By all accounts, the cave was never completely excavated due to ceiling instability.

The NOBTS team encountered this same instability issue near the mouth of the cave. A large flat piece of soft, waterlogged chalk did fall as the team probed the opening with picks and pry bar. But above the damaged chalk, the roof is solid. Dr. Dan Warner and Dr. Jim Parker remain hopeful that the cave will provide answers about the water system's date and construction. 🌐

PHOTO BY ART BEAULIEU

Dr. Dan Warner, Associate Professor of Old Testament and Archaeology at NOBTS, sits in the natural cave at the end of the ancient Gezer Water System.



PHOTO BY ART BEAULIEU

Vinnie DeJesus takes a brief nap at the bottom of the Gezer Water System during the third week of the 2011 dig.

## NOBTS team innovates, perseveres during Gezer dig

BY GARY D. MYERS

**T**o say that NOBTS is engaged in a unique archaeological dig would be a colossal understatement. In many ways, its Gezer Water System excavation is a bit like moving a mountain.

Traditional archaeology involves long hours of tedious work with a trowel, brush and a sifting screen. Small amounts of dirt are meticulously sifted to check for artifacts. Artifacts are carefully logged using time-honored scientific methods.

However, The Gezer Water System Expedition, a joint project of NOBTS and the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA), requires a different, more physical approach in excavating an ancient water system that could date to the time of Abraham.

Because the massive tunnel, which the Canaanites cut by hand using flint tools, was excavated by Irish archaeologist R.A.S. Macalister from 1906-08, the New Orleans team did not sift the dirt during the first two dig seasons.

The massive water system measures 13 feet wide by 24 feet high and stretches 150 feet into the ground at a 38 degree angle. When NOBTS started the dig, nearly 65 percent of the tunnel was filled with dirt. During his dig 100 years ago, Macalister built a rock retaining wall to hold back the debris he removed. The wall, located

near the mouth of the tunnel, collapsed after heavy rains in 1908 sending tons of rocks and dirt back into the water system. Over the years more dirt and debris has collected in the tunnel.

The process of clearing the tons of dirt, broken flint tools, pottery shards and rocks has been no easy task. It takes equal parts of innovation and determination for the excavation.

For the 2010 dig season, NOBTS professor Jim Parker, a team member experienced as a coal miner and engineer, devised an excavation system which included large fabric bags and a crane. Three or four workers would shovel debris into the bags which hold more than 300 pounds of material each. The bags were pulled from the tunnel with the crane and dumped in a debris pile.

The system worked well for the first year of the dig, but Parker and Warner realized that innovation would be needed for 2011. The deeper the team progressed into the tunnel, the longer it took the crane to pull out the bags, creating a backlog that hampered progress.

Parker decided to add the winch near the mouth of the tunnel for the second dig season. The debris-filled bags were pulled to a staging area at the mouth of the tunnel by the winch. The winch decreased the lag time caused by the crane and proved to be an essential component in the team's success.



Macalister and French archaeologist P  re L. H. Vincent, who visited the site during the original excavation, described a natural cave at the end of the water system. Warner and Parker believe the cave may help them determine how the Canaanites located the water source and when the tunnel was cut. Reaching the cave became the primary objective of this year's dig.

To reach their goal, Warner and Parker recruited a much larger dig team than they had in 2010. Early on, the team encountered a major setback: several team members contracted the flu. As the sickness sidelined some, the rest of the team worked long days removing as much as 16 tons of material per day. The sickness continued to affect the team well into the second week of the dig.

The physically demanding work was intensified by the conflicting information about the water tunnel in the writings of Macalister and Vincent. Based on Macalister's descriptions and the first week's progress, Warner and Parker believed the team would reach the cave between June 1 and 3. The team kept a steady pace, removing 80 to 100 bags of debris per day, and passed Macalister's measurement on June 2, but still no cave. After two more days of digging the team was discouraged.

On June 5, the team encountered the most difficult digging of the season. The bottom of the tunnel was packed with rocks believed to be part of Macalister's collapsed retaining wall. Warner and Parker had expected to find portions of the wall near the opening of the cave. For them, the rocks were a good sign.

After slowly digging through the rocks for a day and a half, the team finally reached the cave on June 7. It was 15 feet deeper into the water system than Macalister had recorded. The cave was filled to the top with fine, muddy silt. The last two days of the dig were spent cutting a 3-foot by 17-foot trench into the cave silt and readying the site for the 2012 dig.

The final statistics from this summer are helpful in understanding the massive scope of the dig. According to Parker's calculations, the team removed 231 tons of debris (1,372 bags) in 17 days of digging. Warner and Parker's smaller 2010 team removed 68 tons of debris.

The NOBTS team is clearing the entire width of the tunnel, but only about 8 feet of the height. The other material did not need to be removed for Warner to research the natural cave. The layer of dirt also helped protect the hand-carved steps on the floor of the water system.


The INPA likely will clear out the remaining debris from the tunnel and develop the water system as a tourist attraction. According to estimates, the remaining debris could top out around 860 tons. 



PHOTO BY ART BEAULIEU

Jim Parker, left, professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Tsvika Tsuk of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, review excavation plans during an archaeological dig in the ancient Gezer water system.

## Gezer dig continues May 27-June 15, 2012

**F**inding the natural cave has set the stage for an exciting conclusion during the third and final year of excavations. The 2012 dig, set for May 27 through June 15, will focus on clearing the cave and will involve a more traditional archaeological approach. Neither R.A.S. Macalister nor P  re L. H. Vincent completely excavated the cave, so Dan Warner and Jim Parker believe that it may hold ancient artifacts.

Finding the original water source will be another important task. Based on the muddy conditions in the cave, Warner and Parker think the spring may still be active.

### JOIN US IN GEZER

The dig is open to the public. The cost of the trip is \$1,500 plus airfare. The price includes room, board and ground transportation during the three-week stay.


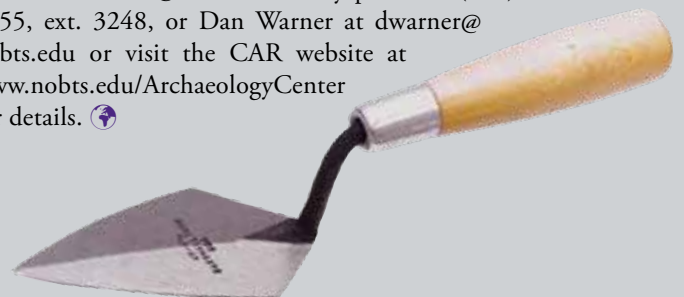
Those interested in participating may contact Dennis Cole by email at [dcole@nobts.edu](mailto:dcole@nobts.edu) or by phone at (504) 242-4455, ext. 3248, or Dan Warner at [dwarner@nobts.edu](mailto:dwarner@nobts.edu) or visit the CAR website at [www.nobts.edu/ArchaeologyCenter](http://www.nobts.edu/ArchaeologyCenter) for details. 



PHOTO BY ART BEAULIEU

Team members wrestle with a heavy bag of debris at the dump pile.



# Driggers named advancement vice president

BY FRANK MICHAEL MCCORMACK

**N**OBTS President Chuck Kelley has named James R. “Randy” Driggers as the school’s new Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Driggers, an Alabama native and NOBTS graduate, has served as Vice President for Development with The Baptist Foundation of Alabama since 2001.

Driggers, who started the job in August, directs the development, alumni relations, church-minister relations and public relations departments of the seminary.

“I am thrilled to have someone with Randy’s passion for the Lord and extensive training and experience in development joining our leadership team. He loves making friends, and he believes in the work and mission of our seminary,” NOBTS President Chuck Kelley said. “His coming will be a great blessing to this School of Providence and Prayer.”

Driggers’ background in fundraising and development is extensive. For the past 10 years, he has worked with The Baptist Foundation of Alabama in fundraising, fund management and




**Driggers**

estate stewardship. Besides fundraising and stewardship, Driggers also oversaw the public relations and marketing efforts of The Baptist Foundation of Alabama.

