

Alabama Centers

The Gatekeeper



New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary
www.nobts.edu

April 2014

Special Points of Interest:

- **Current Student Scholarships**—Applications for the Current Student Scholarship will be taken from April 1-30. For more info please visit www.nobts.edu
- **Graduating Seniors**—If you are graduating in May please be sure to inform your professor so that they can grade your papers and final exams first.
- **Fall 2014 Schedules**—Planning ahead for the Fall? The schedules for all five Alabama Extension Centers are on each center's webpage. Visit nobts.edu/extensions.
- **Ecuador Mission Trip**— August 1-9, 2014. If you are taking classes as credit for the trip, the registration will be open soon. Please stay in contact with Bob or Stephen Hall for more mission trip information. Students can pay online at northparkbc.org New deadline April 20th.

NEW HUNTSVILLE CENTER TO OPEN IN AUGUST

HUNTSVILLE
RAINSVILLE
BIRMINGHAM
TUSCALOOSA
MONTGOMERY

Graduate & Undergraduate ☆
Graduate ○

MINISTRY TRAINING

Close to Home

FIVE ALABAMA LOCATIONS

Three New Centers Opening in Fall 2014

HUNTSVILLE
Meets at Heritage Bible College
(256) 810-7640

RAINSVILLE
Meets at First Baptist Church
(256) 706-2478

TUSCALOOSA
Meets at Forest Lake Baptist Church - (205) 339-2273

Plus, Two Existing Extension Centers

BIRMINGHAM
Meets at The Church at Brook Hills
(205) 313-7800

MONTGOMERY
Meets at Heritage Baptist Church
(334) 279-9976

NOBTS offers quality, affordable theological training and flexible class schedules designed with working students in mind.
www.nobts.edu/Extensions | 855.662.8701

By Zach Kendrick

In 2014, New Orleans Seminary will be expanding the extension center system. Starting in the fall semester there will be five extension centers in Alabama, providing student across the state with theological education. Both the Tuscaloosa and Huntsville Centers will officially launch in August hosting Graduate level classes. (You can read more about the new Tuscaloosa Center and Director Billy Austin in the November

2013 edition of the *Alabama Centers Gatekeeper*). In this edition we to want introduce you to the new North Alabama Center and Director David Cofield (read more about David on pg. 2). NOBTS has operated a certificate center at FBC Athens for years. David Cofield serves as the Director and has had the vision to open a full Graduate extension center in North Alabama for nearly twenty years. "I wanted it to happen, but thought it never

would [happen] due to it being so close to Birmingham" he said, "but when NOBTS started expanding, Huntsville was a nature place." Yet, Cofield was not the only one who had the vision to start a Graduate extension center in Huntsville. Dr. Lee Barnett, NOBTS alumnus and President of Legacy Christian University (formerly Heritage Bible College), approached Dr. Steve Lemke, the Provost at

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The Alabama Centers Gatekeeper is a publication of the NOBTS Birmingham Center. Any ideas for articles, interviews, or news can be sent to: bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com

MEET HUNTSVILLE CENTER DIRECTOR, DAVID COFIELD

The Alabama Extension Center System is proud to announce the opening of our newest center in Huntsville. David O. Cofield has been named the director. He isn't new to NOBTS extension centers because he has served as the director of the Certificate Center that meets at FBC Athens. In this edition of the *Gatekeeper* we would like you to meet David as we anticipate the opening of the Huntsville Center in August.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Boaz, AL. (which is in northeast Alabama)

Share with us your testimony.

I have been in church all my life, but it was at the age of 9 in VBS when I sensed my over-whelming sense of loss and need of a Savior and responded to Him.

Share about your call to ministry.

Because I was raised in church, I always believed God had special plans for each person's life. But it was at the tender age of 11 that I felt God calling me to preach. At that young age, I didn't know I was suppose to rebel and run, so I surrendered to preach and started preaching almost immediately. I often said that I was more sure of



Courtesy Photo

Huntsville Center Director, David Cofield and his wife Roxanne

my call to preach than my salvation. I would doubt my salvation for several years but as I have matured in the faith, I no longer doubt either calling.

Are you married? Do you have any kids?

I have been married 33 years to Roxanne and we have two sons, Keith (coach) and Kevin (pilot). They are both married living in Glencoe and

have given us three grandchildren with one more due March 21 and another due August 31.

Where do you currently serve in ministry?

I am the Pastor of Cross-Roads Baptist Church in Rogersville, AL (between Athens and Florence). I have served here for almost nine years.

What is your favorite hobby?

