

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

VISION

Holiday 2006

God
with us





Photo by The Portrait Gallery

New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley and his wife, Rhonda.

God presence after the storm

What a difference a year makes! Last year our Seminary family spent Christmas in exile. Students were scattered to 29 states and the faculty to nine. Rhonda and I were living in a borrowed apartment in a Georgia Baptist retirement center. The campus was inhabited by workers during the day and security with a tent and fire pit at the entrance of campus by night. We had a December graduation service, which was a miracle, but it was held in Birmingham, Ala.

Today the campus is full of life. Children are on the playgrounds and students are in the classrooms. The grass is green, the landscaping more beautiful than ever, and by the time you read this, the campus will be fully decorated for Christmas. December graduation will be held in Leavell Chapel, and our annual Christmas dinner will be in the cafeteria as usual. New Orleans still has a long way to go, but Christmas will feel much more like Christmas than it did a year ago.

The special significance of Christmas is its celebration of the marvelous truth: God is with us! On a real day in a real place God became man and dwelt among us. He lived in the same way we live until His death on the cross. After defeating both sin and death through His resurrection from the grave, He ascended to Heaven, taking with Him a complete understanding and experience of our humanity. He is with us

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still through the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer. He daily intercedes for us, knowing what we need and why. As believers, we have the joy of knowing that from that first Christmas day to this coming Christmas, God is with us!

Our anchor in the storm

Living in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the breaking of the levees in New Orleans has taught our Seminary family a great deal more about the meaning and significance of this glorious truth. To know one thing with unshakeable certainty when you do not know anything else makes all the difference in the world. Rhonda and I sat on the end of our bed in a hotel in Birmingham, Ala., and watched our whole world fall apart. We did not know if we had anything but what was with us in the hotel room. We did not know what the future would hold for the Seminary. We did not know where family members, friends, faculty and students were or what difficulties and dangers they might be facing. But we knew God was with us and that certainty became the anchor that held us steady in the midst of the storm. It was the calm that drove despair and discouragement out of that hotel room and made it an oasis of peace.

As the days unfolded in the aftermath of the storm, we learned that God's presence with us meant He would give us strength for the struggle of rebuilding our lives and restoring our campus. His strength would become our strength.

Struggles are part of life

There is nothing unusual with life being a struggle. We tend to forget that most people have daily struggles in one way or another. Katrina changed what was on our list of things to do, but it did not cause us to start a list. We were working hard before the storm and after the storm we had to work as hard or harder. But we did not go from a struggle-free life to a life of struggle. The challenge of restoring the campus and our lives did look overwhelming at times. To look at where the storm left us and compare it to where we needed to be was intimidating, but we knew God was with us. We knew that meant He would give us His strength for the day. The struggle we faced was not bigger than the power of God. Because He was with us, His power would become our power. This was a struggle we could handle. As we watched the campus slowly come back to life, we knew we were seeing and experiencing the living, vibrant power of God.

God's presence in His people

One of the most significant lessons we learned about the meaning of God with us is that His presence often comes through the presence of His people. Southern Baptists have rallied to the aid of our Seminary and our city. They have done it in many forms, including donations of all sorts, financial support, volunteer labor week after week, continual prayer and so much more. Without the financial support, our survival was in question. With it we were able to keep teaching. Eighty-five percent of our students continued their studies without interruption. We were the only school in New Orleans that kept teaching all the courses we started before the storm. You and other Southern Baptists made that possible. An even greater emotional impact came with wave after wave of volunteer workers. Our contractor tells me Southern Baptist workers did more than three million dollars worth of labor on our campus. Every gift given and every worker who came to the campus was to us a living illustration of the presence of God. Through the help and presence of His people, He reminded us constantly that He was with us.

Celebrating God with us

The wonderful news that we celebrate at Christmas has become one of the most precious truths of the faith to our Seminary family. You will find in this issue of Vision stories that illustrate the ways in which God has been with us throughout this experience. I hope they will encourage you. I hope you will also pray about a Christmas gift for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. We have come such a long way, but the journey is not over. We are turning our attention to restoring our recreational facilities, among other projects. Having a place to exercise and play is so important to our families. We are also in need of scholarship funds to help students who want to come here to be able to come. Any assistance you can give would be greatly appreciated. We are profoundly grateful for what you and others have already done. Our campus address, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, is a living, real miracle for all to see. On behalf of our faculty, staff and students, Thank You! May God grant you and yours a safe and blessed holiday season.



Dr. Chuck Kelley

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VISION

MAGAZINE

HOLIDAY 2006

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God with us

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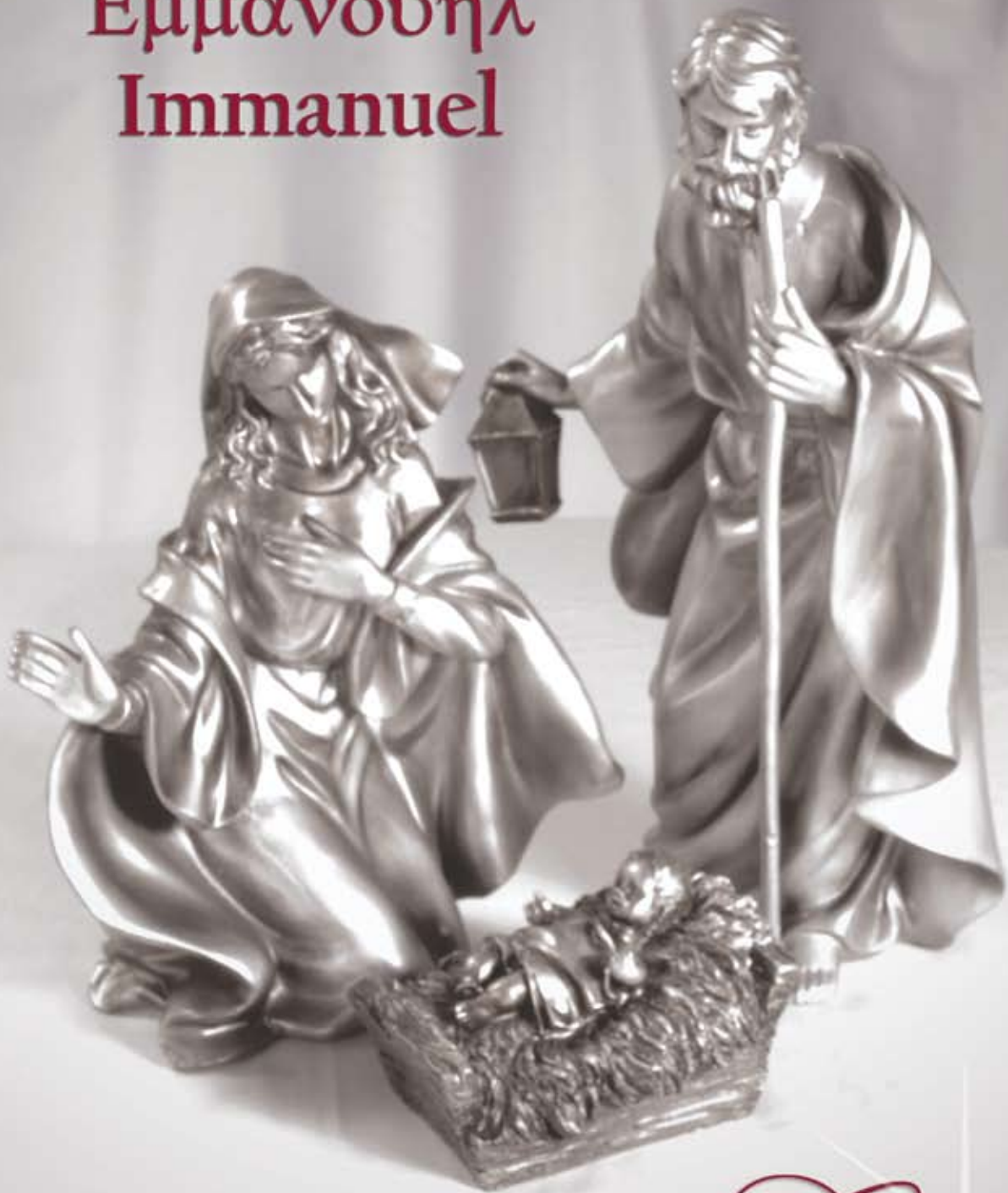
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COVER PHOTO by Jimmy Cole

עִמָּנוּאֵל
Εμμανουήλ
Immanuel



God
with us



Photo by Jimmy Cole

Jeremy Evans, Instructor in Philosophy and Ethics at NOBTS, reads the Christmas story to daughter, Avery, and wife, Wendy.