Prior to his role as vice president for development with The Baptist Foundation of Alabama, Driggers served as Director of Development for NOBTS from 1996 to 2001. From 1982 to 1990, Driggers was president of his own agency that represented close to 30 AAA rated insurance companies, primarily in the group benefits market and tax sheltered retirement planning.

Driggers is a member of the NOBTS Foundation Board, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Task Force promoting estate stewardship and the Stewardship Development Association of the SBC. He has also held memberships in the Christian Stewardship Alliance, Partnership for Philanthropic Planning, Alabama Planned Giving Council and American Council on Gift Annuities.

Driggers has received training in grant writing and development from The Grantsmanship Center in Los Angeles, Calif., and is currently enrolled in the Kingdom Advisors training program to become a “Certified Fundraising Executive.”

Driggers attended Samford University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Psychology in 1994, and NOBTS, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree in Christian Education in 1998. He was ordained by First Baptist Church of Hoover, Ala., where he served as children’s minister and in administration from 1990 to 1994. 

## Imagine the impact on this world if we would all give.

Did you know that only 9% of one’s ability to give is from cash? The other 91% is through illiquid assets such as stocks and bonds, life insurance, real estate and more. A properly constructed Christian estate plan could eliminate capital gain taxes and provide other income tax advantages.

More importantly, you can provide for your heirs and create a kingdom legacy gift for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary that will continue to impact the lives of God called men and women to serve in our churches, our schools, and in mission work around the world.

Contact Randy Driggers, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, for more information at (504) 282-4455, ext. 3252, or email [rdriggers@nobts.edu](mailto:rdriggers@nobts.edu).

# IMAGINE

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine... Eph. 3:20



# Providence Fund: Equipping the Called

If you keep up with the Providence Fund, you might have recently received an email from the Providence Fund sharing the story of one of our students and local New Orleans Pastor, Dustin Turner.

You may not realize it, but for many of our students, their ministry begins long before graduation as missionaries, pastors and church leaders.

Dustin has been called to serve in the local church as he pursues his theological education.

This is his story...

*"My name is Dustin Turner, and I am pursuing an M.Div. in Biblical Languages at NOBTS.*

*When I was in the 8th grade I felt a call on my life to vocational ministry. At the time I wasn't certain exactly what that meant and am really still feeling that out in my life. After college I knew that I needed to pursue a theological education. When I asked around about seminaries, everyone recommended NOBTS. Everyone shared with me how NOBTS strived for practical ministry training. I knew that was what I needed. So my wife and I packed our bags, moved to New Orleans, and have fallen in love with the city.*



Turner

**He has called me to equip others so that they can lead and do the ministry of the church. That is my ministry. I teach and train leaders so that they can teach and train others.**

*In Ephesians 4:12, Scripture calls pastors to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. God has not called me to do everything in the church. Rather, He has called me to equip others so that they can lead and do the ministry of the church. That is my ministry. I teach and train leaders so that they can teach and train others.*

*Currently I serve as the Theology and Training Pastor with Vintage Church. I work with our other pastors and community group leaders to develop curriculum and training materials so that our people can become more developed disciples of Jesus. So this includes teaching and training on theology, Bible study, evangelism, etc.*

*More recently God has placed on my heart a desire for real discipleship. A lot of that comes through our community groups, which are small groups of people that get to know each other, get in the Word, and get involved. Discipleship, however, doesn't just end there. It also involves training up leaders and coaching them to lead. The church cannot just be discipled by its pastors; it must be*

*discipled by its lay leaders, who are our community group leaders. My calling to discipleship also includes creating curriculum to equip our leaders and people. There are just some things that are difficult to teach or discuss in a community group. Class-type settings are great for training sessions on evangelism, Bible study, and other practical, hands-on activities. These are just a few of the ways I lead my church to become disciples of Jesus.*

*The reality of the situation is that New Orleans is unique. It's a melting pot of various ages, backgrounds and ethnicities. It truly is a global city. It's hard to believe, but I've been told that New Orleans is the busiest port in the world. A lay leader and great friend in my church serves in the United States Coast Guard, and he told me that New Orleans is the busiest port for the Coast Guard. Those two statistics alone show us something about the city. Many people struggle between the legalistic religion and the pluralistic beliefs of New Orleans. So I have to do all I can to help facilitate Christian growth in individuals so that they do not fall back into their sinful past lifestyles. I want them to thrive in Christ. I want them to understand how the Gospel has saved them and is saving them. I want them to grow out of the "what can Jesus do for me" Christianity into "the disciple making disciple of Jesus."*

*If you've ever served in the church you know it's messy. The church is made up of many imperfect people. That makes for an interesting experience when a bunch of imperfect people try to live and work together. But here's the thing: God chose the church to move his kingdom forward. So I love the church and simply desire for it to look more like Jesus. Teaching and training my people is the best way I can equip them to do this.*

*Studying at NOBTS, I've certainly learned a lot of information. Some of the information has been retained while unfortunately some has been lost. But what seminary has given me are tools – tools to continue in ministry. Like everything else, ministry changes. So what I am learning now about ministry may very well be out of date in five years. But NOBTS has given me the necessary tools to change with the times. It has given the tools and resources necessary for my ministry to remain relevant and practical.*

*Learning and teaching all things theological is my passion. I long to see a generation of believers in Christ who have a desire to learn more about their faith and teach it to others."*

*- Dustin Turner*

This is just one story of how many of our students are not waiting for graduation to follow their calling. They are active in ministry even as they are busy in their studies.

Students like Dustin benefit from the work of the Providence Fund which eases their financial burden. This is important as they balance their studies with their heart's true passion – preaching and teaching the Word of God. 🌐

For more information on the Providence Fund or to find out more about making a gift, please visit us at [www.nobts.edu/development/providencefund.html](http://www.nobts.edu/development/providencefund.html).



PHOTO BY BOYD GUY

Benjamin Tone, left, and his sister, Helga, play in the orchestra during a chapel service at NOBTS this fall.

## For Tones, scholarships make beautiful music

BY SUZANNE DAVIS

All students at Leavell College have a story to tell about the journey that lead them to New Orleans. Helga and Benjamin Tone are no exception. More than just a journey of faith, their path to pursue the call of ministry led them across the globe. Raised in Bucharest, Romania, Helga (20) and Benjamin (19) are the second and third of seven children. Their father is a church planter and the pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church in Bucharest. Growing up in a church plant, they often worked with visiting American missionary teams and acted as translators.

It was through one of these contacts that Helga initially was able to come to the United States. She had a scholarship to study music at Southeastern Louisiana University. Arriving a few weeks early in the late summer of 2009, Helga encountered a small hitch in her plans. Though her scholarship included tuition and board, the school's dormitories were full. She would have to live off campus and ride her bike back and forth every day.

God, however, had a different plan. A few days later, Helga attended First Baptist Church of Brandon, Miss., where she played her violin. After the service she met a good friend of NOBTS President Chuck Kelley who enjoyed her music and took an interest in helping her pursue her calling. The gentleman told Helga about NOBTS' undergraduate program. Soon she had filed her application and received a new scholarship covering tuition and board on the NOBTS campus.

Today, Helga is in her second year of study. She is majoring in music with a minor in youth ministry. She says there has been some adjustment acclimating to the American culture, but that the student body at NOBTS have been very welcoming.

"I'm absolutely positive that it would have been harder for me at Southeastern. Everyone would have been doing their own thing and no one would have been concerned about making me feel comfortable or welcoming. Here everyone is so friendly, you can just see the love of Christ on their faces," Helga said.

Benjamin followed in the steps of his sister. He says he has had the desire to serve the Lord from his childhood. After Helga began her studies in New Orleans, he says, "I started to fast and pray in my last year in high school to see if God would open the door for me to come and study here."

That is exactly what happened. When Helga met with her sponsor at a seminary Christmas party where she played her violin, he told her that God had laid it on his heart to sponsor her brother also.

Benjamin arrived on campus this fall and is studying preaching with a minor in music. After he finishes his bachelor's degree, he hopes to pursue a master's degree in church planting. He is not sure if he will return to Romania for ministry or if God will lead in a different direction on his journey of faith.

