



**DR. CHUCK KELLEY**  
**CELEBRATES 15 YEARS**  
**AS NOBTS PRESIDENT**  
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**AFRICA**

# Approaching the Rubicon

BY DR. CHUCK KELLEY

**W**hat an interesting, challenging, exciting time it is at this School of Providence and Prayer! Here is the report I shared with our Trustees at their spring meeting.

2010 was a year of notable highlights. We had an enrollment of 3,741 students, our highest since Hurricane Katrina and nearing our all-time high. In August we opened 16 new 2-bedroom apartments, and they were filled immediately. In January we opened our fourth prison program at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women, our only women's prison in Louisiana. What God is doing in these prison programs continues to amaze, as the transforming power of the Gospel in human lives is laid bare. Both in New Orleans and throughout our extension center system NOBTS students shared Christ with 4,678 people and saw 345 professions of faith. NOBTS church planters are now serving in 15 states, and we have mission partnerships in Haiti, Russia, Indonesia, Southeast Asia and the Caribbean. Our newest faculty study center is the Institute for Faith and the Public Square, led by Dr. Lloyd Harsch, and our Center for Archaeological Research was awarded a permit to excavate the Tel Gezer water system in Israel, one of the most significant digs of the summer in Israel. We were especially excited to learn that our endowment has now passed \$50 million, growing through new money and investment returns in the midst of these difficult economic times. To God be the glory!

Our biggest challenge of the year has been a decline in giving to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. For the third consecutive year, Cooperative Program giving has declined, and the Executive Committee of the SBC expects giving to decline still further for a fourth year. This has a direct impact on NOBTS. Decreased giving during the economic downturn has reduced the size of the CP budget, and the lingering effects of Hurricane Katrina on our main campus enrollment has reduced our portion of the CP budget. In light of the expected further decline of CP next year, we have had to reduce the number of full-time faculty members. However, we have not had to eliminate any programs, and we continue to see all of our other funding sources expand and grow. This does remind us, though, that your support of our Providence Fund and your church's support of the Cooperative Program is more important than ever!

One thing became very clear in our journey through the year. We are approaching a Rubicon moment. Seutonius tells that when Julius Caesar decided the time had come to take control of Rome and create an empire, he faced a crucial decision. It was a capital offense for any general or his soldiers



Kelley

to cross the Rubicon River bearing arms. If Caesar did so he would win the empire or die. Through the years the phrase "crossing the Rubicon" came to embody decisions of great significance. Twice in the last 15 years NOBTS has faced Rubicon decisions. The first was in 2000 when we crossed the Rubicon of Change. We started with a blank piece of paper and recreated the entire MDiv curriculum, completely revised the schedule for classes, emphasized the expectation of scholarly research by the faculty, and began rebuilding our campus. It was an a fall semester none of us who were there will ever forget.

The second time was after Hurricane Katrina when we faced the Rubicon of Continuity. The campus was unavailable to faculty and students for a year. We had no certainty of what the future held, and no experience at all of doing seminary training under these conditions. We crossed the Rubicon and continued to teach anyway, in the greatest performance by a theological faculty in the history of the world.

Now we find ourselves facing the Rubicon of Redefinition. The changes introduced into the world of higher education, the culture, and the global economy in the last five years have made it essential for NOBTS to redefine permanently the seminary experience for the 21st century. Here are some of the new realities we must now embrace. We will be a ministry training cafeteria, offering theological education in a variety of formats and delivery systems. We will continue to do classical theological education on campus, but it will be one of many ways we equip students for ministry in today's world. Our student body will be scattered across the South and around the world. In fact it will no longer be possible for all or most NOBTS students to gather in one place at the same time. In addition to biblical knowledge and theological perspective, we will also emphasize teaching ministry competencies and the new literacies of the information age. The life of a faculty member will be different in many ways from the life of the faculty members who taught me. There will be much more interaction with students outside of a classroom or a normal teaching schedule. New skills will have to be learned, and new approaches to teaching will have to be mastered, creating a steady pressure for teachers to keep adding new tools to the teaching tool box. Hurricane Katrina forced us to do seminary in a completely different way. Looking back we see that, in many ways, our Katrina experience was a snap shot of the future.

Are you ready for some good news? Our goal is to make some form of theological education accessible to any God-called man or woman. For the first time in human history, that is a realistic goal. The challenges are real, but the opportunities growing out of those challenges are phenomenal. Once you cross the Rubicon, there is no going back. We are fully committed to doing whatever it takes to make theological education accessible to everyone God calls. Thank you for being a partner in this magnificent task!

*Chuck Kelley*

# vision

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**Dr. Chuck Kelley**  
President

**Dr. Jerry Garrard**  
Vice President for  
Institutional Advancement

**Gary D. Myers**  
Editor

**Frank Michael McCormack**  
Assistant Editor

**Boyd Guy**  
Art Director &  
Photographer

**Suzanne Davis**  
Editorial Assistant

**PR Staff and IA Staff**  
Proof Reading Team



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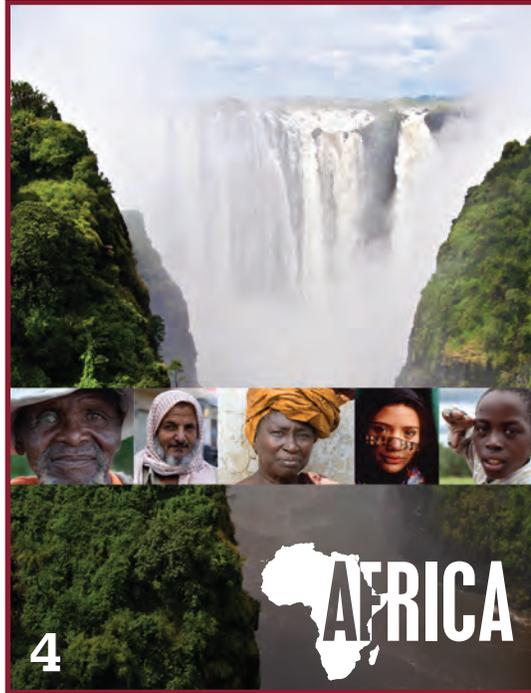


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# Celebrating

## Dr. Kelley's 15 years as President



Dr. Charles S. (Chuck) Kelley Jr., was elected unanimously Feb. 23, 1996, as the eighth president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. A professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary since August 1983, Kelley assumed the office of president March 1, 1996.

In the intervening years, Kelley has led NOBTS to successfully navigate the peaks and valleys of academics and economics. Student enrollment more than doubled in his first seven years of tenure, soaring from 1,879 students in 1997 to nearly 4,000 in 2005. Though enrollment declined in the initial aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, most recent data shows a student body of 3,741 – an almost complete rebound.

Part of the reason for the swift recovery is Kelley's ability to embrace new technologies, empowering students to access the theological education they need to carry out their ministries. In a recent statement about the seminary's future, Kelley said, "We will make some form of theological education available to every God-called man or woman on the face of the earth."

Through the implementation of Internet and hybrid courses and the development of satellite locations, Kelley has helped the school fulfill the needs of nontraditional, adult students in a variety of settings.

On-campus students have also benefitted from the building programs under Kelley's watch. Since 2002, more than 100 new student apartments and 11 new staff apartments have been built to accommodate both single students and families. In addition, other buildings such as the Price Center and Hamm Hall have been added to accommodate mission groups and conferences.