**“Behold, the virgin shall be
with child and shall bear a
Son, and they shall call
His name “Immanuel,”
which translated means
“God with us.”**

- Matthew 1:23



‘God with us’ offers deliverance from sin

By Michael McCormack

Sometimes GOD WITH US looks different from what we expect.

Speaking through Isaiah, God promised Israel that the sign of deliverance would be a virgin who “will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel” – GOD WITH US.

“The promise in the context of Isaiah 7:14 was that God would send a sign to his people by way of the birth of a child, with deliverance to follow quickly thereafter,” said Dr. Bill Warren, Professor of New Testament and Greek at NOBTS.

At the time of Jesus’ birth, Israel was in dire need of a deliverer like the one promised in Isaiah. The people expected to be delivered from their Roman oppressors. But the scope of God’s deliverance was far greater than national security. The first chapter

“The deeper freedom we need, the type of deliverance that we all need deep down, is from our sin problem.”

– Dr. Bill Warren

us and ministering among us. Our deliverance has come!” Warren said.

The question, then, becomes “What do people really want to be delivered from in their lives?”

“So many people want to be delivered from surface problems, and there’s nothing wrong with that,” Warren said. “The deeper freedom we need, the type of deliverance that we all need deep down, is from our sin problem.”



LEFT: Dr. Bill Warren points out Matthew 1:23 in a facsimile copy of the Codex Vaticanus. The Codex Vaticanus is a fourth century Greek Bible.

RIGHT: Dr. Warren shows illuminated paintings of Jesus in another New Testament facsimile.

Photos by Jimmy Cole



of Matthew’s Gospel declares, Jesus was to save the people from their sins.

“Jesus’ is used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament for the name ‘Joshua,’ which means ‘God saves,’” Warren said. “Matthew 1:21 builds off of this to show us that God is acting in Jesus to save his people, this time from their sins.”

In this way, the complete fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 comes in Mary’s son, Jesus, the very presence of God among the people.

“God is coming to be with us, present among us, working among us, living among us, loving among

“That’s the whole purpose for Him sending Jesus. It’s a long-term answer to a long-term problem. And the fact is, it’s still not over today.”

At the end of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus restates that He is Immanuel; only this time He personalizes it: “I am with you always.”

For each individual the need for deliverance is constant. God offers comfort in every problem, both short- and long-term, that we face. But the ultimate deliverance God offers is salvation from sin through Jesus Christ.

Through trouble and time, Jesus remains GOD WITH US. ☑

TREE TRIMMING

Jamie and Michael Cooke decorate for Christmas. Each Christmas, Michael's family sells Christmas trees in Spartanburg, S.C.

Photos by Jimmy Cole



'God with us' brings peace and guidance

By Gary D. Myers

For Michael and Jamie Cooke the words "God with us" not only remind them of the Christmas story, but also of God's daily guidance and provision.

When Michael sensed the call to Seminary, New Orleans was his first choice. That was several years ago – before the Hurricane Katrina; before the devastating floods.

The couple began having second thoughts after the storm. Who could blame them? After all, they had never visited the city and the images from the Katrina coverage were fresh in their minds. Michael and Jamie agreed to pray about the decision.

The couple prayed and prayed. Everything pointed back to New Orleans. God convinced the Cookes that He wanted them to come to New Orleans. Without visiting the campus or even the city, Michael applied for Seminary. He was accepted and they prepared to follow God's lead to New Orleans.

In August of this year, Michael and Jamie loaded up their belongings and moved from Spartanburg, S.C., to New Orleans. They were confident in God's call on their lives.

"When we got here we just fell in love with it," Michael said. "This is where we are supposed to be. God's put a peace about it in our hearts."

God's call and guidance has been confirmed over and over again by His provision. Shortly before their move, Jamie was offered a job working on the Seminary campus. Michael found work parking cars downtown. Michael has found many opportunities to share his faith through his job.

"My calling is evangelism, I want to share the Gospel with everyone I meet. What a great way to do that," Michael said about the opportunities to witness on the job.

Since arriving in New Orleans, Michael and Jamie encountered many hurting people who have lost everything. They are hopeful that many hurting people will come to know Christ as the city recovers.

As the Cooke's thoughts turn to Christmas, they are still amazed by the story of Jesus. They are even more amazed by God's presence in their lives.

"It's such a blessing that God is with us," Michael said. "Not only [Jesus] coming to earth and dying for our sins, but His Holy Spirit guiding us each day ... it's a truly marvelous thing." ❏

God
with us



Photo by Jimmy Cole

Ellis Penton, 8, colors a Christmas Card for his Operation Christmas Child shoebox. Ellis' mother, Trudy, is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

NOBTS children share message of 'God with us'

By Christi Gibson

Can I put a kitten in the box?" Isabel Perry asked her missions teacher at a gathering of NOBTS children. The kindergartner may not have understood the logistical difficulties of sending a kitten in a shoebox to a child on the other side of the world, but she and her classmates did understand the reason for sending gifts.

"Because of Jesus," Anna Starnes said.

"If they don't like Jesus, we need to tell them He's God," added Isabel.

The children's task for the day was to make cards and decorate Christmas shoeboxes. Later, they would fill the boxes with gifts and give them to Dr. Lloyd Harsch, an NOBTS professor who serves as the New Orleans collection center coordinator for Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child.

"I have a little Bible at my house with short pages in it – I could put that in the box," offered 2nd grader Rhett Riley. This was especially meaningful to Rhett, because it was through reading his Bible regularly that he came to know about Jesus. "He's God's Son, and He's with us in our heart. God can see us wherever we are," he said.

Rhett hoped that the little boy who received his box might learn about Jesus, too.

"We want to show we care about them," 3rd grader Ellis Penton began, but he also hoped his gift would accomplish much more. "The presents are enjoyable," he said, "but Jesus is more enjoyable. He's the king of all that is good."

Even as the children listened to their teacher read a letter from a young girl who had received her first toothbrush through Operation Christmas Child, they anticipated that their presents would

God
with us

**“[Jesus] was here on earth.
He came down with us. Now,
He’s always with us.”**

– Jennings Riley

meet much more than a physical need. “They’ll realize that God loves them” was 2nd grader Noah Bryant’s expectation.

Jennings Riley, a 4th grader, associated Christmas with sharing that God is with us, because of Jesus’ birth. “He was here on earth. He came down with us. Now, He’s always with us,” he said.

Eighth grader Zach Wiggins was direct and succinct – “If He didn’t come down, He wouldn’t have died on the cross. If He didn’t die on the cross, we wouldn’t be able to be saved.”

We might wonder if our children truly understand that Jesus is God with us. They do. They might not grasp all of the theological implications, but they understand the love that sent Him to earth. They understand the joy of knowing Him personally. They understand the consequences of not knowing Him.



Photo by Jimmy Cole

Anna Starnes, 4, draws a picture to include in her shoebox. Anna’s dad, Jeremy, is a student and staff member at NOBTS.

Centuries ago, Jesus came to live among us. Thousands of years later on the Seminary campus, a group of children respond to that same “God with us” and hope that the work of their hands would tell of the glory of God – and His love. ☑

Ministry sends message of Jesus to children around the world

By Christi Gibson

In 2002, NOBTS church history professor Lloyd Harsch discovered that the nearest collection center to New Orleans for Operation Christmas Child was in Baton Rouge. With Dr. Chuck Kelley’s enthusiastic endorsement, Dr. Harsch volunteered to coordinate a regional collection center right on the seminary campus.

Since that day in 2002, Harsch has collected shoeboxes filled with school supplies, toys, toiletries and other Christmas presents from families, churches and schools around the city. The boxes are then sent to impoverished children around the world.