In the meantime, Helga became engaged over the summer while at home in Romania. She and her fiancé, Andrei Pârnu, will be married next July. Andrei, whose father is also a pastor in Bucharest, hopes to study preaching at NOBTS in the fall. 🌐

**Want to help more students attend NOBTS?** Contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (504) 282-4455, ext. 3252, for more information about scholarship gifts.



## New scholarships benefit bi-vocational ministers, African-Americans

BY GARY D. MYERS

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) President Chuck Kelley recently announced two new scholarships – one for bi-vocational ministers and another for African-American students. Money for the scholarships was donated by a Louisiana-based family foundation.

To qualify for the bi-vocational minister's scholarship, a student must be serving a church and have employment outside the church. The scholarship is available to both full- and part-time students at NOBTS. Kelley said the bi-vocational scholarship will help meet a crucial need.

"One of the least known facts in Southern Baptist life is how many bi-vocational ministers are serving in our churches. We are thrilled at the opportunity to make theological training more accessible for those who are fulfilling such an important role in Southern Baptist life," Kelley said.

The other scholarship is open to any African-American student, whether full- or part-time status. Kelley hopes the scholarship will help more African-American ministers attend NOBTS, something he believes will benefit both the seminary community and local churches.

"Southern Baptists have a lot of catching up to do in our relationships with African-American churches and ministers," Kelley said. "Adding God-called African-American ministers to our student body will make us a healthier seminary and do more to



develop leaders for healthy churches. I am especially praying that this will make doctoral work more attainable for African-American ministers, equipping them to enter classrooms as teachers as well as students." 🌍

## Top six giving needs at New Orleans Seminary

### 1) Providence Fund

This fund assists us in keeping the cost of theological education manageable for students. This continues to be one of our greatest needs. Every dollar given to this fund is a dollar students will not have to pay for tuition.

### 2) Student Housing

While we are excited about the recent completion of the 16 new two-bedroom apartments, student housing is still one of our most important needs. A third, 8-unit apartment building has been approved by the trustees and will cost approximately \$1.65 million. Your help with this fund will be greatly appreciated.

### 3) Emergency Student Assistance

Periodically there are emergency needs for students. These funds, managed by our Director of Financial Aid, are distributed when emergencies arise.

### 4) Student Scholarships

Many students are assisted with financial aid for tuition or books as a result of the generosity of many people. We are equipping God-called men and women to impact the world with the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Student scholarships go a long way in easing the burden of the cost of ministry training.

### 5) Endowments

One pressing endowment need is an Endowed Chair of Social Work. A \$1 million chair will help us launch a Master of Social Work degree program to train students in sharing the Gospel through community-wide programs based in the local church. Another is an Endowed Chair of Apologetics which would provide the resources to train students in engaging the non-Christian worldview that opposes the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The list of needed endowed chairs is extensive.

### 6) Capital Needs

In addition to student housing, we have several projects on our master plan that need funding: Expanded recreation facilities for our students; guest housing for prospective students, faculty, trustees; expanded preschool facilities and a new theological library are just a few of the projects that will be built as funds become available.

**For more information**, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (504) 282-4455, ext. 3252.

# Trustees add Korean D.Min. and training sites

BY FRANK MICHAEL McCORMACK

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Trustee Executive Committee added five new certificate sites, one doctor of ministry site, and five new curriculum options to the school's academic catalog June 7.

Trustees approved a Korean Doctor of Ministry Program, a new Doctor of Ministry specialization and new sites for doctoral and certificate training.

Korean students will soon be able to earn a doctor of ministry degree taught in their heart language. About two years ago, the seminary began studying the feasibility of a Korean-language doctor of ministry degree. Atlanta was soon identified as a strategic center for the program. Atlanta is both a population center for Koreans in the United States and a transportation hub, making travel to the site much easier.

Doctor of ministry seminars will be held at the NOBTS North Georgia Hub, Johnson Ferry Baptist Church. Jonggil Lee, who earned a Ph.D. in preaching from NOBTS in 2003, will direct the program. Lee has extensive ministry experience and has served as a contract and adjunct professor since 2003 with both NOBTS and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"We want to provide the highest quality education to our Korean ministers in the approximately 1,000 Korean churches in the Southern Baptist Convention," NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke said of the new program.

Kelley echoed that commitment: "Korean students are an important part of our student body. Our ultimate goal is to provide everything for them we provide for our other students."

Reggie Ogea, associate dean in charge of the seminary's professional doctoral programs, said he anticipates launching the Korean-language program sometime in 2012.

Trustees also approved a new doctor of ministry specialization in Christian apologetics. In addition to attending traditional seminars, students who pursue this concentration will be able to take advantage of events like the annual Defend the Faith conference and the Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum.

"As ministers are encountering students and others from an increasingly pluralistic and postmodern world, apologetics becomes even more important in every facet of ministry," Lemke said. "This provides D.Min. students the opportunity to benefit

from the Defend the Faith conference, sponsored by the Institute for Christian Apologetics."

## NOBTS TO OFFER DOCTORAL TRAINING IN OKLA.

Beginning with the Spring 2012 semester, NOBTS will offer Oklahoma City as an extension center for doctor of ministry seminars, after trustees approved the new initiative.

"There's not another seminary doing a [doctor of ministry] program there," Lemke told trustees, "so we have the very enthusiastic support of Anthony Jordan, the state executive [of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma]."

The new Oklahoma doctor of ministry program was publicized at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix and will be promoted again during the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma meeting in the fall. Doctor of ministry seminars will be held at the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma facility in Oklahoma City and will be taught via compressed-interactive video. All necessary equipment was already available at the Oklahoma facility, thus minimizing startup costs for the program.

## NEW CERTIFICATE SITES

Trustees approved five new sites in Louisiana and Mississippi that will offer certificate training for students. Two of those sites are Spanish-speaking churches in the New Orleans area, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel in Kenner and Iglesia Bautista el Buen Pastor in Metairie.

NOBTS will also begin offering certificate training at First Community Antioch Baptist Church, a National Baptist congregation in Litcher, La. Kelley said this partnership with National Baptist churches in Louisiana represents a positive step in mending relationships with churches in the predominantly African-American denomination. National Baptist leaders approached NOBTS to begin the training program, Kelley said.

"They have come up with a decision in this region of the National Baptist Convention to require all their ministers to have at least some training," Kelley said. "They've identified a number of hours they want them to have. They came to us to help them provide that training."

Kelley said classes will be taught by both NOBTS professors and qualified ministers from area National Baptist congregations. This is the second partnership between NOBTS and Louisiana National Baptists. The seminary also partners with National Baptist congregations in Baton Rouge.

## FACULTY CERTIFICATE

NOBTS faculty members will also now have a new technology-based certificate program geared toward them – the Teaching in the 21st Century Certificate. The certificate is part of the seminary's commitment to embracing the new reality of education in the 21st century and will train faculty members to take advantage of new technologies.

"NOBTS has a commitment to provide for our students the finest educational experience," Kelley said. "We're so committed that we're sending our faculty back to school to learn the pedagogy of the 21st century." 📍

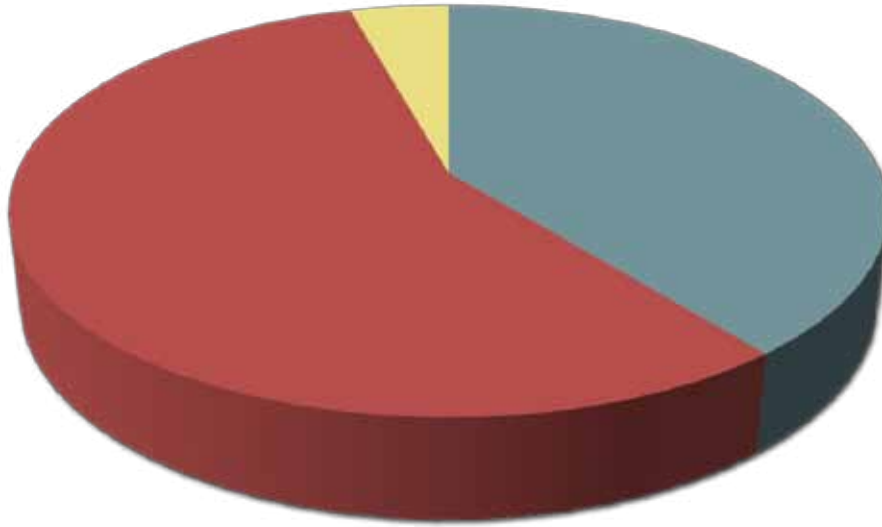


PHOTO BY BOYD GUY

A Korean student listens to a lecture in English on the main campus in New Orleans. Soon, students will be able to earn the D.Min. degree in Korean.