Most recently, Kelley has had to face the challenge of a national economic downturn. Having overcome the setbacks posed by post-Katrina New Orleans, the seminary is now adapting to new operational and funding strategies as a result of shortfalls in Cooperative Program giving. Nevertheless, Kelley continues to seek out new ways to reach students and mission fields. He extending the seminary's prison programs to Georgia, Mississippi and, in January, added the first women's prison. And he continues to promote academic technologies. NOBTS recently approved a specialization in Islamic studies, in response to the growing need for people specifically trained in how to reach Muslims with the Gospel. Social media strategies and smartphone apps are two other innovations currently in the works to help the seminary engage the 21st century culture.

### 1997

NOBTS enrollment reaches 1,879.

### 1998

Unanimous trustee vote keeps the seminary in the Gentilly neighborhood of New Orleans.



### 1999

Curriculum revised, features competency-based curriculum.

### 2000

Kelley announced New Horizons Campaign to fund campus improvements.

### 2001

Bunyan Building remodeled and equipped with technology, preaching lab and practice baptistry.

### 2002

Nelson L. Price Center constructed to house short-term mission groups (MissionLab).

Manor Apartments constructed - 36 new four-bedroom student apartments.

### 2003

Farnsworth Apartments renovated – 18 three-bedroom and six four-bedroom student apartments.

Undergraduate program renamed Leavell College.

### 2004

Courtyard Apartments constructed – 30 new suite-style apartments for single students.

Hamm Hall guest housing unit built to host conferences, mission groups and extension center students.

NOBTS enrollment reaches 3,897.

“I first got to know Chuck as he and I were working in the development and implementation of an old Home Mission Board Evangelism Program called Continuing Witness Training. During those days, I grew to appreciate and love Chuck for his passion for lost people and his deep concern for the local church. I was so excited when I found out that he had been elected as the president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, for I knew that he would carry that passion for souls and churches into the leadership of that great institution. Now 15 years later, I can truly say that he has gone above and beyond my hopes in that regard. I am proud of what God has done through Chuck and Rhonda’s life.”

*Dr. Frank S. Page, President & Chief Executive Officer  
SBC Executive Committee*

“Faith and faithfulness are hallmarks of the ministry of Dr. Chuck Kelley. He has guided the school through the most turbulent days of its existence and kept it on course. His achievements are nothing less than miraculous. Beside him in this pilgrimage has been his loving and loyal wife who also embodies excellence. Knowing Christ alive in them is a blessing. They truly are imprinting lives for our beloved Lord.”

*Dr. Nelson Price (BDiv '56), Pastor Emeritus, Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.;  
NOBTS Foundation Board member ; and former NOBTS Trustee*

“Chuck Kelley has been a strong advocate for keeping the seminary imbedded in the city of New Orleans. His understanding of the importance of missions in this urban environment informs everything he does and touches all around him.

The president understands our denomination and how it does its work as well as anyone I know. His passion for evangelism influences everything he does. He truly has a heart for the lost people of our city and our world.”

*Dr. David Crosby (MDiv '81), Senior Pastor  
First Baptist Church New Orleans*

## 2005

Sunshine Park and other campus recreation areas are constructed.

Construction begins on 48 two-bedroom student apartments and 11 new staff apartments.

Seminary enrollment nears 4,000.

Hurricane Katrina devastates New Orleans and NOBTS.



In spite of Katrina, Seminary continues fall semester.

## 2006

Kelley provides key leadership for hurricane recovery. NOBTS mobilized to reach out to hurting people in New Orleans.

## 2007

Seminary creates a Center for Online Theological Education

## 2008

Seminary launches hybrid courses which combine Internet tools and classroom learning opportunities.

## 2009

Kelley provides steady leadership during the global economy crisis.

## 2010

Seminary enrollment rebounds to 3,741

Seminary marks five-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

## 2011

Kelley participated in Peru mission trip in conjunction with Mission Focus Core Value Emphasis.

Graduate curriculum updated for 21st century ministry.



# AFRICA

## FINDING HOPE IN THE CRISIS

BY GARY D. MYERS

Africa has dominated the headlines in 2011. And it is easy to understand why with popular uprisings challenging entrenched leaders in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, a disputed presidential election in Ivory Coast and the birth of a new country – Southern Sudan. The AIDS/HIV epidemic, the ongoing orphan crisis, wars, ethnic cleansing and severe poverty also keep this complex region in the news.

For Christians reading of the turmoil, sickness and even the triumphs in Africa, the response can be one of helplessness or even despair. Living half a world away leaves one longing to see lasting change but feeling powerless to provide help or hope.

But when you talk about Africa with Dr. Mike Edens, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Professor of Theology and Islamic Studies at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, you cannot help but have fresh hope. Edens, who spent 17 years as a missionary in Egypt, has great hope that the Gospel will advance even in the midst of turmoil. And he encourages believers around the world to pray for a movement of God in Africa.

“We who are outside of the situation pray for and are partners with people inside the situation, and God is working through both of us to make Himself known and to create His renown and His glory among all the peoples of the earth,” Edens said. “We want to assist and that assistance is primarily through prayer.”

Edens said that it is very difficult for outsiders to know and understand all the dynamics of what is happening on the ground in each trouble spot. However, Christians can and should pray for the situation and the believers who are in those countries.



## GOD REVEALING HIMSELF IN EGYPT

The popular uprising in Egypt ultimately prompted Hosni Mubarak to step down in February after close to 30 years as the country's president. Due to his deep connections there, Edens watched closely as the events unfolded. He also kept close contact with many of the Christians he mentored during his time in Cairo. His love for the people of Egypt is evident.

Edens understands the hopes and aspirations of the young Egyptians who took to the streets and toppled the government. But at the heart of the longing for freedom and a better life is the need for salvation.

"In the middle of the uprising we have two groups," Edens said. "One group – our brothers and sisters in Christ – are seeking to present Jesus Christ in the middle of this situation. The other group, though they may not know it, is seeking to have Jesus as Lord of life so that their lives can take on meaning."

"This movement, where God is making Himself known in the midst of chaos as things thought to be unchangeable are crumbling, is the most important movement that is going on in Egypt today."

As the governments tumble, the immovable, unchangeable God and the love of Christ demonstrated by His people is offering stability and hope, Edens said.

## BAPTIST BEGINNINGS IN EGYPT

According to Edens, the Baptist work in Egypt started in a way only God could orchestrate. From the very beginning it was organic and indigenous.

In the 1920s, J. Wash Watts, who would later join the NOBTS faculty, met a young Egyptian Christian in Jerusalem. His name was Sadek Gergus. Watts believed that Gergus had the gift of preaching and helped him attend Southwestern Seminary to receive ministry training. Gergus later had the opportunity to return to Egypt in 1931 to plant a church sponsored by Southern Baptists. The church thrived in this most difficult setting and continues to reach people for Christ today. Now, some 80 years later, it is the largest Baptist congregation in the Arab world. The current pastor is a student in New Orleans Seminary's doctor of ministry program.

"Not only through the Cooperative Program, not only through missionaries who are there now, but the very beginning of Baptist work in Egypt was through the organic connection of a man of God sent out by the Southern Baptist Convention," Edens said.

**I'VE WITNESSED BELIEVERS BAPTIZING BELIEVERS, AND GOD WORKING IN LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE REMOTEST AREAS.**

**– SEAN PAYNE**

## UNIQUE SETTING, UNIQUE HISTORY

Throughout the continent, Southern Baptist missionaries are working with local Baptists to reach the people of Africa with the message of Jesus Christ. It is a daunting task. The African continent is home to 1 billion people – more than 14 percent of the world's population. Asia is the only more populous continent. The United Nations expects Africa's population to nearly double over the next 40 years to 1.9 billion.