Operation Christmas Child lets children in crisis know that they are not forgotten. The shoeboxes are small, but they have a great impact in the lives of the millions of children in desperate situations. International ministry partners offer Gospel booklets and follow-up programs to encourage the children who receive the boxes to learn more about Jesus. Through these efforts, hundreds of thousands of children have accepted Jesus as their Savior.

The project is just one arm of the ministry of Samaritan’s Purse, an evangelistic international relief organization headed by Franklin Graham. In March of 2006, Samaritan’s Purse reached out to one of its partners in ministry by building a beautiful playground on the Seminary campus for the NOBTS children affected by Hurricane Katrina. It was just one of several playgrounds in the New Orleans area which were provided by Samaritan’s Purse (and partner Kids Around the World) in an effort to give the children of the city hope.

For that reason, Operation Christmas Child holds a special meaning on the NOBTS campus this year.

Harsch said that seminarians now have a much deeper appreciation for the impact a gift can have – “We have been on the receiving end of much grace, and this is our opportunity to pass the blessing on to others.” ☑

'God with us' gives hope and comfort in 'storms' of life

By Christi Gibson

New Orleans Seminary professor Preston Nix and his wife Diane have been in some tight spots during the past year, and God has been right there with them.

In the summer of 2005, when NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke emailed about teaching opportunities at the Seminary, Preston knew immediately that his answer was "no." He was a pastor, Diane was a pastor's wife, and neither had an inclination to change. Besides, there were three places Preston knew he would never want to take his family, and New Orleans was one of them.

Still, Preston sought God's will in Scripture, and during his quiet time on a visit to the campus, he dozed off and awoke to hear the Lord speak to his heart, "This is the way, walk in it." He knew these words were from Scripture – found in Isaiah 30:21. It was clear that God had plans for him in New Orleans.

Preston and Diane, along with daughters Rebekah and Rachel, moved to the campus in August 2005. In the following year, they would have ample reason to question



Photo by Jimmy Cole

The Nix family – clockwise from top left – Diane, Preston, Rebekah and Rachel.

Displaced by Hurricane Katrina, the Nix family encountered an even greater challenge – a loved one with a serious illness. For this family, 'God with us' means strength, comfort and provision in trying times as well as the good times.

that decision. The verse God had given Preston would become a constant source of reassurance.

Only weeks after moving to campus, Hurricane Katrina hit. Like many on campus, the Nix family lost everything except each other.

At first, their post-Katrina story was very similar to others – God's providence and provision revealed at every turn. They found a temporary home in Panama City Beach, Fla., and began to develop relationships there. Then the Seminary's post-Katrina plan began to unfold.

Preston had limited teaching experience, but was relying on his library of resources and sermons, accumulated through 30 years in the pastorate, to

serve him well in the classroom.

When flood waters destroyed all that, he faced a challenge. But the seemingly insurmountable challenge was the Seminary's plan to deliver the bulk of instruction online. Preston had no computer skills. When he heard the news, he was overwhelmed. He told Diane, "I can't do this."

He knew he would need help, and God provided a home in Palmetto, Ga. – complete with a wonderful church family, a beloved pastor, a school for the girls, and even a place for their dog. He worked at the Seminary's North Georgia Extension Center where he could receive the technological assistance he needed. The family breathed a sigh of relief.

In March, they went to Disney World. During the trip, Diane fought a horrible headache. Early one morning, when the pain became unbearable, she woke Preston, and they went to a hospital that was just down the street.

The hospital treated her for a sinus infection and scheduled her for further testing. Preston took Rebekah and Rachel to a theme park while Diane rested in the hospital. That afternoon, Preston received a call with the message everyone dreads: "Come now."

When he arrived at the hospital, he discovered that Diane's fever had spiked and that the hospital staff had found her unresponsive. She remained critically ill. Preston called Seminary and church friends around the country, asking them to pray.

During the next 24 hours, Diane experienced a dramatic turnaround that doctors and nurses described as incredible. Diane's illness had been identified as a rare combination of bacterial and viral meningitis, and they had had no survivors among patients with this deadly combination. Looking back, Preston notes that the turnaround began when God's people got word and started praying.

They left Florida a week later, with Diane still on intravenous medication and fluids, praising God once again for His miraculous providence and provision. They had been aware of His constant presence, knowing that the incidences of perfect timing, location, and just the right doctors being in just the right place at just the right time were His handiwork.

A few days later, Diane had an adverse reaction to medication, resulting in another frightening episode. Preston called 911, then stood by helplessly as Diane held onto her girls and prayed that God would take care of them. It seemed she was once again in a fight for her life. This time, she thought she would lose. God had other plans.

Now, this family has returned to New Orleans to see what God has in store for them. They come with the certainty that this is the way, and they are to walk in it. They have learned to hold things loosely – realizing that all they have, even life itself, is only to pass briefly through their hands. The one thing they do not hold loosely is their Savior. They have also shared Him freely with everyone they met on their journey. He has been with them through it all.

Diane continues to experience some of the residual effects of her illness, yet her family never ceases to praise God for her recovery.

"God has met all of our needs and He has been with us," Preston said. ☑

God with us

Each crisis in life is unique. Every situation bears its own challenges and fosters its own concerns. But the peace of Immanuel remains the same. Just as the words translated GOD WITH US look different from one language to another, so God's presence within each chapter of life perfectly and personally communicates His love.

In the face of difficult decisions, the same God who guided Abraham toward a promised, yet unseen, land is there, offering provision and peace. When crises pile up one after another, GOD WITH US is a comforting, ever-present help in trouble. He is our deliverer who knows our need better than we do.

GOD WITH US is the ultimate description of Jesus, who lived and breathed among us and died to save us. He is still with us. Caring. Guiding. Saving.

May we be so sensitive to that presence that we faithfully pass on the message of GOD WITH US to others.

עִמָּנוּ אֵל
Εμμανουήλ
Immanuel

Giving Updates

Center for New Testament Textual Studies at NOBTS receives \$799,000 estate gift

The Center for New Testament Textual Studies (CNTT) at New Orleans Seminary received a \$799,000 gift from the estate of H. Milton and Miriam Haggard. Mrs. Haggard, who included the Seminary in her will, wanted to honor her late husband with the gift. She passed away in October 2005.



Photo by Jimmy Cole

The NOBTS Board of Trustees voted to rename the center as The H. Milton Haggard Center for New Testament Textual Studies in honor of this exceptional gift.

The Haggard family, long-time supporters of the Center's work, were members of Diamondhead Baptist Church in Diamondhead, Miss.

The gift will be used to establish a permanent endowment to fund the center.

The H. Milton Haggard Center for New Testament Textual Studies, founded in 1998, is a research center devoted to the collation and analysis of the New Testament text in the Greek manuscripts. Directed by Dr. Bill Warren, the center houses a substantial collection of microfilms and facsimiles of New Testament manuscripts.

Alabama Baptists give \$200,000 gift to help students return to NOBTS

Sacrificial giving by individual Southern Baptists as well as churches, associations, state conventions and Southern Baptist Convention entities played

a key role in New Orleans Seminary's dramatic recovery from Hurricane Katrina. The giving continues.

NOBTS recently received the largest one-time scholarship in the school's history – a \$200,000 gift from the Alabama Baptist Convention. The gift was given to provide scholarships for students affected by Hurricane Katrina who have returned to the main campus in New Orleans this fall.



Trustees establish MissionLab endowment to honor NOBTS President Chuck Kelley

To honor Dr. Chuck Kelley's commitment to evangelism, missions and ministry in New Orleans, the NOBTS Board of Trustees voted to begin an endowment

to perpetuate the Seminary's MissionLab program. The

vote came during the board's recent fall meeting.

MissionLab offers teenagers, college students and senior adults the opportunity to experience urban missions in New Orleans. The program brings thousands of Southern Baptist volunteers to the city of New Orleans each year.



Women's Auxiliary Fashion Show



Photo by Jimmy Cole

Lori Philips models a suit provided by the Jo Ann Leavell Scholarship Fund. Lori's husband, Jonathan, is a Leavell College student.