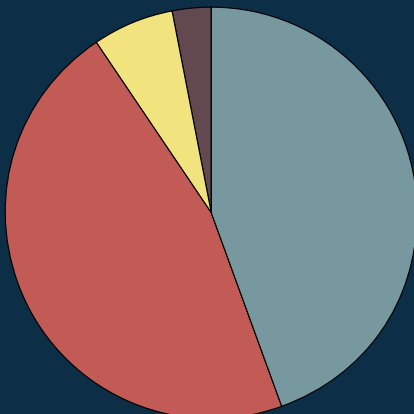
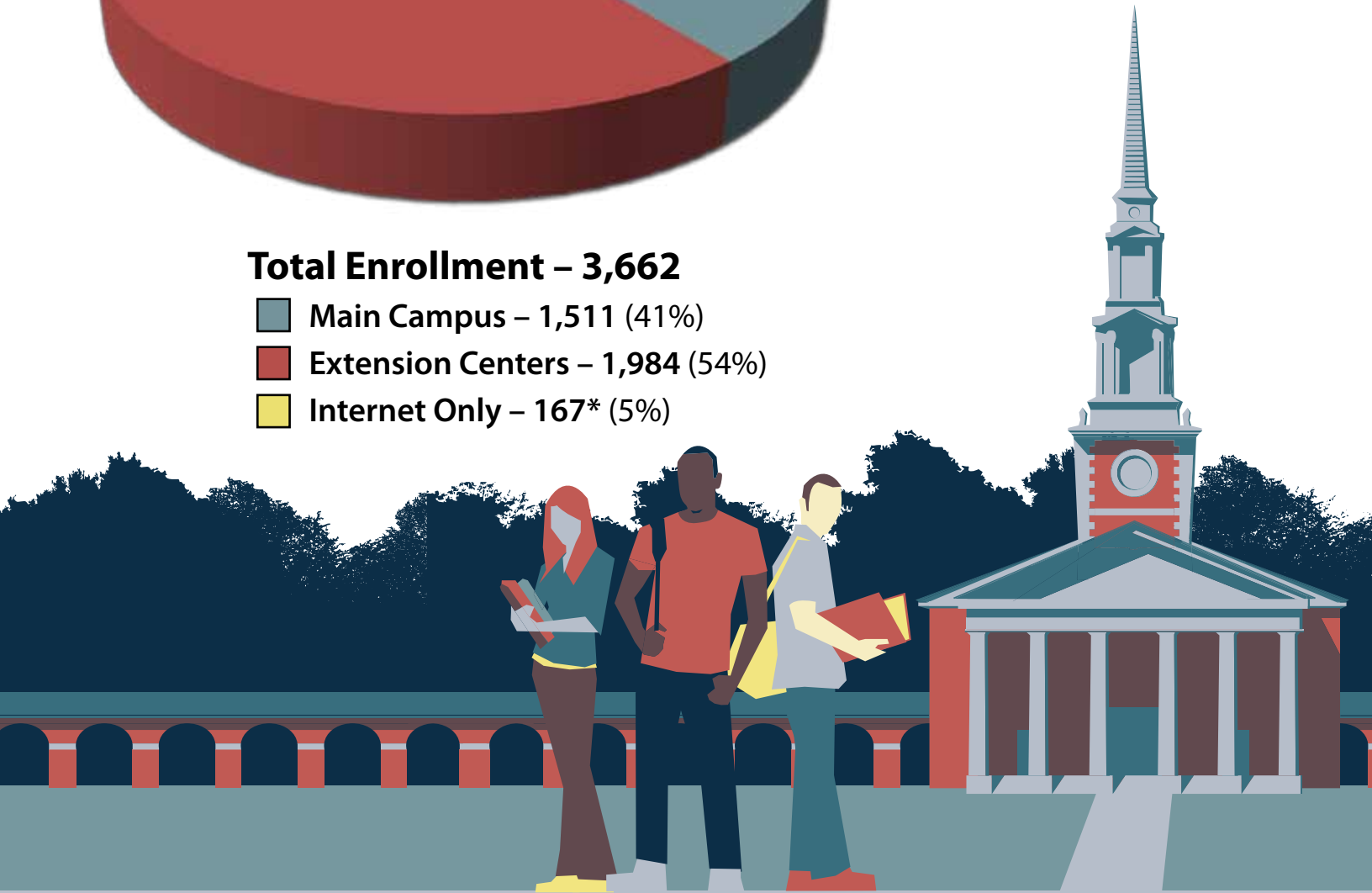


# SEMINARY ENROLLMENT SNAPSHOT



**Total Enrollment – 3,662**

- Main Campus – 1,511 (41%)
- Extension Centers – 1,984 (54%)
- Internet Only – 167\* (5%)



## Enrollment by Program

- Undergraduate – 1,537
- Graduate – 1,689
- D.M.A, D.Min. & D.Ed.Min. – 314
- Ph.D. – 122

## Gender

Male – 2,836

Female – 826

## Marital Status\*\*

Married – 2,458

Single – 936

SOURCE: NOBTS Registrar's Office. Based on 2010-11 data.

\* This number represents those who only take internet courses at NOBTS. Close to 800 students took internet courses this year.

\*\* NOBTS does not collect this data for online students and students in prison programs.

# NEWS *Gumbo*

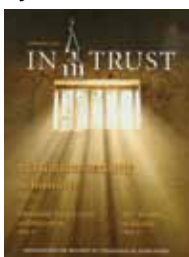
## NOBTS ANGOLA PRISON PROGRAM FEATURED IN NATIONAL MAGAZINES



New Orleans Seminary's ministry training program at the Louisiana State Penitentiary (Angola) was recently featured in two national magazines – the Summer 2011 issue of *Leadership Journal* and the Autumn 2011 issue of *In Trust* magazine.

The *Leadership Journal* article, "Making Ministers of Inmates: Unlocking the potential of church within Angola prison," features interviews with NOBTS professors Dr. Norris Grubbs and Dr. John Robson and tells the story of how NOBTS began offering courses in the nation's largest maximum security prison. The writer focuses on how lives are being changed and how the church is growing at Angola.

The *In Trust* article, "Maximum-security Seminary," includes a brief history of how the program at Angola started and an interview with NOBTS President Chuck Kelley.



## NOBTS FEATURED IN LAICU BROCHURE



The efforts by members of the NOBTS community to address lingering social problems in New Orleans — hunger, homelessness, at-risk youth and human exploitation — were recently featured in the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges & Universities' *Working for the Common Good* brochure which highlights community service.

## NOBTS SUPERVISED MINISTRY STUDENTS LEAD 432 PEOPLE TO CHRIST

During the 2010 calendar year, New Orleans Seminary students taking Supervised Ministry 1 classes shared the Gospel with 8,242 individuals with 432 people trusting Christ as Savior and Lord.



PHOTO BY BOYD GUY

Dr. Jeff Griffin, Dean of Libraries and Associate Professor of Old Testament & Hebrew at NOBTS, loads books for a theological library serving Haitian students in West Palm Beach, Fla.

## JOHN T. CHRISTIAN LIBRARY SENDS BOOKS FOR HAITIAN STUDENTS

The John T. Christian Library on the main campus of New Orleans Seminary recently delivered 89 boxes of books to West Palm Beach, Fla. The books will be used by Haitian students receiving certificate-level training from NOBTS.

# DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE IN YOUR MINISTRY

DOCTOR OF  
MINISTRY

DOCTOR OF  
EDUCATIONAL  
MINISTRY

The D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. programs at NOBTS offer an advanced degree within the practical context of a ministry setting.