The mission prayer resource Operation World identifies more than 3,500 distinct ethnic groups in Africa. They speak more than 2,000 different languages or dialects and live in approximately 60 sovereign nations. However, it is rare for all the members of an ethnic group to live solely in the confines of one country. Often they are spread across many separate nations.

The task of preaching the Gospel is also complicated by the sheer size of the continent, the political tension there and the state of its infrastructure. Africa is the second-largest continent covering 11.6 million square miles. Travel is complicated by poor roads, war and political struggles. While urbanization is on the rise, Africa is still overwhelmingly rural – only 40 percent of Africans live in cities.

Dr. Damian Emetuche, the Nigerian-born Nehemiah Professor of Church Planting at NOBTS, said that it is difficult for outsiders to understand what is happening in Nigeria and Ivory Coast. Emetuche, who served as a church planter in Ivory Coast, said that the issues are numerous, complex and long-standing. They are economic, religious and political, and some issues can be traced even to colonialism and ongoing European involvement in Africa.

But Emetuche knows how God can work even in a difficult situation. When many people were suffering during the Nigerian Civil War from 1967-1970, Baptists supplied aid to many refugees. Baptists also planted a number of churches in Nigeria; one was planted in Emetuche's village. Through the ministry of that church, Emetuche's immediate family came to faith in Christ and the pastor began teaching him about the faith. Shortly after he finished high school, Emetuche came to Christ during a meeting of Baptist youth.

## GOD'S WORK AMID CRISIS

Sean Payne, a current NOBTS student, spent the spring semester living in Johannesburg, South Africa, serving as a missionary with the IMB's Hands On program. Payne traveled extensively with a media team chronicling God's work in southern Africa.

"I've witnessed believers baptizing believers, and God working in lives of people who live in the remotest areas," Payne said. "I've also seen God restoring hearts and minds in the aftermath of crises that most only hear of on the news."

Payne said the political unrest in northern and western Africa is having emotional and psychological effects throughout the continent.

Jonathan Bundrick, a recent NOBTS graduate, spent most of 2010 serving with Hands On in Africa – first as a media team member and then as a church planter. He also witnessed God work in spite of numerous crises.

HIV/AIDS is still rampant on the continent. According to Bundrick, nine African nations have an HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate of more than 10 percent. In three of those nations, more than 20 percent of people between 15 and 49 years of age



From left to right: Photo 1) Church service in Zambia, Photo 2) Children in Lesotho, Photo 3) Siaka Coly, left, a Christian believer who serves as a translator for volunteer groups that come to the area, stands with NOBTS student Sean Payne.

are living with HIV/AIDS. But Bundrick witnessed the openness of governments to look to the church to help confront this problem. As Southern Baptists teach abstinence through programs like True Love Waits, the Gospel is being preached. The church is also responding to the crisis by providing ministry and care to the growing number of HIV/AIDS widows and orphans.

Bundrick also encountered a unique and challenging problem in Africa – polygamy. He said a growing number of people who are coming to faith in Christ are in plural marriages. During the process of discipleship, these new believers are forced to deal with the difficult choice of how to end plural marriages and how to care for the women who are impacted by those decisions.

Both Payne and Bundrick listed the missionaries as a top prayer concern. These men and women minister in the midst of pain, poverty and spiritual warfare. They also see traditional animistic beliefs and ancestor worship hindering the work in Africa.

## A HUNGER FOR GOD

There is a great hunger for God in many areas of Africa. Bundrick said he even witnessed pockets of revival in Zimbabwe. In 2010 the United Nations Development Program published a 20-year human development index study which tracked

individual prosperity, life expectancy and education levels. Of the 169 nations graded, Zimbabwe ranked the lowest. But that hasn't stopped the Gospel.

“Evangelical churches and fellowships have seen huge response in some of the more remote villages where entire villages are coming to know Christ and being publicly baptized,” Bundrick said.

When missionaries planted the first church among Shona people in March 2010, one farmer, along with 10 other men, walked three hours to find out more about the church. Though the men had a limited understanding of the Shona language, they stayed to hear the teachings. All 10 men received Christ and some were baptized a few months later. Later 98 more people in the village received Christ and were baptized. The farmer is now serving as the leader of his church.

“Revival is not necessarily prevalent in the entire region of southern Africa, but in pockets, the Gospel is spreading like wildfire,” Bundrick said.

## NOBTS MISSION FOCUS

Each year NOBTS President Chuck Kelley gives special emphasis to one of the school's core values. This year the emphasis has been on the core value of Mission Focus which reads: *Our Seminary does not exist merely to get an education or to give an education. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments*

*through the local church and its ministries.*

With all that has and is happening in Africa this year, the continent is an appropriate place to explore this emphasis. Through the International Mission Board and through the local church, many students and alumni of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary are living out this Mission Focus by working in the vast mission field of Africa. Some cannot be named. Others have limited access to outside communication. In the following pages, *Vision* recounts the stories of several people who are finding a way to minister to the people of Africa.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RECENT UPRISINGS?

Smartphone users can scan this QR code to read Dr. Edens' three-part series on the uprising.



Don't have a smartphone? View it online at [www.nobts.edu/Publications/News/Uprisings.html](http://www.nobts.edu/Publications/News/Uprisings.html).

# AFRICA

## LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR HALF A WORLD AWAY

BY FRANK MICHAEL MCCORMACK

The legal expert quoted the Great Commandments with ease.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” he said. “And love your neighbor as yourself.”

He had just answered his own question. The expert had audaciously “stood up to test” Jesus, asking him to lay out a plan for achieving eternal life. Jesus challenged the expert in the law to answer the question himself. He was an expert, after all.

“What is written in the law? How do you read it?” Jesus asked.

With his answer, drawn from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, the legal expert earned a verbal commendation from Jesus.

“You’ve answered correctly,” Jesus said. “Do this and you will live.”

But the second Great Commandment left the expert in the law a little uneasy, so he asked a followup question. And it’s the same question that haunts every person who is more concerned with achieving righteousness than with practicing it.

“And who is my neighbor?”

In reply, Jesus told him what later came to be known as the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-35). In the parable, a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho is attacked by robbers and left for dead in the gutter.

He is first passed over by a priest, then again by a Levite. Both were at the pinnacle of Jewish religious culture. Both pretended the man was invisible.

But then along came a Samaritan man, of a race and religious background both dishonored and disregarded by any self-respecting Jew. The Samaritan “went to him and took pity on him,” bandaged his wounds and generously provided for the man’s recovery. He, not the priest or the Levite, was a neighbor to the injured man.

Not only did the parable push the envelope concerning behavior toward a neighbor, but it also broadened the concept of “who is my neighbor.”

Loving neighbor, the legal expert found out, has nothing to do with proximity or ethnicity and everything to do with action.

“Go and do likewise,” Jesus said.

Jesus would later reiterate that command to “go and do likewise” at the conclusion of Matthew’s Gospel and the beginning of Acts.

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,” Matthew 28:19 says.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth,” Acts 1:8 says.

Both the Great Commandments and the Great Commission are free of geographical, ethnic and cultural boundaries and limitations. But just because it’s commanded doesn’t make it easy.

Going and doing likewise among people half-way around the world requires steadfast commitment, conviction and a good strategy. What follows are some examples of how individuals, churches and associations are seeking to “go and do likewise” all the way around the world.