More than 200 women gathered at NOBTS Oct. 19 for the second fashion show and luncheon to benefit the Women's Auxiliary Endowed Scholarship Fund. Women's Auxiliary provides financial aid to student wives who take classes at the Seminary.

Hats Off to Women's Auxiliary featured clothing from the local Stein Mart and were modeled by students and student wives. The clothes were purchased by the Jo Ann Leavell Clothing Scholarship, which provides clothes for student wives.

The Women's Auxiliary Annual January Luncheon will be held Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007, in the River City Cafeteria at New Orleans Seminary.

A large group of people, including men, women, and children, are posed in many rows in front of a large, classical-style building. The building features a prominent portico with white columns and a clock tower at the top center. A large, flowing red ribbon graphic is draped across the upper half of the image, serving as a background for the text.

Merry Christmas

from your

Seminary Family

From all of us to all of you, thanks for your generosity! Your gift to the annual fund is an investment to the glory of Christ in our lives, on our campus, and in our city. Remember us in your year-end charitable giving. Please see the enclosed envelope for details.

Planned Giving

Charitable Remainder Trusts

The Charitable Remainder Trust is a method of transferring property. This will result in a life income for the donor(s), while providing the remainder of the trust amount at the time of the donor(s) death to the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Charitable remainder trusts can be established during your lifetime or through your estate plan at death. They can be used to achieve income, estate, and gift tax advantages.

When you make a lifetime transfer, you receive an income tax charitable deduction. You also

Charitable remainder trusts can also bring welcome tax savings in addition to diversification of investments and other financial benefits.

avoid capital gains tax on appreciated property, and the property is distributed outside the probate process.

As the donor, you transfer property (cash and/or other assets) to a trust that is created under the applicable laws of your state.

You may specify that payments from the trust be made to you and/or one or more other persons for life, or a term of years up to 20 years. The amount of income received may be

fixed at the time the trust is created, or it can be set up to fluctuate over time with the value of the assets in the trust. At the end of the trust period, the property remaining in the trust (the charitable remainder) becomes the property of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Charitable remainder trusts can also bring welcome tax savings in addition to diversification of investments and other financial benefits. Since the property transferred to the trust will be used for charitable purposes in the future, income, gift, and estate tax deductions are allowed in the year of the gift for the value of the gift portion of the trust.



Dr. Byron Hoover DeMent

The DeMent Society

The DeMent Society, named for the Seminary's first president Dr. Byron Hoover DeMent, provides the opportunity for our friends to ensure the future of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary through estate gifts.

Dr. DeMent was a part of the first fund raising effort of the newly formed Baptist Bible Institute in 1917. DeMent, a native Tennessean, described himself as not primarily a financial agent, but a Gospel preacher, Bible teacher and humble

"I am just a Gospel preacher, Bible teacher and humble leader of the people to nobler things."

- Dr. DeMent

leader of the people to nobler things. DeMent told the story of the enterprise, lifted up its ideals, gave a vision of its needs and possibilities, and let the message work its way into the hearts of people who wanted to make a difference in Kingdom work.

If you have included the Seminary in your estate plan, please contact the Seminary so you may added to the growing list DeMent Society members.

If you have questions or need more information on how to include New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in your estate plan, please contact Jim Lee at 800.662.8701 or via email at jlee@nobts.edu.

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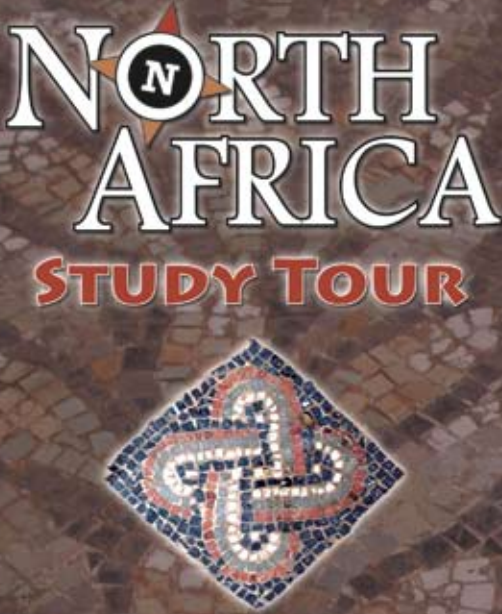


Photo by Jimmy Cole

The Institutional Advancement office staff – **Top row from left:** Andy Wiggins, Dr. Jerry Garrard, Byron Townsend and Don Pike. **Bottom row from left:** Cheryl Hughes, Jamie Cooke, Betty Lynn Campbell and Wanda Gregg. **Not Pictured:** Capt. Jim Lee.


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NORTH AFRICA STUDY TOUR

The cost of the trip is \$2750 and it is open to anyone. Students may earn 9 hours of course credit during the trip. For more information, contact Dr. Lloyd Harsch or LHarsch@nobts.edu



JOURNEY INTO THE LIFE OF THE EARLY CHURCH AS WE WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF AUGUSTINE, TERTULLIAN AND CYPRIAN WHO MINISTERED IN NORTH AFRICA.

DISCOVER THE LEGACY OF BAPTISM BY IMMERSION AS WE EXAMINE BAPTISTERIES OVER 1,600 YEARS OLD.

North Africa Study Tour March 7-16, 2007

Trustees set course for the future in fall meeting

By Gary D. Myers

The trustees at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary approved a college ministry training institute, expanded prison educational efforts and authorized the administration to begin planning for a new library during their fall meeting Oct. 11.

Collegiate Ministry Institute Established

The trustees voted to establish the Collegiate Ministry Institute (CMI) at NOBTS. The institute will enhance the collegiate ministry program which includes a Master of Divinity specialization, a concentration in the Master of Arts in Christian Education program, and specializations in the Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry programs.

Patterned after the school's successful Youth Ministry Institute, CMI combines weekend classes with on-the-job training opportunities. The program will utilize qualified specialists in the collegiate ministry field to teach many of the courses.

CMI will develop on-going internship partnerships with vibrant collegiate ministry programs. Students will have the opportunity to "learn by doing" in real collegiate ministry settings – on campuses and in churches.

Trustees Expand Prison Ministry Programs

Trustees approved a plan to expand the undergraduate prison educational work of the Seminary to include Raiford State Prison in Stark, Fla., and Phillips State Prison in Buford, Ga. NOBTS has offered

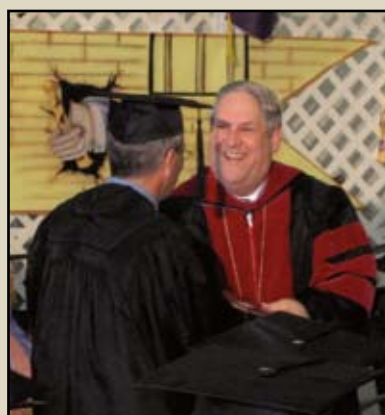


Photo by Gary D. Myers
Dr. Chuck Kelley awards a degree at Angola State Penitentiary in 2005.

undergraduate credit at Angola State Penitentiary in Louisiana since 1995. The prison experienced an immediate drop in violence after the program started. The Seminary recently began a similar ministry at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss.

New Library in Planning Stage

In another future-focused move, trustees authorized Kelley and his administration to begin the planning stages for a new library.

Last year trustees authorized a feasibility study to determine whether expansion of the current library or construction of a new library would be the best approach. Architects determined that expansion is possible but recommended the construction of a new facility. They determined that a new state-of-the-art facility could be constructed for about the same cost as an addition.

When constructed, the new library will be built on the west side of Leavell Chapel – the only suitable spot in the academic quad. The current library will be converted to classroom and office space. ☑

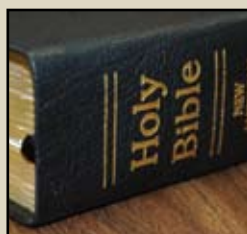
Trustee leads two women to faith at campus LifeWay store

By Gary D. Myers

NOBTS trustee Chip Roberson entered the LifeWay Christian Store on campus to buy a book. But instead of buying a book, he led two young women to faith in Jesus Christ.

Roberson, a second-year trustee and pastor of Cave Springs Baptist Church in Roanoke, Va., was in New Orleans for the trustee meeting Oct. 11. As he visited the bookstore during a break, he noticed two young women looking intently at the large selection of Bibles.