**Perry R. Sanders Center for Ministry Excellence**

[www.nobts.edu/CME](http://www.nobts.edu/CME)





# NEWS *Gumbo*

## NOBTS SECOND IN ENROLLMENT AMONG SBC SEMINARIES

New Orleans Baptist Seminary had more than 3,600 students again during the 2010-2011 school year. NOBTS is among the top five largest accredited seminaries in the world, and second largest in the SBC. NOBTS's enrollment is about 380 students behind The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

## NEW NOBTS BLOGS LAUNCHED



Two academic centers at NOBTS have recently launched blog sites. The newest blog, *Pursuing Ministry Excellence*, is the product of the Perry R. Sanders Center for Ministry Excellence. Individual faculty members will contribute their views on church and practical theological education. Resources to

help leaders in the local church and the hundreds of students in the Professional Doctoral Program of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary will be added as needed and available.

The Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) also launched a blog, *Can You Dig It?*, earlier this year to chronicle the water system dig at Tel Gezer. The site contains photos, video, and event information for the ongoing Tel Gezer project and will continue to address Biblical Archaeology issues throughout the year.

The hope is that these new blogs will encourage the development of other blogs to benefit students, professors, alumni, pastors and members of local churches.

Many of our professors blog as well, visit, [www.nobts.edu/Publications/blogs.html](http://www.nobts.edu/Publications/blogs.html), for a listing of blogs.

## VIDEO CAPTURES LIFE @ NOBTS

A new timelapse video created this summer seeks to capture the vibrant life of NOBTS using close to 20,000 photos. Boyd Guy is the photographer and director of the video. The music was composed and produced by seminary student Michael Reed.



### Want to see the video?

Smartphone users can scan this QR code to view the Life@NOBTS video.

### Don't have a smartphone?

See the video online at [www.nobts.edu/welcome-to-nobts.html](http://www.nobts.edu/welcome-to-nobts.html)

## NOBTS RECEIVES REPRODUCTION OF FOURTH CENTURY BIBLE

The H. Milton Haggard Center for New Testament Textual Studies (HCNTTS) at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary recently received a new research tool—a facsimile copy of the Codex Sinaiticus. The original codex is a handwritten Bible dating from the early to middle fourth century.

Milburn and Nancy Calhoun, owners of Pelican Publishing Company and long-time members at Oak Park Baptist Church in New Orleans, purchased the volume and donated it to the seminary early this summer. The Calhouns said they hope the volume will aid in the seminary's scholarly research and serve as a reminder of the Bible's reliability.




PHOTO BY BOYD GUY

"We're in the publishing industry ... we know what happens to books," Nancy Calhoun said. "They get destroyed – somebody leaves them in a basement or somebody burns them up – and they don't last. But God's Word has lasted. It has endured."

"From a bookman's viewpoint, the fact that the text has stayed pure is the most wonderful thing," Milburn Calhoun said. "It is a testimony of God's plan for it."

Seminary President Chuck Kelley thanked the Calhouns for the gift saying the codex would be a great asset to the New Testament Center. "On behalf of the faculty and students, both now and for years to come, thank you for this most precious gift."

The facsimile copy utilizes high-resolution, full color photographs of each page of the original document. From the wrinkles and holes in the pages, to the colors of the parchment and the ink, the photographs preserve all the details and characteristics of this ancient Greek manuscript of the Old Testament and New Testament. The facsimile edition was produced by Hendrickson Publishers in 2010.

"Codex Sinaiticus is the oldest complete New Testament in existence and includes most of the Old Testament minus some lost pages, thereby making it the oldest copy of the entire Bible," said Bill Warren, HCNTTS director. "Therefore, this manuscript is tremendously important for the study of the text of the New Testament." 

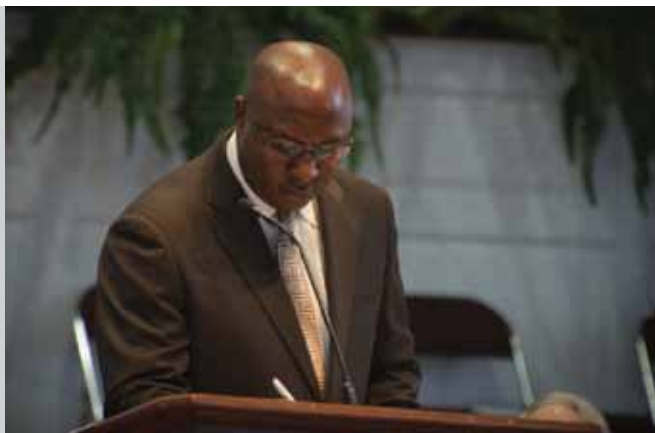


PHOTO BY BOYD GUY

Dr. Damian Emetuche, Assistant Professor of Church Planting, signs the seminary's confessional documents during Convocation.

## SIGNING THE CONFESSIONS

During Convocation Sept. 6, six faculty members signed *The Articles of Religious Belief* and *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000*. Signing the documents were:

- **DR. ANGIE BAUMAN**, Assistant Professor of Christian Education and Director of Student Services for the seminary's North Georgia Hub
- **DR. IAN JONES**, Professor of Psychology and Counseling, occupying the Baptist Community Ministries' Chair of Pastoral Counseling
- **DR. CHRIS TURNER**, Assistant Professor of Voice
- **DR. DAMIAN EMETUCHE**, Assistant Professor of Church Planting, director of the Cecil B. Day Center for Church Planting, and Nehemiah Project National Missionary
- **DR. RANDY STONE**, Associate Professor of Christian Education and Director of the D.Ed.Min. Program
- **DR. BOB WELCH**, Professor of Church Administration and chair of the Christian Education Division

## FACULTY ANNIVERSARIES

### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- **DR. BILL DAY**, Professor of Evangelism and Church Health and Associate Director of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health
- **DR. STEVE ECHOLS**, Professor of Leadership occupying the Nelson L. Price Chair of Leadership and Director of the North Georgia Hub
- **DR. ARCHIE ENGLAND**, Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew occupying the J. Wash Watts Chair of Old Testament and Hebrew and Director of the Baptist College Partnership Program.

### 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

- **DR. JERRY BARLOW**, Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Work and Dean of Graduate Studies
- **DR. MICHAEL SHARP**, Professor of Worship Studies at the North Georgia Hub.

## Ray marks 20 years at NOBTS

BY FRANK MICHAEL MCCORMACK

Just over 20 years ago, Charlie Ray Jr. – Professor of New Testament and Greek at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Associate Dean of Research Doctoral Programs at the school – was settled and at home with his family in South Korea.

Ray, who earned a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy from NOBTS in the early 1980s, moved to South Korea after graduation to serve as a missionary with the International Mission Board as a professor at the Korean Baptist Theological Seminary.

"I just assumed when we went to Korea that I'd stay there until I retired," Ray said.

During the seven years that followed, South Korea became a dear home to Ray and his family. But five years into his teaching ministry, Ray began to sense God leading in a new direction.

Around that time, Ray said the IMB began to shift missionary focus from institutional support roles to church planting. Ray and his family were a part of church plants in South Korea, but he said



**Ray**

his primary calling remained teaching. And at the same time, Koreans who had earned doctoral degrees were beginning to return to the seminary to be professors.

With those two changes coming together and the Rays preparing for stateside furlough, Ray sat down one night to consider his options.

"I was going to write a letter to test the water to see what the job market might be like," Ray said. "While I was sitting there trying to decide whether to write that letter or not, Dr. [Joe] Cothen called."

Cothen, vice president for academic affairs at NOBTS at the time, called Ray to express interest in him returning to New Orleans to teach New Testament and Greek. That call from Cothen confirmed for Ray that God was preparing his family to make a move.

"Those three things together didn't make it any easier, but it did convince me that's what we needed to do," Ray said.

During his 20 years at NOBTS, Ray has seen a number of significant changes come to the seminary including a huge technological shift – from chalk boards to overhead projectors to computer-driven lectures.

Course design is also going through a transformation, in large part due to changes brought about by Hurricane Katrina six years ago. To continue teaching after Katrina, NOBTS professors were forced to shuffle class times and locations and offer online discussion threads and lectures. Ray said the research doctoral programs at NOBTS are working now to make classes more innovative and accessible "without sacrificing the integrity and scholarship of the programs."