### THE BIG MOVE: ‘TRADITIONAL’ MISSIONARY SERVICE

Their names stand tall on the list of Christian heroes. The Apostle Paul, Patrick of Ireland, William Carey, Jim Elliot, and many others. They are the long-term missionaries who spend years – and sometimes give their lives – on the mission field spreading the Gospel in word and deed. They speak new languages, forge new friendships, sink new roots, engage new cultures.

For them, the call to “go and do likewise” means packing bags and leaving familiarity behind in order to share the Gospel where

it has not yet been preached. One case in point is Michael and Michelle Allen, who serve as International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries in Madagascar, Africa.

The Allens both sensed God’s call on their lives as singles in the 1990s. They explored that call through both the church and short-term missions. That response eventually led them to New Orleans Seminary, where they met in February 2005.

Michelle said it was apparent from even their first conversation that they had a common passion for missions.

“We married six months after our first date,” Michelle said.

The Allens graduated together in May 2008 and were on the field in Madagascar less than six months later. They now minister in northern Madagascar, working to plant churches among the Antankaran and Northern Sakalava people groups. Most of the Antankarana follow Islam, and both groups practice ancestor worship. Less than 1 percent of the Antankarana and about 2 percent of the North Sakalava are believers.

With its mountainous terrain and difficult travel conditions, Madagascar isn’t the easiest place to do ministry. Oftentimes, the Allens’ ministry is at the mercy of the seasonal weather conditions. This past December, in fact, they had to temporarily abandon a fruitful work in the village of Bemoko due to the rainy season and impassable roads. But the Allens soon discovered that God used that setback to initiate a new work in another village. Within a month, close to a dozen people had been saved in a village called Mahamasina. One of those saved is a national park guide, who now frequently gets to share his faith with international tourists visiting Madagascar.

It’s a testament to God’s providence: Through the witness of two American missionaries, a Madagascan is sharing his new faith with tourists from around the world.



## TESTING THE WATERS: SHORT-TERM SERVICE

Another way that people respond to God's call to "go and do likewise" is through short-term missions, oftentimes before, during or after college. The International Mission Board offers a variety of short-term mission opportunities, including its Journeyman and Hands On programs. Short-term mission assignments are an exciting way to discover new peoples and cultures and lay a firm foundation for a lifetime of mission service.

That was the case for Chris and Katie Nalls, both Georgia natives who met for the first time while serving as Journeymen.

"Chris and I only lived about four hours apart from each other in Georgia, but we met as Journeymen in Mozambique," Katie said.

Chris had first traveled to Mozambique in college as part of a church mission trip. During the trip, he felt God's call to mission service. Katie had been introduced to life as a missionary and to Africa by her aunt and uncle, who served as missionaries in Zimbabwe. She first visited there when she was 12 years old.

After their time as Journeymen in Mozambique, the Nalls returned to the United States, got married and moved to New Orleans to attend New Orleans Seminary. They applied to be career missionaries with the IMB and soon accepted an assignment in Tete, Mozambique. Katie said, while she and Chris were Journeymen in Mozambique, they had actually prayed for God to send someone to Tete.

"At the time, we had no clue that we would one day be married and that God would lead us to answer that job request and come to Tete, but that is what He did," she said.

Another way to experience short-term mission service is through the IMB's Hands On program, a semester-long mentored mission experience overseas. Hands On missionaries partner with long-term missionaries in the field in ongoing work, while also developing personal evangelism and discipleship skills and discovering God's long-term call on their life.

Hands On missionaries raise about a third of their own support, with the remaining funds coming through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, regular Cooperative Program giving and donations directly to IMB.

For more information on long-term or short-term mission opportunities with the International Mission Board, go online to [www.IMB.org](http://www.IMB.org).

## LONG-DISTANCE ADOPTION: CHURCHES SEEKING THE UNREACHED

More and more, individual churches and associations are adopting unreached people groups with whom to "go and do likewise."

The International Mission Board sponsors more than 5,000 missionaries around the world each year. But according to IMB statistics, there are more than 6,700 people groups in the world where Evangelical Christians make up less than 2 percent of the total population. That amounts to some 4 billion people. According to the IMB, more than 368 million people in the world have not been engaged by any Christian group.

The 5,000-plus missionaries alone cannot effectively reach the billions of people who make up those 6,700 unreached people groups. Churches are filling the gap, sometimes partnering with missionaries already in place and sometimes developing and



## Quick Facts

**POPULATION: 1 BILLION (14 PERCENT OF WORLD POPULATION)**

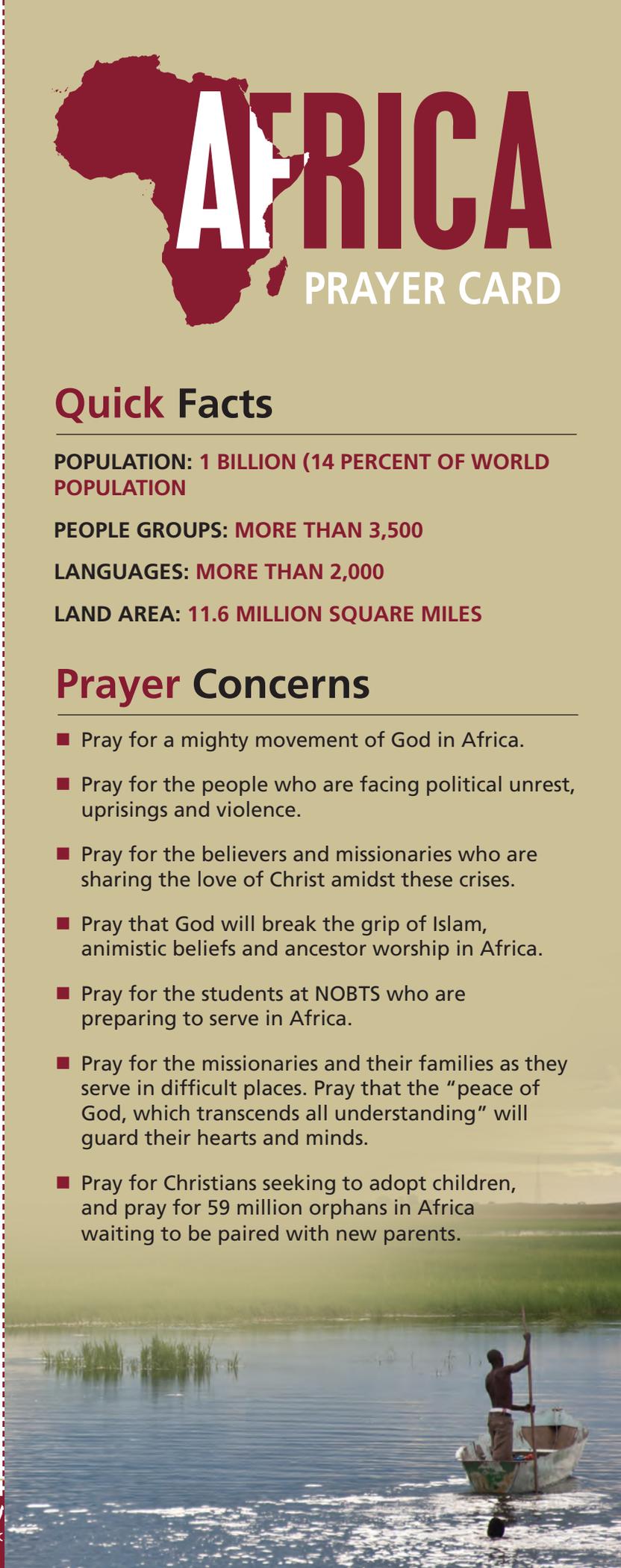
**PEOPLE GROUPS: MORE THAN 3,500**

**LANGUAGES: MORE THAN 2,000**

**LAND AREA: 11.6 MILLION SQUARE MILES**

## Prayer Concerns

- Pray for a mighty movement of God in Africa.
- Pray for the people who are facing political unrest, uprisings and violence.
- Pray for the believers and missionaries who are sharing the love of Christ amidst these crises.
- Pray that God will break the grip of Islam, animistic beliefs and ancestor worship in Africa.
- Pray for the students at NOBTS who are preparing to serve in Africa.
- Pray for the missionaries and their families as they serve in difficult places. Pray that the "peace of God, which transcends all understanding" will guard their hearts and minds.
- Pray for Christians seeking to adopt children, and pray for 59 million orphans in Africa waiting to be paired with new parents.