The two asked Roberson about Bibles. One of the women had been exposed to Bible teaching while in jail. Studying the Bible ignited her interest in God.



Recently released from jail, she came to LifeWay to purchase her own Bible so she could continue reading.

After a few minutes of conversation, Roberson asked if they had experienced salvation in Jesus Christ. They said they had not.

"I shared the Gospel with them," he recalled. "I said, 'Would y'all like to pray and ask Jesus into your heart?'"

Both said yes. And there in the busy LifeWay store, Roberson led the women in prayer as they both boldly asked aloud for forgiveness of sin and a relationship with Christ.

Roberson left without buying a book, but he is confident the ultimate reason he entered the store that day was to share Christ with two lost souls. ☑

Study finds just 60 percent of churches 'functioning' in New Orleans area

By Gary D. Myers

An ongoing study by Bill Day at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary revealed that only 60 percent of all the greater New Orleans-area churches are open and functioning one year after Hurricane Katrina.

Day, Associate Professor of Evangelism and Church Health and Associate Director of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health, presented the preliminary findings of his study, "The Impact of Hurricane Katrina on the Viability of Churches in the Greater New Orleans Area," during the 29th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship Sept. 21 at New Orleans Seminary.

The goal of the research, Day said, is to determine which churches will close their doors because of the

storm, which churches will survive and which churches will actually see growth. The research study focuses on the five parishes that represent the New Orleans metro area – Jefferson, Orleans,



Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes. Not limited to Baptist churches, Day is studying all area churches.

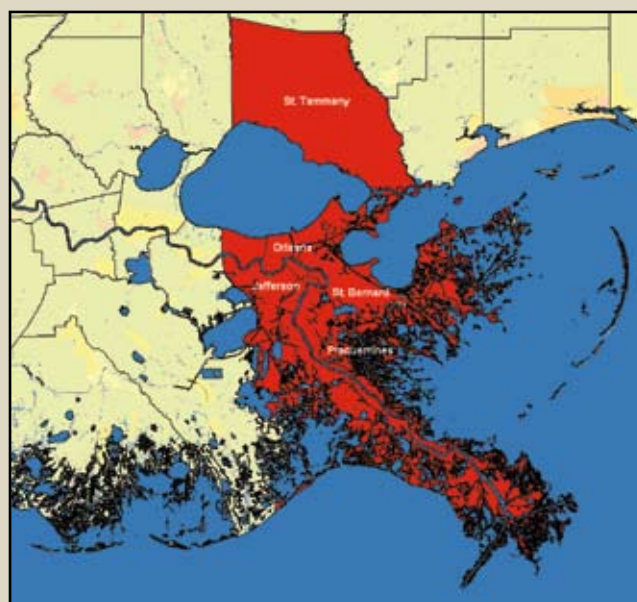
Day found that only 905 of the 1,508 churches that existed before Katrina are functioning one year after the storm. The research revealed that 60 percent of Southern Baptist churches in the five-parish area are functioning.

His research will not end there. Day wants to know why some churches survived and others did not. These findings could help churches in other areas overcome future natural disasters.

"Unfortunately, some churches will not survive. [They will] never come back after Katrina," Day said. "Some churches, however, will survive. Actually, some churches will grow even after something like Katrina.

"This is not a question I can answer right now, it probably isn't a question I can answer even a year from now," he said. "I'll be looking at it over the next five years."

Day wants to use what he learns about churches that survive Katrina to help with future disasters. ▣



Graphic by The Leavell Center

Dr. Bill Day's post-Katrina impact study included churches in Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes.

NOBTS students help assess recovery of area churches

By Gary D. Myers

Tracking down information about churches in post-Katrina Louisiana was a difficult task for Dr. Bill Day as he began working on a study called "The Impact of Hurricane Katrina on the Viability of Churches in the Greater New Orleans Area."

Day relied on lots of leg work to determine the number of churches still operational one year after Katrina. Early on, Day was only able to confirm about 400 functioning churches out of 1,508 area churches. That left more than 1,100 churches to research.

Initially, he planned to conduct a random sampling of the locations to provide statistical data for his study. Instead, he opted to visit each of the 1,100 church locations with the help of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary students.

Gene Huffstutler at The McFarland Institute in New Orleans provided a small grant to help pay the students involved in the research, and students began visiting the sites in April.

By early fall, the students had visited each of the 1,100 sites. As they visited each site, the students photographed the building or the church site.

Next April, Day will send Seminary students out to each of the 1,508 church sites in the five-parish area again to collect further data. ▣

North Georgia Extension moves to Johnson Ferry

By Marilyn Stewart

As far as healthy churches go, Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga. – the new home of NOBTS' largest extension center – has raised the bar to a new high.

With a cutting edge visual media ministry and a Lottie Moon mission offering that led the Southern Baptist Convention in 2005, Johnson Ferry has proven it is not intimidated by new challenges or high goals.

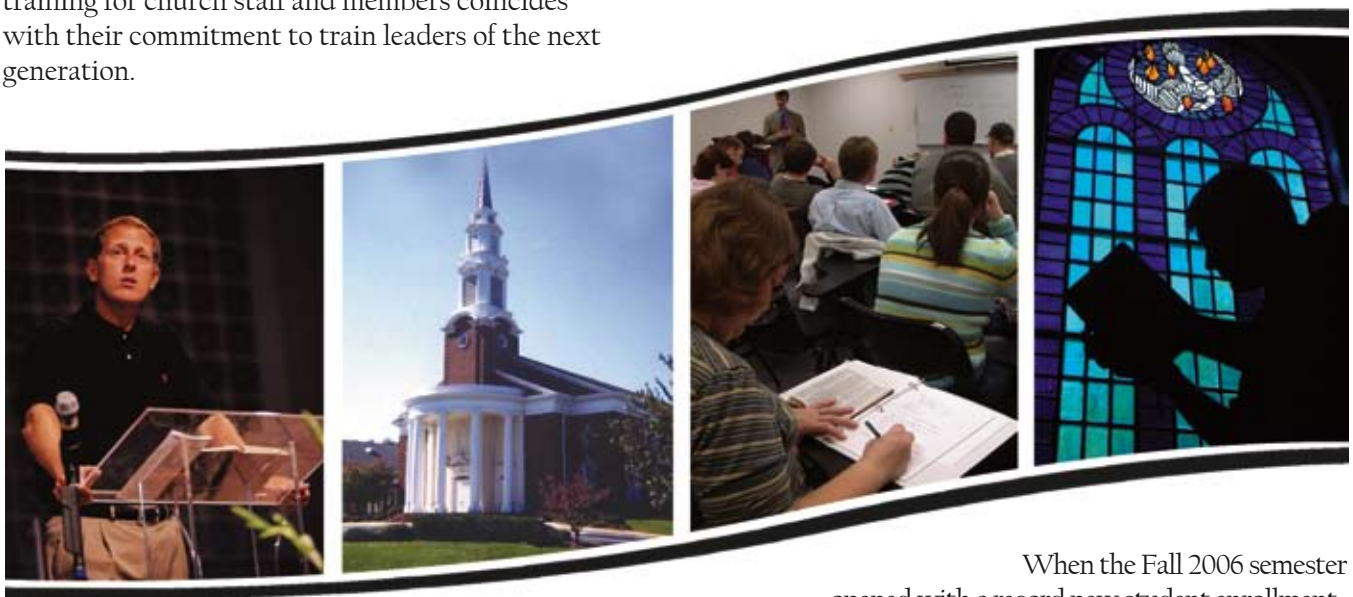
So when it became evident that the time was right for the extension center to move to another Atlanta-area location, a partnership with Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta not only seemed feasible, but a "win-win" proposition for everyone.

Johnson Ferry's multi-faceted, multi-venue ministries provide the perfect "laboratory" for NOBTS student observation of innovative models of ministry. For JFBC, the easy accessibility of NOBTS classroom training for church staff and members coincides with their commitment to train leaders of the next generation.

locally and globally. Believing a key to reaching their goal is through the teaching of God's word, JFBC saw the partnership with NOBTS as another avenue by which they could carry out their mission.