I love reading, my flower garden, and spending time with my grandchildren, when I can.

What is your favorite sport to watch or play?

I love basketball (mainly college). I have had season tickets to Vanderbilt for three years and normally either go to the SEC or NCAA tournaments every year.

What is your favorite class to teach? What was your favorite class in seminary?

I have always enjoyed anything to do with preaching. I have taught preaching on the undergraduate level as well as take every opportunity that I can to learn more. I had Dr. Harold Bryson as my primary preaching professor at NOBTS.

Besides the Bible what was the last book you read? Did you enjoy it?

I am currently reading Tim Keller's "Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering." It is an excellent book.

What is one piece of advice you would give students about their years in seminary?

Enjoy it to its fullness. Seminary is not just something to "get through" - but enjoy. Learning and studying will be a life-long task.

HUNTSVILLE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

NOBTS, about opening a Graduate Center at LCU. In June 2013 David Cofield was approached about being the Director of a new Graduate Center in Huntsville by Dr. Peter Kendrick, Director of the North Georgia Hub. "When he asked me [to be the director], I was excited" Cofield said.

The new North Alabama

Center will meet at Whitesburg Baptist Church in partnership with LCU, serving students in North Alabama and southern Tennessee. NOBTS will offer a Graduate degree program, while LCU will continue to offer their undergraduate degree program. The certificate center will be moving from FBC Athens to University Baptist

Church in Huntsville under the leadership of Dr. Bobby Burt. Graduate classes will meet on Mondays and certificate classes will meet on Thursday nights. Classes offered in the Fall will include: Proclaiming the Bible, Spiritual Formation, Intro to Hebrew, and Pastoral Ministry. "Our main focus is to provide a strong weekly in-class program" Cofield said, "but we will utilize CIV,

when needed." Classes start August 18, 2014. For more information about the Huntsville Center please contact David Cofield at HuntsvilleCenter@nobts.edu or call 256-810-7640. You can like them on Facebook: North Alabama Center or follow them on Twitter: @NACNOBTS. For more information about the NOBTS extension center system please visit www.nobts.edu/extensions.

NOBTS ANNOUNCES FIVE NEW ONLINE DEGREES

New Orleans – The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) recently approved NOBTS to offer five additional fully-online degrees: the 84 hour Master of Divinity (MDiv), 65-66 hour Master of Arts of Christian Education (MACE), 48 hour Master of Arts (Apologetics),

45 hour Master of Arts (Cross-Cultural Studies), and 53 hour Master of Arts in Missions. NOBTS already offers three other online degrees, 49 hour Master of Theological Studies (MTS), 53-56 hour Master of Arts (Biblical Studies), and 58 hour Master of Arts (Theology). The great

advantage of taking online classes from NOBTS is that students can mix other classes in with the online classes. The highest dropout rate in higher education is in online classes. But at NOBTS students may choose to mix their online classes with regular semester courses,

hybrid courses, or workshop courses. The online degrees are perfect, of course, for students who serve in mission areas outside of the traditional South. For more information about the new online degree programs please visit www.nobts.edu/onlineSeminary.

BIRMINGHAM STUDENT SPENDS SPRING BREAK ON MISSION IN NYC

By Emily Couch

New York – The city moves like a breath, like a heartbeat. There is a rhythm, a pace. Men and women move from location to location in set solidarity with straight faces. In a place where dreams of life are promised it is impossible to overlook the death that permeates the air. As Christ-followers we disturb that monotonous shuffle and breathe new life into dead, dry bones by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is through His working that the dead rise. Our job is simply to carry the message of life, hope, grace, and love in obedience to and out of overflow from the love that we have for Christ. I had the opportunity to spend my Spring Break (March 21-29) in New York City with a group of eight others from the University of Alabama. We worked with Nathan Creitz and City Life Church. Nathan is originally from Tuscaloosa, and several of us had worked with him in previous years. It was exciting to see how God had been faithful to reap the harvest that had been sown by the ones who had come before us. City Life Church is located in Ridgewood, a part of the larger borough of Queens. The area is incredi-

bly diverse, with immigrants of Eastern European and Hispanic descent making up a large part of the population. City Life Church is host-

Using packs of gum and crackers as a means to start conversation I was able to share the Gospel with at least five different people

others. Through it all, the love story of the Gospel of Christ was proclaimed, and I was able to see God move throughout New York like a breath of fresh air. I was used on the streets, on the subway, and on the train to speak the truth of Christ into people's lives. It just reminded me of the importance of intentionality – we are continually going and making disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). We don't pause; we run the race with perseverance (Hebrews 12). Above all we open ourselves up to the Father, knowing that He is the God who can do abundantly more than all than we think or ask (Ephesians 3:20-21), and the good work He has started He will carry on to completion at the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).