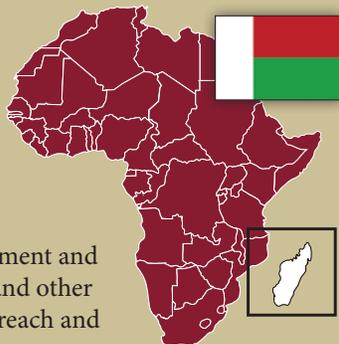
## PRAY FOR Michael & Michelle Allen MADAGASCAR



The Allens have served as IMB missionaries to Madagascar, an island nation off the southeastern coast of Africa, since October 2008. They minister in northern Madagascar, working to plant churches among the Antankarana and Northern Sakalava people groups. Less than 1 percent of the Antankarana and about 2 percent of the Northern Sakalava are believers.

### Ways to pray:

- Pray the gospel will continue to take root in the village of Bemoko and that a church will emerge.
- Pray for a breakthrough among the Antankarana people where the Allens have seen little fruit.
- Pray God would shower encouragement and strength on Michael and Michelle and other missionaries who serve in hard-to-reach and isolated parts of the world.



## PRAY FOR Chris & Katie Nalls MOZAMBIQUE



The Nalls arrived in southeastern Africa in July 2008, and in Tete, Mozambique, later that year. Katie and Chris now work alongside a group of Baptist churches in and around Tete to share the gospel, make disciples and start churches among the Nyungwe people and several other nearby people groups.

### Ways to pray:

- Pray that churches in and around Tete will have a biblical understanding of salvation, membership and discipleship, which is vital to planting reproducing churches.
- Pray for Katie and Chris as they continue to study the Nyungwe language.
- Pray for the Nalls as they raise their daughters, Abigail and Emma Claire, far away from family and friends in the United States.



implementing a strategy for an unengaged people group.

The IMB has called this new approach “Getting There: Our Journey to Impact an Unreached World.” Individuals and churches interested in discovering and adopting an unreached people group can go online to <http://GettingThere.IMBresources.org> and search an interactive map of the world. Each of the unreached and unengaged people groups around the world are plotted on the map, with demographic information just a click away.

The Getting There website also has downloadable materials useful for identifying and adopting a people group and developing a strategy for engaging that people group.

## ADOPTION UP CLOSE: CARING FOR THE FATHERLESS

Wars, famine, disease, disaster and poverty. All contribute to the staggering numbers of orphans in the world today. According to UNICEF – the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund – as of 2009 there were some 153 million orphaned children in the world. Of those, 16.6 million were orphaned by AIDS. Fifty-nine million orphans were in Africa, about 71 million in Asia and 9.8 million in Latin America.

Of all orphans, close to 95 percent lived in developing countries.

But in the face of those statistics, a growing number of Christians are living out their call to “go and do likewise” by serving as foster parents or bringing children into their families through adoption. In this way, they reflect the heart of God who is “a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows” (Psalm 68:5).

For Christians interested in exploring foster care or adoption, there are myriad organizations, advocacy groups and resources to choose from. A recent book, called *Orphanology*, and corresponding Bible study by New Orleans Seminary alumni Rick Morton and Tony Merida chronicle this movement among Evangelical Christians and serves as a good starting point for believers seeking to care for the fatherless. For more on *Orphanology*, visit [www.orphanologybook.com](http://www.orphanologybook.com) or see page 23 of *Vision* magazine.

## BEFORE YOU ‘GO AND DO LIKEWISE’

A good starting point for Christians – whether they are preparing for missionary service, searching for a people group to engage or considering orphan care or adoption – is prayer. Pray for missionaries already on the field. Pray that God would bring a particular region or people group to mind. Pray for the fatherless and the widow, both at home and abroad. And pray for the boldness and determination to “go and do likewise.”

## LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD’S WORK IN AFRICA

Smartphone users can scan this QR code to visit the International Mission Board’s Africa Stories website.

Don’t have a smartphone? View it online at [www.africastories.org/](http://www.africastories.org/)



# MISSION FOCUS: ANALYSIS AND APPLICATION

BY DR. PHILIP PINCKARD

The emphasis on our Mission Focus core value at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary since the fall of 2010 has been timely and appropriate. That core value states: “*We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local churches and its ministries.*”

## BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

The Bible tells us how important it is for people to hear the Gospel and for people to go to take the Gospel to others. We read in Romans 10:14-15 “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent? even as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things!”

## APPLICATION FOR OUR LIVES

The first application for our lives from this text is we should be **faithful to share the Gospel**. The apostle Paul asked how can people call on Him of whom they have not heard and how can they believe in whom they have not heard. He asks how they can believe in the Lord if they have not heard. Pray about people with whom you can be sharing the Gospel this week.

The second application for our lives is to be **flexible in sharing the Gospel**. The apostle Paul asks how can people hear unless someone preaches the Gospel to them. As we share the Gospel with others, we need to be flexible.

The apostle Paul in the book of Acts would share the Gospel with the Jews in their synagogues. When he was driven out, he would gladly share the Gospel with the Gentiles (Acts 13). Paul demonstrated flexibility in sharing the Gospel.

The third application for our lives is to **focus on Jesus in sharing the Gospel**. Paul in writing to the Romans uses a quotation from the book of Isaiah in Romans 10:15 which says the feet of those who share the Gospel are beautiful. How can this be done?

Lottie Moon provides an example of someone who would focus on Jesus in sharing the Gospel. She took the Gospel to many villages in China. She was one of the first single female missionaries to move to the interior city of Pingtu, around 120 miles from the coast of China where she had served many years.<sup>1</sup> She had many occasions to focus on Jesus. During a persecution of believers she took a stand between a group persecuting believers and a band of Christians. She said “If you attempt to destroy this church, you will have to kill me first. Jesus gave himself for us Christians. Now I am ready to die for him.”<sup>2</sup> One man raised his sword and Lottie spoke to the frightened believers: “Only believe, don’t fear. Our Master, Jesus, watches over us, and no matter what the persecution, Jesus will surely overcome it.”<sup>3</sup> The man dropped his sword, but during that time period some believers were persecuted and some were murdered.

Lottie was indeed focused on Jesus in sharing the Gospel. She said: “As I wander from village to village, I feel it no fancy that the Master walks besides me and I hear his voice saying gently, ‘I am with you always, even until the end.’”<sup>4</sup> May we follow the



**Dr. Philip A. Pinckard**

**Professor of Missions and  
Director of the Global Mission  
Center at NOBTS**

For more about missions at NOBTS, visit  
[www.nobts.edu/GlobalMissions/](http://www.nobts.edu/GlobalMissions/)

example of Lottie who focused on Jesus as she shared the Gospel with others.