With worship as their number one ministry priority, JFBC holds nine Sunday morning services, both traditional and contemporary, on two campuses. In addition, four ethnic congregations meet at JFBC and services are held at four local assisted living centers every Sunday. Constituted as a church in 1983, JFBC averages more than 4,200 in Sunday worship.

The JFBC partnership with the extension center is not the first time the church has showed kindness to the Seminary. While the New Orleans campus was under reconstruction following Katrina, JFBC stepped up to host the NOBTS 2006 Greer-Heard Forum, serving more than 800 in attendance.



"We are delighted to have a closer association with Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, which we feel is one of the best and most positive examples of a healthy church in the Southern Baptist Convention," said Steve Lemke, NOBTS provost.

JFBC's strategic location provides students easier accessibility from all parts of the Atlanta metroplex within the I-75 and I-85 corridor and a site in the heart of a fast growing section of the city that is a natural draw for the school.

Under the leadership of Pastor Bryant Wright, JFBC maintains a vision for impacting the world by reaching as many people as possible for Christ, both

When the Fall 2006 semester opened with a record new student enrollment for the extension center, Pastor Wright, the JFBC staff and congregation welcomed the NOBTS students and administrators as part of their church family.

JFBC's commitment to "extra mile" servant ministry is evident in the way they have reached out to NOBTS students. The church provides two meals for students on Monday, the busiest day of classes for the campus, and donated \$35,000 to the fund for students returning to the New Orleans campus after the flood.

"The staff is always willing to talk to and mentor our students," said Steve Echols, Director of the North Georgia Extension Center. "Once again, our Seminary will be the beneficiary of a great partnership with a gracious church." ☐

New Faculty Members

Dr. Mark Stephens

Assistant professor of Preaching and Pastoral Ministry, Ministry-Based Faculty*

Dr. Mark Stephens serves as the Director of the Seminary's Orlando (Fla.) Extension Center, and as the Director of Theological Education and Distance Learning for the Florida Baptist Convention. Dr. Chuck Kelley appointed Stephens to serve as Regional Associate Dean for Florida.

"Mark Stephens is a great teacher and practitioner of expository preaching," NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke said. "He is helping us take theological education to a new level in Florida."

Stephens brings more than 10 years of ministry experience to the classroom. Before joining the Florida Baptist Convention staff, he pastored six years in Arkansas and Florida.



Mr. Jeremy Evans

Instructor in Philosophy and Ethics

Jeremy Evans will serve a one-year appointment as Instructor in Philosophy and Ethics at New Orleans Seminary.

Evans is in the dissertation stage of the Doctor of Philosophy program at Texas A&M University.

He served as a lecturer and teaching assistant at Texas A&M and a part-time faculty member at Blinn College in Bryan, Texas. He earned a Master of Divinity degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Communication at Texas A&M.

"Jeremy Evans strengthens our focus on apologetics," NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke said. "His training at a secular institution equips him to train students to defend their faith in a secular setting."

*The ministry-based faculty category is designed for instructors who serve in other ministries to bring their practical experience into the classroom. These trustee-elected non-tenure track professors provide instruction for focused disciplines or delivery systems.



Mr. Wade Howell

Instructor in Theology

Wade Howell was appointed to serve as Instructor in Theology. Currently enrolled in the Seminary's Doctor of Philosophy program, Howell holds a Master of Divinity degree from NOBTS and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Florida. Howell also served in the Navy for six years.

"Wade Howell has demonstrated great promise as a doctoral student in theology," Provost Steve Lemke said. "He brings real world experience in the military and in the church to the classroom."



Faculty Appointments

Dr. Scott Drumm is the Associate Dean of Leavell College.

Dr. Steve Echols is Regional Associate Dean for Georgia and Alabama.

Dr. Norris Grubbs is Regional Associate Dean for Louisiana and Mississippi.

Dr. Jeff Griffin is Dean of Libraries.

Dr. David Platt as Assistant Professor of Preaching, Ministry-based Faculty.

Professor Emeritus Harry Eskew continues work in hymnology

Dr. Harry Eskew (MSM '60), Professor Emeritus in Hymnology, has continued to be active in hymnology. He in recent months has presented papers related to the shape-note tradition of early American hymnody to the Belmont University Conference on American Hymnody, the South Carolina Baptist Historical Society, the Society for American Music, and the Georgia Baptist Historical Society. At the annual summer conference of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, he participated in the opening Hymn Festival by leading the assembly in an unaccompanied Sacred Harp harmonization of "Bretheren, we have met to worship."



Dr. Jeanine Bozeman celebrates 20th year on NOBTS faculty

By Michael McCormack

For 20 years she has displayed greatness in the classroom. But that greatness coupled with a genuine concern for her students outside the classroom is what makes Dr. Jeanine Bozeman a living legend at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"I first met Dr. Bozeman at preview weekend. When I started school the next August, she remembered me and asked about things we had talked about the previous March," NOBTS graduate student Jimmy Cole said. "She has a knack for lifting people up with just a few words and a gentle touch."

Bozeman, senior professor of social work at NOBTS, celebrated her 20th anniversary at the Seminary this fall.



The past 20 years in Bozeman's life have carried plenty of challenges, changes and confirmations – all of which has prepared her for the future.

"Reflecting on the 20 years here has been a joyful experience," Bozeman said. "I never dreamed of being a professor here, but I have seen God's hand moving in my past experiences to bring me to this point in my life."

Bozeman, along with other professors celebrating anniversaries, was recognized Sept. 5 as part of the Seminary's annual Convocation. Seminary President Chuck Kelley highlighted in a sermon that day the significance the storms each person faces have on God's overall mission for his or her life. Bozeman affirms that the personal storms in her life have shaped her teaching ministry and confirmed her sense of calling.

"I have probably learned more from 'the storms' than from the joys," Bozeman said. "The death of my mother in an automobile accident was a tremendous



File Photo by Larry Hyche

"Coach" Jeanine Bozeman poses with her Christian Education team at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Bozeman directed the Seminary's Division of Christian Education from 1997-2003.

blow for me, yet I have seen God use that painful experience to grow me and help others through my Death, Loss and Grief classes."

"Reflecting on the 20 years here has been a joyful experience. I never dreamed of being a professor here, but I have seen God's hand moving in my past experiences to bring me to this point in my life."

– Dr. Jeanine Bozeman

For Bozeman, God used experiences from the past 20 years to carry her through Hurricane Katrina. She received much encouragement from the first reunion of faculty members in Ft. Worth after the storm.

"Being able to be reunited with colleagues was thrilling," Bozeman said. "The obvious care, compassion and generosity of Southern Baptists to all of us were amazing. I am overwhelmed with gratitude."

Through everything, Bozeman marvels at how God brings unity out of a diversity of passions and experiences to accomplish His plans.

"Thinking of 'my journey' and the journeys of countless students, I am amazed at how God blends all of our experiences along the way to prepare us for the ministry to which He has called us," Bozeman said. ☑

Dr. Dennis Cole marks second decade on the NOBTS faculty

By Michael McCormack

Whether it's taking part in an archaeological dig at Tel Gezer in Israel or faithfully serving as a deacon at New Orleans' Gentilly Baptist Church, Dennis Cole's call to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary involves much more than being a professor. His call is to both the Seminary and the city of New Orleans.

Cole, Professor of Old Testament and Archaeology and Chairman of the Division of Biblical Studies at New Orleans Seminary, celebrated his 20th anniversary at the Seminary during the fall semester. At the Seminary's annual Convocation service in September, Seminary President Chuck Kelley recognized Cole and other professors for milestones in their teaching ministry.



“In my first year as a trustee-elected faculty member ... I faced major surgery. God provided strength and hope in recovery and confirmed through various colleagues and friends that this was indeed where God wanted me to focus my teaching ministry.”

– Dr. Dennis Cole

Kelley later highlighted in a sermon the significance of God using the storms each person faces to shape His overall mission for his or her life. Cole is fast to affirm that his personal storms have shaped his teaching ministry and confirmed his sense of calling to New Orleans.

“In my first year as a trustee-elected faculty member, after teaching three years as a full-time instructor, I faced major surgery,” Cole said, “and God provided strength and hope in recovery and confirmed through various colleagues and friends that this was indeed where God wanted me to focus my teaching ministry.”