The research doctoral programs at NOBTS are enjoying robust enrollment, Ray said, with student numbers in the 120 to 130 range.

Now 20 years since his return to New Orleans, it's hard to imagine Ray and his family without New Orleans. Ray is a stalwart member of Edgewater Baptist Church in New Orleans and played a key role in leading the church's comeback after Katrina. 🌐

A longer version of this article is available at [www.nobts.edu/Publications/NewsIndex.html](http://www.nobts.edu/Publications/NewsIndex.html).



# Cole begins 26th year on NOBTS faculty

BY GARY D. MYERS

It is impossible to sum up the career of a professor who has served a quarter of a century at the same school. Dr. Dennis Cole recently reached that important milestone in his career at NOBTS.

Cole is Professor of Old Testament and Archaeology and Chairman for the Division of Biblical Studies. Along with his faculty work, Cole co-directs the seminary's Center for Archaeological Research. That task has expanded in recent years with the school's involvement in the excavation of the Tel Gezer water system.

So much could be said about the countless lectures Cole has prepared and presented. And even more could be said about the generations of leaders he has influenced by teaching Old Testament, Hebrew and biblical backgrounds. Instead of merely focusing on Cole's accomplishments as he begins his 26th year on the faculty, it seems fitting to explore a few unique aspects of his work and ministry.



Cole

## SING THE PSALMS

Cole has a deep love for music in addition to Old Testament and Hebrew. He was very involved in music during his undergraduate days at the University of Florida and continued to sing during his seminary studies – first at Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland, Ore., and then at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

As a professor, Cole merges his love for Hebrew and music when he teaches Hebrew exegesis of the Psalms. Cole and his classes sing the Psalms together in Hebrew. He also sings Hebrew folk songs which draw heavily from the Psalms.

And it turns out that singing the Psalms is a very effective means for remembering Hebrew.

“Student who were in those classes where I sang those songs, many of them can still sing them 10, 15 years later,” Cole said. “They remember, which really says something about the role of music. It’s part of the way God structured our brains.”

**Student who were in those classes where I sang those songs, many of them can still sing them 10, 15 years later. They remember, which really says something about the role of music. It’s part of the way God structured our brains.**

DR. DENNIS COLE

## THE RISE OF TECHNOLOGY

Cole has noticed many changes at the seminary during his 25 years of service, but none is greater than the impact of technology. When he started technology played a limited role in his work as a professor. But now technology is the norm throughout the seminary campus.

**I started teaching here when the only computers on campus were in the business office. High tech was overhead projectors and slide projectors.**

DR. DENNIS COLE

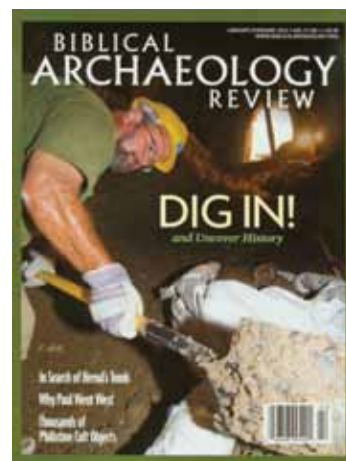
“I started teaching here when the only computers on campus were in the business office,” Cole said. “High tech was overhead projectors and slide projectors.”

For his biblical backgrounds classes, Cole would spend hours combing through slides from his trips to Israel. Presenting a slide show in class involved carrying multiple slide projector trays across campus.

When digital technology came on the scene in the 1990s, Cole digitized close to 10,000 slides – a monumental task. Technology has now made it easier for him to present the material to new generations of students. Cole said technology has greatly enhanced the study of biblical backgrounds because the discipline is so visually oriented.

## BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY REVIEW COVER

Nothing in Cole's career surprised him more than his recent appearance on the cover of *Biblical Archaeological Review*. As a published author, Cole was used to seeing his name in print. He wrote the *New American Commentary on Numbers* in 2000 for instance. But seeing his face on the January/February 2011 edition of BAR was quite unexpected. The photograph featured Cole digging in the Tel Gezer water system during the 2010 excavation season.



## A HEART FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

While Cole is a scholar and a skilled archaeologist, his passion for the local church is equally strong. For the past 30 years, Cole and his wife, Pam, have worshiped and served at Gentilly Baptist Church near the seminary. The church has faced many changes over the years, but nothing was more challenging than Hurricane Katrina. The church building was flooded and the congregation was without a pastor. Members looked to Cole, a long-time deacon, for leadership during that time. He helped church members mobilize to minister to their neighbors through home reconstruction and children's programs.

During that time, the church also decided to merge with Elysian Fields Baptist Church, a nearby congregation whose building was destroyed by the hurricane. The church, which retains the Gentilly Baptist name, is growing and making new inroads into the Gentilly community. 🌐

# FIRST-PERSON: Cooperative Program & church plants

*Editor's Note: "Voices," an occasional first-person series in Vision, will highlight the writing of NOBTS faculty members, students and alumni as they address issues important to the Southern Baptist Convention and its churches.*

BY DR. PAGE BROOKS

**FIRST-PERSON** – God has allowed me the privilege of serving three church plants in 15 years of ministry. I have served in various roles in these, from staff pastor to lead pastor. While all of the church plants have given to the Cooperative Program (CP) in varying amounts, promotion of the CP has been a constant goal (and joy) for our church members.



**Brooks**

Being a professor and church planter, I believe I have a unique perspective concerning the promotion of the Cooperative Program. As a professor, I see more and more seminary students who are not familiar with many of our Southern Baptist mission-funding programs. As a church planter, I see the challenge of educating new believers in showing them the genius of cooperative funding of missions through CP.

Following are some simple suggestions for how church planters can promote the Cooperative Program in a joyful way in their churches as we work to fulfill the Great Commission together.

## PROMOTE CP EARLY

Start early in promoting the Cooperative Program. From the start of a new church plant, it is important to help new believers and members understand what the CP is and how it works. At my current church plant, we start in our new members class by telling them about the CP and how our church gives. We show members how even though we might be a small church plant now, our money combined with other small church plants (and churches) can have a large Kingdom impact.

## SHOW CP GIVING RESULTS

Show the results of CP giving. Many people in today's generation don't care about the process of CP money collection and disbursement. I have found that by emphasizing the end results of the CP, people are more receptive to learning. We have had great results by explaining to people how their money goes to help international missions, local missions, disaster relief, etc. By seeing their money in action and knowing the end results, I believe people are more likely to give and support the CP.

## EXPLAIN THE KINGDOM IMPACT

Explain the Kingdom impact at a local, national and international level. The trend nowadays is for church plants to keep funding at the local level because they are able to see a direct impact in their community. Yet, churchgoers also have a heart for helping when they see both national and international catastrophes occur. We can show our members the incredible advantage of the CP. Even with a small amount of dollars, a church can have a local and global impact, from their own communities to the farthest countries of the world.

## SHARE THE JOY OF GIVING

Share the joy of giving a "tithe" of the church. In our church plant, I explain that giving to the CP is our church's "tithe." Just like individuals and families give a tithe and offering for the blessings God has given, so our church gives a "tithe" for the blessings God has given us. We then share stories of how God has used our tithe and offering to make a Kingdom impact. Stories connect to the postmodern generation because they connect people to the impact of their giving. The more stories you share, the more joy you may see in your congregation's giving.

In the current church setting where so many organizations and networks are vying for the attention of our church offerings, I pray these simple suggestions will help influence Southern Baptist church plants to support perhaps the greatest missions-funding strategy the world has ever known – the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. 🌐

**DR. PAGE BROOKS** is assistant professor of theology and Islamic studies at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and founding co-pastor of the Mosaic Church in New Orleans. This column first appeared at SBCToday.com and BPNews.net.



## YOUR CHURCH COMMITS PART OF YOUR GIFT...

...to be used by the **North American Mission Board (NAMB)** to plant churches and share the gospel. Almost 23% of CP gifts forwarded to the SBC are used for North American missions.





# NGA student translates 'Share Jesus Without Fear'

BY FRANK MICHAEL MCCORMACK

Steve Franz is a 2-time church planter, Leavell College graduate, Master of Divinity student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's North Georgia Hub, and author of the recently published German translation of Bill Fay's evangelism guidebook "Share Jesus Without Fear."