## MISSION FOCUS FOR STUDENTS AT NOBTS

It is exciting to note many students at NOBTS who engage in missions in their communities and beyond. Students in the Christian Missions course are required to participate in volunteer missions service. They develop a strategy as a class assignment to help churches have an Acts 1:8 focus to share the Gospel in their community, state, North America, and take the Gospel to people groups and other places through international missions focus. They learn how the Cooperative Program is a wonderful tool to help Southern Baptists engage in missions.

NOBTS students who serve through local churches in the New Orleans area help feed the homeless, tutor students, share the Gospel with ship workers from around the world, and minister to people locally in the name of Jesus.

NOBTS students are responding to the call to serve as church planters in North America and take the Gospel to unreached people groups, urban centers, and population segments around the world.

## MY RESPONSE

- Encourage those preparing for missions ministry to study through the ministries of NOBTS. There are a number of degree plans related to missions.
- Pray our students will continue to engage in missions in New Orleans and beyond.
- Pray that God will continue to call out students to reach the unreached to the ends of the earth.
- Give so that students preparing for missions service may receive scholarships. Give so that more money can help the seminary family take the Gospel to the ends of the earth through short-term mission trips and projects.

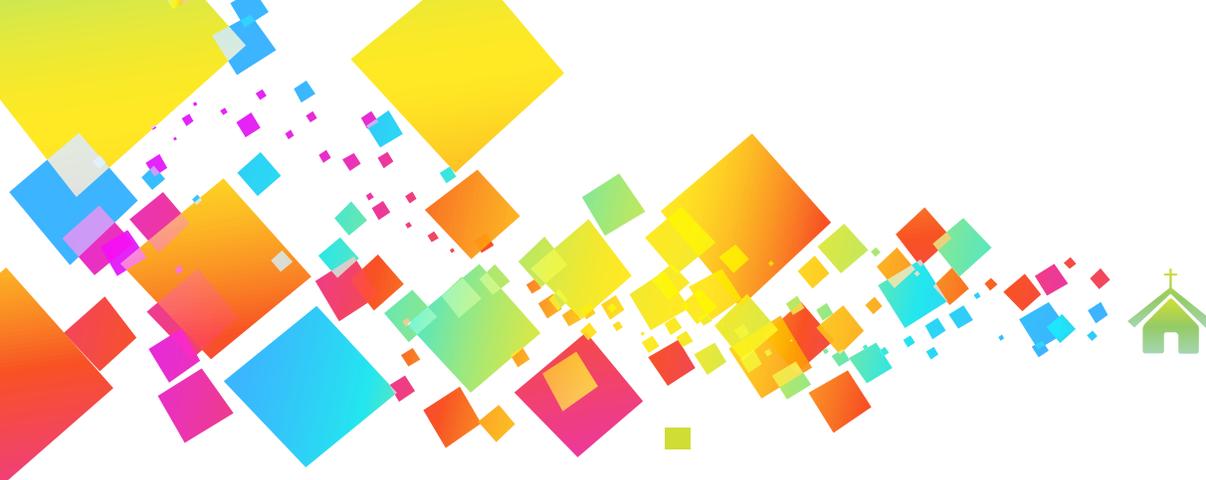
## End Notes

<sup>1</sup> William R. Estep, *Whole Gospel Whole World: The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention 1845-1995* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers), 148.

<sup>2</sup> Catherine B. Allen, *The New Lottie Moon Story* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1980), 184.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 132.



# Multiethnic churches are crucial for North American Church's future

By Frank Michael McCormack

Cultural exclusivity in the church represents neither the power of the Gospel nor American society as a whole. And for the church to maintain relevance and vibrance in the coming decades, that has to change.

That's the message Dr. Damian Emetuche, national missionary for the North American Mission Board and Assistant Professor of Nehemiah Church Planting at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, is telling his students as they prepare for ministry in the 21st century.

Emetuche, who also directs the Cecil B. Day Center for Church Planting at NOBTS, took a unique path to his current post in New Orleans.

The Nigerian-born husband and father of five got his start in ministry by serving as a pastor and church planter in his home country in the early 1990s. Then in 1995, he was sent as a missionary of the Nigerian Baptist Convention to nearby Ivory Coast to do church planting. He served in Ivory Coast through 2003.

In 2004, Emetuche moved to the United States to pursue a Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. While studying there, he served as a North American Mission Board church planter in Hamilton, Ohio, near Cincinnati. And in 2007, he moved to the Seattle area where he worked as a chaplain, pastor and church planter.

Emetuche, who came to NOBTS in early 2010, admits he's a relative newcomer to American culture – but that's not necessarily a disadvantage.

"I see things, at least for now, as an outsider," Emetuche said.

And as someone who still has an outsider's objective point of view, Emetuche offers a major critique of the American church: In a time when North America is becoming more and more multicultural, North American churches tend to be culturally exclusive. Members too often share the same race, nationality or socio-economic background.

That's a problem, Emetuche said, first because it goes against the message of the Gospel.

## ■ THE BIBLICAL PRECEDENT

From the Pentecost experience in Acts 2 and the church at Antioch to the Apostle Paul's calls for unity in Ephesians 3 and Galatians 3, Emetuche said the New Testament paints a clear picture of the church as diverse and multicultural.

"I believe there was no New Testament church that was a homogeneous church," Emetuche said. "Every New Testament church was multiethnic."

But achieving diversity wasn't always easy for the early church.

Dr. Gerald Stevens, Professor of New Testament and Greek at NOBTS, said the early church grappled with whether Christianity, like Judaism, should carry ethnic prerequisites.

"Is Christianity ethnically defined? That was the question before the church. And that's what Acts 15 is about," Stevens said.

In Acts 15, Paul, Barnabas, Peter and the Jerusalem church leaders met to debate whether the new Gentile Christians had to follow only Jesus or both the teachings of Jesus and the social customs of Judaism. Stevens said that, at the heart of the debate, was a battle over ethnicity.

"The Apostles were the ones that were helping break that mold of ethnicity as definitive of the people of God," Stevens said of the Jerusalem debate. "And we begin to perceive it's not our ethnicity that makes us the people of God but our obedience and our faith, regardless of ethnicity."

Stevens admitted that, both in Jesus' day and today, embracing diversity can be difficult and even threatening. It requires a healthy dose of humility, which gets to the heart of Jesus' command to "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," he said.

"In a cosmopolitan setting, we cannot claim success of the Gospel unless we are multiethnic and multicultural in our visible expression of Christianity," Stevens said. "The

groups we show – the Bible study groups, the mission groups, any group in which we present ourselves to the public – if it's not multiethnic, it's not Gospel."

Emetuche echoed that imperative.

"In the kingdom of God, we're going to ultimately be together, so we better learn to be together here," Emetuche said. "If the church is divided, we have little or no message to give the world."

## ■ THE DEMOGRAPHIC MANDATE

For the North American church, though, the biblical case for diversity in the church is matched with demographic demands. Statistics indicate that, over the next four decades, the complexion and cultural background of the United States will become much more diverse.

The Pew Research Center released a study titled "U.S. Population Projections: 2005–2050" in early 2008 that detailed the estimated demographic trends in America through the midpoint of the 21st century.

With regard to race, the next 40 years will see dramatic change. The Pew Center projected that white Americans, who now make up more than 60 percent of the population, will account for about 47 percent in 2050. The Hispanic population will see the greatest numerical and percentage increase, from 14 percent in 2005 (41 million) to 29 percent in 2050 (127 million). Black Americans will remain about 13 percent of the population, and the Asian community will increase from about 5 percent to 9 percent of the population.