When Cole and his family first came to New Orleans in 1980, their intention was to either return



Dr. Dennis Cole spent the past summer at Tel Gezer in central Israel excavating an important biblical site.

to his home state of Florida to minister or move to Oregon where he had done master's work. God had other plans.

“The Lord opened the doors to remain here in New Orleans,” Cole said, “and each year as my wife and I raised our three daughters here, the Lord reconfirmed the calling to the Seminary and the city.”

God used experiences from the past 20 years of Cole's life to carry

him through Hurricane Katrina. One source of encouragement for Cole came from the 1990s, when he served on a committee that explored the possibility of the Seminary moving from its current location south of Lake Pontchartrain to the north shore. The investigation into the pros and cons of moving instilled in Cole a firm commitment to New Orleans that remained steady through the storm.

“That decision-making process further cemented my personal commitment to the Seminary and the city,” Cole said. “Not even Katrina's disastrous effects could sway my wife and me from that commitment.” ☐

ALUMNI UPDATES

Class Updates

1960s

Jesse Crooks (ThM '68 & MRE '69) is an Evangelist in North Carolina. He and his wife Linda (Batten) Crooks (1967-69) have three children and four granddaughters.

Cecil G. Clegg (ThM '69) became Pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Douglasville, Ga., in January 2005.

Glen E. Smith (MRE '64 & MCM '69) retired from the pastoral ministry in December 2005. He and his wife Ruby now reside in Camden, Ala.

1970s

Alton (ThM '71) and **Jean (George) Wilson** have four children and six grandchildren. Alton has been pastoring for 40 years.

Sami Ammari (ThM '72) received his PhD from Trinity Theological Seminary in Indiana. He has served as Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Hiawassee, Ga., since 1980. He is also a Trustee for Truett McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga.

Ernest Dewitt Hill (MRE '73) retired on Aug. 31, 2006.

Mike Shaw (ThM '73 & DMIN '76) has been elected to serve as Chairman of the State Board of Missions in Alabama. In May 2006, he celebrated his 27th anniversary as pastor of First Baptist Church, Pelham, Alabama. He and his wife, Mary, are grandparents to Tanna and Lilly Grace.

Joe Courson (MDIV '65 & DMIN '76) recently retired from the Florida Baptist Convention. He and his wife, Ann (Jackson) (1963-65), celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary in May 2006.

Alan Woodward (ThD '79) began serving the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as Director of Pastor/Leadership Development in December 2005. He previously served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Ellisville, Miss., for 23½ years.

John Chester (MDIV '76) and **Grace Dowden** currently live in Crosby, Texas. John is on medical leave of absence as a Methodist minister while he recovers from heart valve surgery. They attend Lake Houston United Methodist Church, where Grace is the Nursery Coordinator.

1980s

Hal Fletcher (MDIV '80) has served as Pastor of Ridgewood Baptist Church in Orange Park, Fla., since Sept. 1, 2004. He previously served at Ridgeway Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., from 1995-2004.

Kathy Sylvest (MRE '80) celebrated 25 years of service to Southern Baptists in February 2006. She has worked with the Louisiana Baptist Convention, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Bob Knight (ADIV '82) was called to Pastor First Baptist Church, Cuba, Mo., in May 2005. He previously served as Pastor of Eolia Baptist Church for 23 years.

Bruce Rowell (MDIV '84) served two years as President of the Alaska Baptist Convention.

Barney (MRE '80 & EdD '84) and **Catherine (Stevens) Self** (Attended 1978-80) are expecting their first grandchild in October. They live in Franklin, Tenn., where Barney ministers to ministers through Lifeway's LeaderCare program.

Sharon Barry (MCM '85) retired from the US Navy in June 2005 after 20 years of service. She and her husband also celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 2005. They currently reside in Florida.

Don Aycock (ThD '86) has cowritten a book, *The Little Handbook to Perfecting the Art of Christian Writing; Getting Your Foot in the Publisher's Door*, with Len Goss. This is his 21st book. Don is serving as Pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Palatka, Fla., and as an Adjunct Professor at Flagler College in St. Augustine and University of Phoenix in Jacksonville.

Don Bryant (MDIV '86) is a Mental Health Associate for the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. He is also a volunteer with the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center and a Deacon at Middle River Baptist Church. He and his wife Christina Jane (Hathaway) have two children, Jacob (20) and Kimberly (15).

Billy Harris (MDIV '86) is serving as Pastor of Isney Baptist Church in Silas, Alabama. His wife Patty (Perkins) (1990) is a public school teacher. They have two married daughters and a grandson.

Franklin Kirksey (MDIV '86) is author of *Sound Biblical Preaching*.

David Cofield (MDIV '87) is the Director of North Alabama Extension Center in Athens.

Mike Holloway (MDIV '89) is founder of two Christian schools, Northeast Louisiana Baptist School and Westside Baptist Academy. He has served as an NOBTS Trustee (1992-98) and on the Louisiana Baptist Executive Committee (1992-98).

1990s

Richard Brown (MDIV '89 & MACE '90) is serving as Pastor of Education and Church Growth at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Cartersville, Ga.

Lon Baxter (ADIV '91) has served churches in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. He and his wife Shannon (Huckaby) are grandparents to Maddi.

Charles W. Gaines (PhD '93) resigned as Pastor of The Church at Ponte Vedra to become a Church Consultant with Lifeway Christian Resources effective Jan. 1, 2006. He and his wife Ginger reside in the Atlanta area.

Brian Hill (MDIV '97) has published a book, *Come to Me*.

Scott E. Thompson (MDIV '97) participated with the Gene Williams Evangelistic Association in preaching crusades with 22 other men across India, Jan. 16-30, 2006.

Looking Back

French Quarter Ministry

Members of the Seminary Family hold a worship and evangelism service in the French Market in this 1953 photograph.



Tony Beazley (MDIV '99) serves as a Chaplain at the G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson, Miss. He has been awarded the distinction of certification as a board-certified chaplain in the Association of Professional Chaplains.

Michael Stewart (MDIV '97) assumed the position of Stewardship-Cooperative Program Strategist for the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

2000s

Roc Collins (MDIV '92 & PhD '00) is Pastor at Indian Springs Baptist Church in Kingsport, Tenn. His wife, Jeralyn (Pander) Collins (MRE '88), is the Director of Children's Ministry at Indian Springs Baptist Church.

Mary Speed (PhD '00) is Director of Clinicals Meadowood Community Mental Health Center in Baton Rouge, La.

Phillip Swindall (MACE '00) is serving as Interim Minister of Music at Calvary Baptist Church in Meridian, Miss. He is also teaching high school math at Calvary Christian School.

Beth Taylor (MACE '00) has been serving the International Mission Board as the Production Coordinator in the eMedia department in Richmond, Va., since September 2005.

Ramsey Coutta (MDIV '96 & PhD '01) recently published *Divine Institutions: The Nature of the Rise and Fall of Christian Denominations in America*.

Jimmy Major (MDIV '01) has been serving in Iraq with the 101st Air Borne Division. He will be redeploying in November 2006.

Fletcher (BGS '01) and **Rebecca Dale (Harris) Moorman** are parents of two daughters, Shelby Grace (11/22/99) and Carrie Reagan (9/5/03).

Mike (MDIV '01) and **Charity Dalanno (Carter) Williams** (MDIV '03) are currently doctoral students at NOBTS. They are living in Saraland, Ala.

Rusty Richardson (MACE '02) joined LifeWay Christian Resources as Church Consultant for the Southwestern Region in September 2005.

David (MDIV '95 & PhD '03) and **Jean Elaine (Daly) Campbell** are adopting a daughter from China. David is serving as Pastor of Greenlaw Baptist Church in Flagstaff, Ariz., and as Adjunct Faculty for Phoenix Seminary. They have two sons, Jonathan (14) and Matthew (10).

William D. Blosch (DMIN '04) has published a book, *Clergy Overboard*.

Samuel Jacob Lockmiller (ACMIN '04) is pursuing a Bachelor of Social Work degree at Jacksonville State University in Alabama.