All that took place in just the past decade, but his faith story began close to 30 years ago in Europe.

Franz grew up in Western Germany years before the Berlin Wall fell. As a teenager, he knew of God, but did not have any interest in a personal relationship with God. But Franz's girlfriend Heidi – now his wife of 29 years – had other plans.

In 1981, she introduced Franz to an American soldier stationed in Germany. The soldier was a believer, a Southern Baptist from Alabama.

"He invited us to dinner," Franz recalled. "We went to his home on the Army base and he shared Christ with me."

The encounter came at a pivotal time in his life too. Franz said he'd attempted suicide just a few weeks before.

Franz said he didn't accept Christ that first night, nor did he the second time he met with the soldier. On the third encounter, his heart toward God had changed.

"We prayed at his dining room table," Franz said. "I think I was 19."

Things moved quickly for Franz and his faith journey. Shortly after becoming a Christian, he began to sense God urging him to move to the United States. He came to the States in 1983 with the intention of working and studying. He said he wrote to President Ronald Reagan asking for help in the immigration process. Reagan responded, promising to make sure his application made it to the right people. After a short return to Germany, Franz and his family returned to the United States in 1985.

Over the next decade or so, Franz got involved in ministry, both through his church and by starting new works, including a prison ministry in Georgia. He was so active that people started encouraging him to get into church planting and seek formal ministry training.

"I started the church plant [in Grantville, Ga.] about six months before I started in Leavell College," he said.

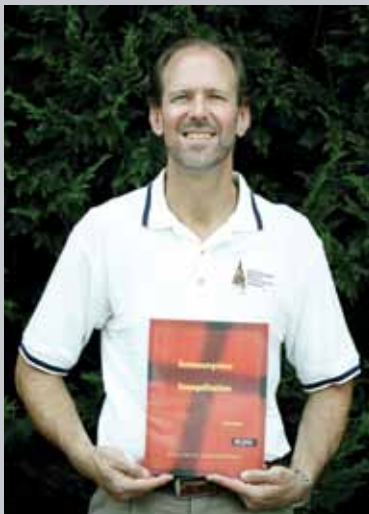
Franz started at Leavell College in August 2003 and finished in December 2008. Near the end of his time in Leavell College, the International Mission Board approached Franz about translating the "Share Jesus Without Fear" book into German. He worked from about May 2009 to December 2009 on the project. His translation is now in use in both Germany and around the world where German speakers live.

Since completing the translation project, Franz has helped started a second church in Georgia and begun the Master of Divinity program in 2009. He's currently working to complete his application with the Conference of Georgia Baptist Evangelists. Franz says he would like to be full-time evangelist and also teach theology and German on the university level.

"If it hadn't been for the writing education I got in Leavell College, I wouldn't have been able to format this book. If I hadn't had the degree, they wouldn't have felt I was qualified for it," he said.

It's been a long journey for Franz from Germany to Georgia. He said faith and persistence are key, not just for believers in general but for students as well.

He offered other students at Leavell College and New Orleans Baptist Seminary a simple challenge: "You've just got to hang in there." 🌐



GO TO PAGE 11 TO FIND OUT MORE

# BOOKS *by Faculty & Alumni*

## The Women's Evangelical Commentary: Old Testament

Dr. Rhonda H. Kelley, co-editor  
B&H Publishing, 2011

## The Women's Evangelical Commentary: New Testament

Dr. Rhonda H. Kelley, co-editor  
B&H Publishing, 2011

*The Women's Evangelical Commentary: Old Testament* and *The Women's Evangelical Commentary: New Testament* are Bible commentaries written and edited by women for women. While other commentaries take an egalitarian view of the relationship between men and women, the editors and writers of this commentary believe the complementarian view of the relationship between men and women most accurately interprets God's intent as expressed in Scripture.

### Features include:

- Introductory background
- Verse-by-verse exposition, giving special attention to passages of interest to women without sidestepping difficult-to-interpret passages
- Charts, maps, and word studies
- Pronunciation guide for difficult proper names
- Archaeological notes
- Featured articles on topics of interest to women
- Devotional insights and inspirational notes

**Rhonda H. Kelley** is the President's Wife, Professor of Women's Ministry in Leavell College and Director of Women's Ministry Programs at NOBTS.

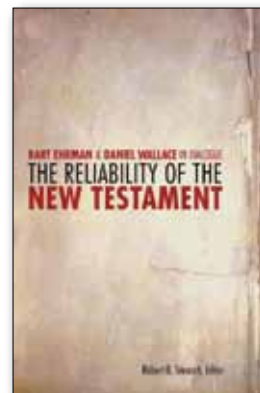


## The Reliability of the New Testament: Bart Ehrman and Daniel Wallace in Dialogue

Dr. Robert Stewart, editor  
Fortress Press, 2011

*The Reliability of the New Testament* presents the dialogue between scholars on both sides of the reliability issue. This book provides interested readers a fair and balanced case for both sides and allows them to decide for themselves: What does it mean for a text to be textually reliable?

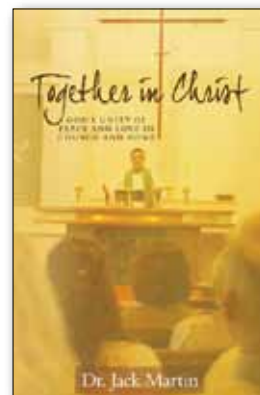
**Robert Stewart** is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Theology, occupying Greer-Heard Chair of Faith and Culture at NOBTS.



## Together in Christ

Jack Martin  
CrossBooks Publishing, 2010

*Together in Christ* begins by exploring the nature of division and of unity. Martin applies a system of 13 links in a chain of unity to present the ways it can be achieved. These links are found in the letters of the Apostle Paul, in the New Testament, and offer Biblical proof that the message of loving one another is clearly linked to loving God and keeping His commandments.



**Jack Martin** served with the International Mission Board for many years and now resides in Winston-Salem, N.C. Martin graduated from NOBTS in 1958 with a B.Div.

# Simoneaux new president at Brewton-Parker

**B**rewton-Parker College's Board of Trustees recently named New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary graduate Mike Simoneaux as the college's new president.

Simoneaux, who earned master of church music and doctor of education in music education degrees at NOBTS, was approved by a unanimous vote July 21. He had served as BPC's interim president since March 2011.


BPC Board of Trustees Chairman Gary Campbell praised the decision and welcomed Simoneaux and his wife, Bonnie, into their new role with the college.

"Dr. Simoneaux came to Brewton-Parker as our Interim President at a critical time in the history of the college," Campbell said. "His background and experience, particularly at Truett-McConnell

College where he served as Acting President, then as Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, prepared him well for his mission at Brewton-Parker. The college and our community are fortunate that Dr. Simoneaux and his wife Bonnie have decided to join us."

Simoneaux said he is honored to be selected as the president of Brewton-Parker College.

"I look forward to continuing the rich heritage of Brewton-Parker," Simoneaux said. "Please pray for the college, Bonnie and me. We believe that the college's brightest days are ahead of us, as we strive to honor Jesus Christ in everything we do."

Brewton-Parker College is an accredited four-year Christian college in south Georgia and is affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention. 



## Study at Oxford University with NOBTS July 6-20, 2012

**N**ext summer, NOBTS is offering a unique opportunity for students to worship and study in the same corridors as spiritual giants C.S. Lewis, Andrew Fuller and Charles Spurgeon. The Oxford Study trip enables participants to see history come alive by visiting celebrated sites while earning on-campus credit. Sample tour sites include: Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle, Buckingham Palace, Andrew Fuller's church, William Carey's Home and John Newton's Church.

The trip takes place July 6-20, 2012 and costs \$3,995-\$4,295, depending on when the initial deposit is received. To take advantage of the lower price, an initial deposit is due before Jan. 18, 2012. The cost covers most travel expenses including: meals, travel, most events, and lodging.