But by far, the most remarkable demographic shift will occur among immigrants. The Pew Center estimated that, of the total population increase between 2005 and 2050, a full 82 percent of the growth will be from immigrants and their descendants. Between 2005 and 2050, about 120 million people will be added due to immigration – 67 million immigrants, 47 million children born to immigrants and about 3 million grandchildren.

The United States in 40 years will, undoubtedly, undergo a dramatic demographic makeover.

But The Pew Center's Forum on Religion and Public Life has found that evangelical churches have a long way to go with regard to diversity. In the Forum's U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, it found that about 81 percent of all members of evangelical Protestant churches identify themselves as

"white." Seven percent consider themselves "Hispanic," followed by 6 percent who identify themselves as "black." Four percent identified themselves as "other," while 2 percent were "Asian."

And in Southern Baptist life, the statistics are even more concerning. According to an internal study titled "Evangelism and Church Planting in North America" published by the North American Mission Board, about 93 percent of members of Southern Baptist churches in 2008 considered themselves to be "Anglo American," or white.

The study drew three sobering conclusions.

"First, the growth of the population of North America is quickly outpacing the growth of Southern Baptists. Second, North America is much more diverse than the SBC. Third, Southern Baptists will have to cross many cultural and language barriers to evangelize and disciple the 255 million lost people of North America," the study said.

Emetuche summed it up this way: "The truth is this: North America as a whole is becoming much more diverse. We can't escape that. That will affect culture and everything else. We have to understand that."

## ■ WHERE TO NOW

Emetuche said that, for him at least, the easiest way to pursue and embrace diversity in church life is to start a new church.

"For me, it's easier just to go start a church," he said. "Generally, when starting a new church, you're starting from a clean slate. With an existing church it's like an adult person, so it's hard to change their behavior."

And the "Evangelism and Church Planting in North America" study supports that argument. Churches started between 1998 and 2008 were remarkably more ethnically diverse than older congregations.

But existing churches can also become more multiethnic. One key way for existing churches to become more diverse, Emetuche said, is by diversifying their leadership.

"With a multiethnic church, the leadership has to be diverse. You have to intentionally have diverse leaders," he said.

Dr. Ken Taylor, Professor of Urban Missions at NOBTS and pastor in New Orleans' Gentilly neighborhood for 27 years, echoed that call to leadership diversity. Until Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Taylor served as pastor of Elysian Fields Baptist Church. Afterward, both Elysian Fields and Gentilly Baptist Churches worshiped together and later merged.

Taylor said Gentilly Baptist Church is about half African American and half white. And to reflect that racial diversity, Taylor said he has pursued a similar diversity among the church's leaders.

"It's helped people see that we're not just a diverse church, but we're willing to have diversity in leadership too," Taylor said.

And that was a strategy the early church followed as well, Stevens said, when the Apostles appointed a group of Greek believers to oversee the food distribution to Greeks in the church.

"That had to have been uncomfortable for them. Who wants to give up power? That wasn't necessarily pleasant, but they knew it was the right thing to do," Stevens said. "For everyone to have ownership in this ministry, we have to empower others."

Taylor also encouraged church pastors to understand and acknowledge their church's history with regard to race and social class in the surrounding community. In the case of Elysian Fields and Gentilly Baptist churches, both congregations had a history of racial exclusivity that had to be overcome with years of love and ministry.

And as a church achieves greater diversity, Taylor said members and leaders alike must approach worship – and worship styles – with an extra helping of grace.

"It just takes a lot of grace, but I think there's some enjoyment there too," Taylor said of combining various worship styles. "The joy is to just be able to look out and think, 'This is a little bit like how heaven will be.' That's a great thing."

Ultimately, Stevens said, diversity can take hold when people look past outward differences to see the wealth of human commonalities just below the surface. He said that was one positive effect Hurricane Katrina had on the New Orleans community.

"Katrina shook us up and shaved us of our cultural identity [that we have] through our homes, our cars and our possessions. Once all of our culture was stripped away, we found that we were all human beings," he said. "The trappings of all our culture went down the river, and all that was left was just one human hand reaching out to another human hand, asking 'Can I help you.'"

The "Evangelism and Church Planting in North America" report is available online at [www.namb.net/cmrr](http://www.namb.net/cmrr). To see The Pew Research Center's demographic projections, go to [www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org).

## 850 NOBTS students receive scholarships in 2010-2011

**F**or the 2010-2011 school year, the NOBTS Financial Aid Office distributed more than \$765,000 in scholarship money to almost 850 students. These students included music majors, first-semester students, student wives, returning short-term missionaries, and many pastors working hard semester after semester to follow God's leading in their lives toward theological education.

**\$765,000**  
in scholarships  
distributed in  
2010-2011

The scholarships are made possible through generous endowments and month-to-month giving.

“The more money that we are able to provide in scholarships, the less students have to pursue private loans and payment plans,” said Owen Nease, Director of Financial Aid at NOBTS. “Monetary gifts, along with good financial stewardship from the students, allows them the financial freedom to pursue God's leading wherever He might direct. Our God truly is the Giver of every good and perfect gift.” 

For more information about giving to NOBTS, please call the Office for Institutional Advancement at (504) 282-4455, ext. 3252 or visit us at [www.nobts.edu/development/](http://www.nobts.edu/development/)

## Top 6 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.

## The Providence Fund: The news is spreading

**T**he Gospel is advancing through the ministry of the students and alumni of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. And many of you are helping to make that possible! Through gifts to the Providence Fund, we have been able to make a quality theological education affordable for those called to study here.

Recently, one of our alumni shared a story with us about her experience in the mission field. It serves as a great example of what the Lord has been doing through our students and alumni, and in the lives of those to whom they minister.

*“My name is Leah Brown, and I am a missionary with the International Mission Board, working currently in Sucre, Bolivia. I am also an alumnus of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Living where I do and traveling as much as I do, it is often difficult to find time for things like letters and email. But I really just wanted to take a minute to share with some of you back home the things that the Lord has been doing here in Sucre and how NOBTS has helped me in my ministry to the people here.*

*The focus of our team is among the Quechua women of Southern Bolivia. I also serve as the medical specialist for our group. With all of these responsibilities, I had certain expectations for what I would be doing on the field.*

*But praise the Lord almost none of these expectations have been fulfilled. The Lord has done above and beyond what I could ever imagine.*

*When I first arrived in Bolivia, the Lord began to show me that a large part of my ministry would be to my own teammates. I had the opportunity to invest in the journeymen serving with us and to lead them by example on a daily basis. Much of the work at the start of our ministry involved investigating various Quechua communities, getting to know the people and the language, and spending weeks at a time teaching Bible stories among the people.*

*Our main work is among Quechua women believers, encouraging and discipling them to go out and evangelize and disciple other Quechua women. We use the Chronological Bible storying method, a method I was first introduced to in a class at NOBTS. We memorize stories from the Bible in Quechua and then strive to not only share, but to teach these stories to women believers so that they can go out and teach the stories to others. Many of these women have never received formal education and, thus, are unable to read. Even those who are able to read do not learn in a literal manner, but in a more oral fashion. That’s why sharing the stories in this way is so important for these women – they can finally hide the Word of God in their hearts, even though they cannot read (Ps. 119:11)!*

*Our team gets very excited and passionate about this work, but it does not come without challenges. One of the barriers that we run across often is the women’s mindset that they are not able to learn/memorize the stories. The Quechua have been discriminated against for hundreds of years, and this tends toward a mindset of inferiority. Only the power of God and His Word can break through this barrier and reveal the truth to these people. Please be in prayer with us specifically for this to happen*



Leah Brown, left, serves with the IMB in Bolivia.