Dr. Michael Reid (PhD '04) was called as Professor and Dean of Students at Psychological Studies Institute in Atlanta, Ga. Reid, his wife Andrea and their family are living in Kennesaw, Ga.

Dave (MDIV '05) and **Mandy Dowdy** (MACE '02) are living in Walnut Grove, Miss., where Dave serves as Pastor of Walnut Grove Baptist Church.

Fred W. Karthaus III (MDIV '92 & DMIN '05) is serving as Pastor of First Baptist Church, Andalusia, Ala.

Philip Price (MDIV/RE '90 & PhD '05) received his PhD in December 2005. He and his wife Teresa (Bell) have three children, Abbey (12), Jared (4), and Charles (1).

Jeff (MDiv '05) and **Stephanie Wells** (MACE '04) are living in Athens, Ga., where Jeff is serving as Senior Pastor of Johnson Drive Baptist Church.

Michael Wrye (MDIV '02 & THM '05) is serving as Pastor of Lynn Garden Baptist Church in Kingsport, Tenn.

Marriages

Lynn Losavio (MACE '06) and **Bryan Highland** (MMCM '06) were married in July 2006.

Gary Bazer (MACE '97) married **Ashley Elizabeth Hodges** of Colorado Springs in March 2005. They are living in McLeod, Texas, where Gary is Pastor of Good Exchange Baptist Church.

Births

Frank (MDIV '94) and **Carol (Ellis) Richardson** (MDiv '94) announce the birth of Emily Elizabeth on June 17, 2005, in Carrollton, Georgia. She weighed 8 lb., 3 oz.

Jarvis (MDIV '02) and **Gretchen (Ursin) Williams** (MDiv '02) welcomed Ian Caleb Williams on Sept. 8, 2005. He weighed 8 lbs., 14 oz., and measured 21 inches. The family currently resides in Upper Marlboro, Md., where Jarvis serves the sick and shut-in members of Forte Foote Baptist Church.

Tracy (Lightkep) (MDIV '04) and **Carlton Keen** welcomed their first child in December 2004. They are living in North Carolina, where Tracy works at the Wayne Pregnancy Care Center.

Chuck (DMIN '86 & DMIN '93) and **Darlene S. Herring** became grandparents to Caden Teddy Shivers on Jan. 9, 2005.

John (MACE '95) and **Linda (Zygiel) Mulvany** (MACE '96) announce the birth of Katie Rose Enid on May 31, 2006. She weighed 5 lbs. and was 18 inches long.

Gary (MACE '97) and **Ashley Elizabeth (Hodges) Bazer** announce the birth of Jackson Timothy Bazer on Dec. 30, 2005. They are living in McLeod, Texas, where Gary is Pastor of Good Exchange Baptist Church.

Deaths

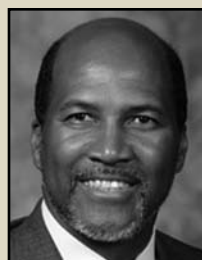
Rev. Avery T. Brownlow (DCT '60) passed away Aug. 22, 2006. For more than 50 years he served churches in Mississippi, Georgia and South Carolina. Rev. Brownlow was among the first graduating class from the new Leavell Chapel in 1960. His wife, Willie, resides in Gainesville, Ga.

Harlin M. Loggins (DPCH '67) died on Nov. 16, 2004.

William Hal Hunter (DMIV '75), past President of the Florida Baptist Convention, died on Aug. 14, 2006.

Missionary Appointments

North American Mission Board



A. Ray (MDIV '95) and **Christine Campbell** serve in Ormond Beach, Fla., where Ray has been appointed as a Church Planting Missionary. Before his new post, he was Regional Director of the Church Planting Division for the Florida Baptist Convention in Jacksonville, Fla.



Ron (MDIV '80) and **Louise Geiger** serve in San Manuel, Ariz., where Ron has been appointed Associational Missionary. Prior to his new position, he served as Pastor of Highlands Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla. The Geigers have two sons, Ronald and Richard.



Rolando (BA '98) and **Sarai Muniz** (BA '98) reside in Hodgenville, Ky., and are serving in Horse Cave, Ky., where Rolando has been appointed as a Church Planting Missionary working as a Hispanic Regional Strategist. He will serve associations in the southern part of Kentucky, focusing on planting new Hispanic churches. Prior to his new position, he served as a Church

Planter Missionary, Severance Valley Baptist Association, Elizabethtown, Ky. Rolando and Sarai have two children, Ester and Josias.



Michael (Attended '01-'02) and **Julianne Neger** serve in Hazelton, Pa., where Michael is a Church Planting Missionary. The Nergers will start a new church in Hazelton through the formation of multiple home Bible studies. The Nergers have three children: David, Kevin and Brian.



Maina Mwaura (MDIV '00) serves in Columbus, Md., where he has been appointed as an Evangelism Specialist.

Kim D. Wilson (MDIV '00) is serving in Pensacola, Fla., where she has been named as a US/C-2 Missionary and Campus Evangelism Coordinator with Baptist Collegiate Ministries at the University of West Florida and Pensacola Junior College.



Greg R. (DMIN '86) and **Claudia Wrigley** serve in Scott Depot, W. Va., where Greg is state Director of Missions at the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists.



His new responsibilities will include church planting, resort missions, men and boys mission education, disaster relief and partnership missions. Prior to his new appointment, Greg served as Director of Missions for the Black Creek Baptist Association in Orange Park, Fla. The Wrigley's have two children – Sarah and Stephanie.



Aaron (Attended '02) and **Carmen Coe** serve in New York City, where Aaron is Core Church Planting Missionary Pastor for NAMB's Strategic Focus Cities Team. Prior to his new

position, Aaron served as President/Founder for One Goal Sports, Kennesaw, Ga., and as Collegiate Team Leader for New Hope New York in New York City.

Otis H. Corbitt III (MDIV '89) and **Geri Corbitt** serve in Montgomery, Ala., where Otis has been appointed as a Church Planting Missionary. Most recently, he served as State Missionary for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions in Montgomery. The Corbitts have two children, Otis and Devon.



David J. (MDIV '87) and **Julie Sundeen** serve in Rochester, Minn., where David has been appointed State Director of Evangelism. Prior to this position, David served as Director

of Missions for the Northwoods Baptist Association, Cloquet, Minn. The Sundeens have four children: Jessica, Andrea, Ryan and Alexa.

John (MDIV '95) and **Dana Gunter** serve in Dothan, Ala., where John has been



named as a Church Planting Missionary. Prior to his new post, he was a Church Planter for nine years for the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The Gunters have two sons, Daniel and Luke.

Nashaat (MDIV '02) and **Gihan Ibrahim** are serving in Washington, D.C., where Nashaat



has been named as a Church Planting Missionary. Prior to his new position, he was working as a Church Planting Missionary in North Virginia, Va. The Ibrahims have two sons, Nader and Joseph.



Tony (MDIV '02) and **Denita Inmon** serve in Christiansburg, Va., where Tony has been named as a Church Planting Missionary pastor. Prior to this appointment, he was a Church Planter/Pastor in Chesapeake, Va. The Inmons have one daughter, Taylor.

Tom (MDIV '95) and **Cynthia Martin** (MRE '86) serve in Las Vegas, Nev., where Tom is a Church



Planting Missionary. He will be working with the Southern Nevada Baptist Association as

a consultant to pastors of small churches and church planters in the Las Vegas Valley. For the past 17 years, he has served as a Missionary Church Planter with SBC's International Mission Board in Bolivia, Peru and Colombia.

The Martins have two children: Joel and Alicia.

International Mission Board

Will (BACM '03) and **Rachel (Bailey) Robbins** serve in Central & Eastern Europe where Will is an Evangelism and Church Planting Associate. Will and Rachel have two children, William and Lauren.



Steve (MDIV '84 and MRE '85) and **Svetlana (Vorobyova) Parish** serve in Central & Eastern Europe where Steve is a Strategy Coordinator Apprentice.

Tim (MDIV '06) and **Patricia (Moss) Mitchell** serve in South America where Tim is a Strategy Coordinator. The Mitchells have four children; Joshua, Timothy, Thomas and Kelsey.



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