Emily (bottom left) and students from the UA BCM pose for a picture in Central Park

ing a community-wide worship event entitled "Justice Rising;" its goal is to shed light on the mounting issue of human trafficking throughout Ridgewood, Queens, and the Greater New York Metro Area. In the beginning of the week our team helped to promote this event to the community. For the remainder of the week we were simply on the streets being intentional about the love of Christ.

and was able to pray with a multitude more. I encountered spiritual warfare in very real ways and was able to see how victorious and powerful our God is. I had conversations with people who were broken and people who thought they had it all together. I prayed with people who were sick or were interceding for another. I was embraced and welcomed by some and outright rejected and ridiculed by

Emily lives in Tuscaloosa and serves as the "Director of Multi-Housing Ministries at Forest Lake Baptist Church, commissioned as a missionary through the North American Mission Board and the Alabama State Board of Missions. She is also pursuing her Master's at NOBTS Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM CENTER

Seniors: If you are graduating please be sure to inform your professor so that they can grade your papers and finals first.

Fall 2014: Schedules are online for the Fall.

Snack Table: Please remember that all snacks and drinks are 50 cents. Coffee is free, but we are taking donations to offset the cost of supplies.

MONTGOMERY CENTER

Fall 2014: Schedules are online for the Fall visit nobts.edu/Extensions/CentralAlabama

HUNTSVILLE CENTER

Launch: The new Huntsville Center will be opening in August hosted by Whitesburg Baptist Church. At first they will have Monday only classes offering the four CIV classes listed on the Birmingham Schedule.

Certificate: The Huntsville Center will be offering a Bible Teaching Certificate at University Baptist Church starting in August.

Preview Day: May 19 at Whitesburg Baptist Church (South Campus) 4:30pm, a meet and greet with Dr. Kelley. (see ad for more details).

Fall 2014: Schedules are online for the Fall visit nobts.edu/Extensions/NorthAlabama

MINISTRY POSITIONS

Music Minister: FBC Mt. Olive is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. He must be able to lead the choir and congregation in worship, a knowledge of power-point, and lead instrumentalists. Please send resume's to sheila@fbcmo.org c/o Robert Head or call 205-631-4401

Youth Pastor: Grace Baptist Church in Fayette, AL is currently seeking a part-time Youth Pastor. If you are interested please contact Dr. Brad Doss at preacherdoss@msn.com

Youth Pastor: Bellview Baptist Church in McCalla is looking for a part-time Student Minister to be responsible for leading the youth ministry. Send resume to pastor@bellviewbc.org or mail to 6674 Eastern Valley Road, McCalla, AL 35111

TUSCALOOSA CENTER

Launch: The Tuscaloosa Center launches Monday, August 18, 2014, and classes are to be held at the Forest Lake Baptist Church.

Prospective Students: Interested potential students or professors can contact Billy Austin at 334.312.0843 or bibbybama@gmail.com.

Fall 2014: Schedules are online for the Fall visit nobts.edu/Extensions/WestAlabama

RAINSVILLE CENTER

Location: Northeast Alabama Center meets at FBC Rainsville on Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday.

Fall 2014: Schedules are online for the Fall visit nobts.edu/Extensions/NortheastAlabama

Social Media: Look for the Northeast Alabama Center on Facebook, Twitter, and Google+

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 1-30**—Current Student Scholarships
- April 15**—Fall Registration Opens (online)
- April 18**—Good Friday (Office/Library Closed)
- April 20**—New Ecuador Deposit Deadline
- May 9-15**—Grad/Undergrad Final Exams
- May 17**—Graduation (Main Campus)
- May 19**—Preview Day (Huntsville Center)
- May 26-30**—Red Carpet Week (Main Campus)
- August 1-9**—Ecuador Mission Trip
- August 18**—First Day of Fall Semester

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for one another as we close another semester.

Pray for the mission team going to Ecuador in August led by Stephen Hall.

NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Opening a New
**GRADUATE
CENTER**
August 2014

Legacy Christian University
at
Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville

JOIN US ON MONDAY, MAY 19 @ 4:30

PREVIEW DAY
South campus,
Whitesburg Baptist Church

*Learn about our graduate classes

*Meet and hear Dr. Kelley and other NOBTS personnel

contact:
David Cofield
256-810-7640
www.nobts.edu/extensions

RSVP by May 14 at
huntsvillecenter@nobts.edu
or

Click Here to RSVP >