Courses are available for master's and doctorate level students. Some tuition scholarships are available. Students may enroll in one or more of the following: HIST5223 Baptist Heritage, MISS5330 Introduction to Christian Missions, PREA5300 Proclaiming the Bible, THSE8303 D.Min. In the Footsteps of History: Oxford, or PREA9403 British Preaching. 🌐

Non-students are also welcome to attend. For more information, visit [www.nobts.edu/oxford](http://www.nobts.edu/oxford) or contact Dr. Lloyd Harsch at (504) 282-4455 ext. 3212 or [lharsch@nobts.edu](mailto:lharsch@nobts.edu).



## CLASS Notes

### 2000s

**Counselman, Jerry** (MAM '06) is the Director of Mission 1:14, a U.S.-based nonprofit ministry, partnered with IMB, working in West Africa among small and isolated people groups.

**McCormack, Frank Michael** (MDiv '08) and **Gary D. Myers** (MDiv '03) launched [www.geauxtherefore.com](http://www.geauxtherefore.com) in 2010. The blog focuses on discovering the missions and ministry context of New Orleans.

**Speed, Mary** (MACE '91; MDiv '93; PhD '00) has launched her website [www.drmaryspeed.com](http://www.drmaryspeed.com) to provide online counseling services.

### Deaths

**Annandale, William "Stan"** (DMin '94) died April 14, 2011, in Winterville, Ga. He is survived by his wife, Lynn, one daughter and other family.

**Barnett, Stanley B.** (BDiv '62) died June 4, 2011, in Philadelphia, Miss. He was a Navy Veteran of WWII, and involved in ministry for 54 years. He is survived by Estelle, his wife of 64 years, one son and other family.

**Beard, Gary Sr.** (attended '92) died April 28, 2008, in Canton, Ga. He was survived by his wife, Arra, their four children and other family.

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**Berry, June H.** (attended 1952) died July 17, 2011. She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Rev. Morgan Berry, two daughters and other family.

**Brasher, Francis E.** (attended '59) died March 14, 2011, in Huntsville, Ala. He is survived by his daughter, Julia, and other family.

**Breazeale, Connie W.** (attended '78) died May 10, 2011, in Chandler, Ariz. She is survived by her two daughters and other family.

**Burzynski, David G.** (MDiv '89) died June 27, 2009.

**Carr, Jimmie** (attended 1966) died March 12, 2011, in Thomson, Ga. He was an U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean War and a retired Baptist minister. He is survived by his wife, Betty Golden Carr, two daughters and other family.

**Clark, James H.** (ThM '71) died April 9, 2009. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Drucilla, two children and other family.

**Cooper, Wayne O.** (MRE '78) died Aug. 22, 2011. He served the Lord for 40 years and was a retired Baptist minister. He is survived by his wife, Judy, two children and other family.

**Counce, Harris K. Jr.** (attended '66) died April 14, 2011, in Corinth, Miss. He was a Veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard during Korean War. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary Ida, seven children and other family.

**Counselman, William E.** (BDiv '62) died April 11, 2011, in Ocala, Fla. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Sylvia Jean, two children and other family.

**Crane, Mary R. Chitwood** (MRE '62) died April 27, 2011, in Cartersville, Ga. She is survived by three sons, their families and other family members.

**Davis, Charles "Puddin"** (BDiv '62; ThD '71) died April 7, 2011, in Clinton, Miss. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, a daughter, a sister and other family.

**Davis, James H.** (BDiv '66; DMin '76) died May 1, 2011, in Talledega, Ala.

**Davis, Virgil S.** (ThD '55) died March 16, 2011, in Atlanta, Ga. He is survived by his son, Philip.

**Donehoo, Martha S.** (BRE '55) died June 24, 2011. Appointed to be a foreign missionary with her husband in 1959, she is survived by her husband of 64 years, Wilson, and other family.

**Farmer, Jack** (DMin '78) died March 19, 2011, in Tampa, Fla. He was a retired Baptist minister. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Ann, four children and other family.

**Haselhuhn, Vola** (attended '01) died April 14, 2011, in Canton, Mich. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Raymond H. Haselhuhn.

**Hemphill, John O.** (attended '58) died March 26, 2011, in McComb, Miss. A U.S. Marine Veteran of WWII and retired Baptist minister, he is survived by his wife, Jessie, two children and other family.

**Hight, Hilda Thomas "Tommy"** (BDiv '56; ThD '60) died April 15, 2011, in Tanglewood, Tenn. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran of WWII. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Mary, two sons and other family.

**Holder, John R.** (ADPM '81) died March 30, 2007.

**Langworthy, Edna G.** (attended '55) died June 13, 2011. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Warren, four children and other family.

**Logsdon, Hurley M.** (attended '66) died May 9, 2011, in Bonnieville, Ky.

**Mendum, William David** (BDiv '52) died Oct. 20, 2010, in Tallapoosa, Ga. He is survived by his wife, Reita.

**Mims, Michael R.** (ADPM '87) died July 6, 2011. He was a pastor at several churches in Louisiana and Georgia. He is survived by Karen, his wife of 37 years, two children and other family.

**Monroe, Linda R.** (MACE '06) died Aug. 19, 2011, in Jackson, Miss. She is survived by her children and her granddaughter.

**Mooney, James C.** (BRE '57) died June 8, 2011. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Maxine, two children and other family.

**Posey, Benjamin F.** (BDiv '57) died April 24, 2011, in Alabaster, Ala.

**Queen, Clarence "Bud"** (MDiv '78) died March 29, 2011, in Sharon, S.C. Known for being a Southern Baptist Minister and U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force Veteran. He is survived by his wife, Betty, four children and other family.

**Randall, Clarence N.** (BDiv '65) died April 27, 2011, in Perry, Ga. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Martha, three children and other family.

**Richards, Edward H.** (ThM '66) died March 18, 2011, in Decatur, Ala. He is survived by his wife, Brenda, five children and other family.

**Rodda, Theodore "Ted"** (BDiv '60) died May 20, 2011, in St. Augustine, Fla. He is survived by Lucille, his wife of 63 years, four children and other family.

**Ruby, Warren B.** (BRE '56) died May 23, 2011, in Commerce, Ga. He retired from ministry when he was 86 years of age. He was preceded in death by Fay, his wife of 44 years. He is survived by Marietta, his wife of 18 years, four children and other family.

**Shaneyfelt, Lillian J.** (BRE '62) died Aug. 4, 2011. She is survived by her husband, Rev. James A. Shaneyfelt.

**Simpson, John V.** (attended '57) died Jan. 10, 1992.

**Simpson, Ruth E. Hill** (DPCT '55) died May 22, 2011, in Siler City, N.C. She is survived by three children and other family.

**Stowe, James** (DCM '65) died May 22, 2011, in Rossville, Tenn. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Dean, three children and other family.

**Swartz, Wilbur Wallace** (Professor Emeritus) died July 7, 2011, in Texas. He is survived by two daughters and other family.



**Thurman, Willard** (MRE '62) died April 30, 2011, in Canton, Ga. He is survived by his wife Joyce (Jo), two children and other family.

**Wallace, James G. Jr.** (BDiv '57 exchanged for MDiv '99) died April 20, 2011, in Lithia Springs, Ga. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Jean, three children and other family.

### Send Your Updates

Please send you Class Notes items to the Office of Alumni Relations at NOBTS, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126 or [alumni@nobts.edu](mailto:alumni@nobts.edu) Updates will be used for publication in both the *Vision* magazine and on the Alumni website.

### Social Media

Stay informed by following New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's social media sites:

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[www.twitter.com/NOBTS\\_Live](http://www.twitter.com/NOBTS_Live)

[www.youtube.com/nobtspublications](http://www.youtube.com/nobtspublications)

## LOOKING *Back*



**March 1977:** President Landrum P. Leavell (third from right) inspects an artifact from the seminary's collection of archaeological finds. Other professors examining the collection are (from left): Dr. Hardee Kennedy, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Dr. John Olen Strange, Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament; Dr. Ray Frank Robbins, Professor of New Testament and Greek; Dr. George Kelm, Associate Professor of Archaeology, who led the expeditions that uncovered the items; Dr. Paul Gericke, Director of the Library and Dr. Carlton Winbery, Assistant Professor of New Testament and Greek.

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