**I am so grateful for the support and encouragement that I received while studying at NOBTS. Even though I knew from a fairly young age that I desired to be a missionary, the time that I spent in New Orleans and at seminary only confirmed this call. – Leah Brown**

*among this people group – that they may know that the Lord can enable them to learn and share His Word with many others!*

*I am so grateful for the support and encouragement that I received while studying at NOBTS. Even though I knew from a fairly young age that I desired to be a missionary, the time that I spent in New Orleans and at seminary only confirmed this call. The mission classes and other classes that I took while there helped to prepare me for some of the situations I face here in Bolivia on a daily basis. Let me honestly say that I believe the Holy Spirit is our best Teacher (Jn. 14:26), and some of the most phenomenal followers of Christ that walked this earth were not seminary trained. But the Lord chose to use NOBTS in my life and in the lives of many others to challenge me and teach me and to draw me closer to Him.*

*If you feel at all that the Lord may be leading you to give, know that it would be a worthy cause and that it can highly impact students who are where I was just a few years ago. Know that you can play a part in what the Lord is doing all around the world. How amazing to know that we will one day stand with a multitude (including some Quechua folks) around the throne!”* **V**

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).

## Board approves Islamic studies specialization, program revisions

BY GARY D. MYERS

**T**rustees at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary approved a new master's specialization in Islamic studies, a new graduate certificate for bivocational ministers and affirmed revisions to graduate certificates and degrees during their spring meeting April 13. The board also approved a \$20.9 million budget.

The new Master of Divinity (M.Div.) specialization in Islamic Studies is the fruit of several years of work. The first step was securing faculty members with the experience and knowledge base to lead the program. In recent years, trustees elected Mike Edens and Page Brooks to the faculty as professors of theology and Islamic studies.

Edens served with the International Mission Board for more than 25 years in the North Africa/Middle East region. Edens' unique experience and understanding of Islamic culture

prepared him to train the next generation of missionaries who will minister among the world's growing Muslim population. For Brooks, besides his extensive academic study of Islamic thinking, he also draws experience from short-term mission encounters with Muslims and, most recently, from eight months spent in Iraq serving as a military chaplain.

"This degree is our response to the crucial, missional challenge of preparing a generation of leaders to understand Islam and how to explain the Gospel to the Islamic peoples of the world," said NOBTS President Chuck Kelley.

The board unanimously approved a plan to update and revise each graduate certificate and degree. Based on 18 months

of research, the faculty and administration developed modest revisions designed to better prepare students for ministry in the 21st century. In most cases, the changes resulted in more focused degree plans with fewer total hours.

Trustees affirmed revisions to the standard M.Div. degree during their December 2010 meeting. The goal of the revision was to strengthen the focus on biblical studies, discipleship strategies and church revitalization and to streamline the degree by eliminating or combining overlapping courses. Since the standard M.Div. serves as the basis for all the seminary's specialized M.Div. programs, the revisions impact each specialization as well as master of arts degrees and graduate certificates.

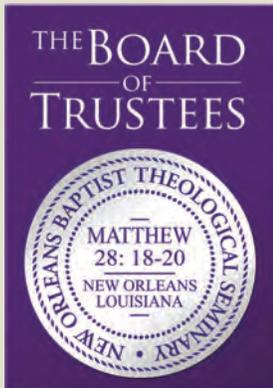
Provost Steve Lemke said the seminary is developing guidelines to help students make a smooth transition this August when the revisions take effect.

"All of our current students should be able to graduate no later than they are currently scheduled. Since the new degree has fewer hours, some students who follow carefully the advice of their academic advisor may be able to graduate a semester earlier," Lemke said.

The trustees also approved a \$20.9 million budget, down slightly from last year's \$21 million budget. In spite of decreased Cooperative Program contributions, trustees were able to pass a balanced budget with only minor increases to student tuition and housing rates.

In other action trustees also approved:

- A new graduate certificate in bivocational ministry
- Church leadership certificates at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans and Living Faith Christian Church in Long Island, N.Y. (The launch of the New York site is contingent on the seminary gaining approval from the New York State Department of Education, which has unusually stringent accreditation standards). 



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## Seminary launches church-state and public policy institute

BY GARY D. MYERS

**A**t a time when people of faith are often relegated to the sidelines in public policy discussions, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary launched the Institute for Faith and the Public Square (IFPS) to help reframe the debate.

“The need for a Christian voice in the public square has never been greater than it is today in our pluralistic culture,” said Lloyd Harsch, Associate Professor of Church History at NOBTS and IFPS director. “The Judeo-Christian values and ideals upon which this country was founded are no longer assumed but challenged by an increasingly diverse society.”

Harsch believes that many people are confused about the role of faith in government and the political process. Religious liberty, a long-held hallmark of Baptist belief, has even been used by some to silence faith-informed voices, he said.

The institute will explore the role of faith in the development and application of public policy and create an open-minded academic forum where the concerns of Christians can be discussed in a thoughtful way without intimidation.

NOBTS ethics professor Jeffrey Riley and theology and Islamic studies professor Page Brooks will serve as associate directors of the institute. The IFPS advisory board will include Tommy French, founding pastor emeritus of Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge and Republican State Central Committee member; Brian Egana, businessman and Democratic State Central Committee member; Mel Jones, director of Bethel Colony drug rehabilitation program and former Louisiana coordinator for Ross Perot’s presidential election bid; Daniel Holcomb, Professor of Church History at NOBTS; David



Crosby, pastor of First Baptist Church of New Orleans and co-founder of the Baptist Crossroads Project; and Warren Jones, pastor of New Salem Baptist Church in New Orleans.

The idea for the institute grew out of Harsch’s own political involvement during a sabbatical in 2007-2008 school year. That experience led to the development of a course – The Church and Political Involvement – which he taught with Riley in 2008. The course was designed to coincide with and address issues from the 2008 presidential election. The two taught the class again this fall in conjunction with mid-term elections.

The goals of the new institute are far-reaching. The most comprehensive goal is “to apply biblical truth to moral, public policy, and religious liberty issues in order to transform American culture.” To accomplish this goal, the institute will work to establish a network to facilitate Christian interaction on moral and religious liberty issues, host ongoing special events and conferences and consult churches on their efforts to understand their role in the public square. Harsch and his team also will seek to communicate the implications of public policy to the life and ministry of local churches.

On the academic side, the institute hopes to develop graduate-level and doctoral-level seminary courses and continuing education programs focused on public policy. **V**

For information about IFPS, call (504) 282.4455, ext. 3212 or visit [www.faithandthepublicsquare.com](http://www.faithandthepublicsquare.com).

## NOBTS mourns death of Joe Gauthier, student and chaplain candidate

**J**oseph “Joe” Gauthier, 24, a military chaplain candidate, ordained minister and student at New Orleans Seminary, died March 1 after he collapsed while jogging on the seminary campus. He was a second lieutenant in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Shortly after his collapse, Gauthier was taken by ambulance to University Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Originally from Grant Parish, La., Gauthier came to NOBTS to study in the Master of Divinity program with emphasis in pastoral care. He also served in the Honor Guard of the Louisiana National Guard, which honors soldiers at funerals. Gauthier felt this activity would help him later as a military chaplain.

Gauthier is survived by his wife, Nina. The couple had been married less than a year.

Announcing the tragic event to the seminary family, NOBTS President Chuck Kelley called on the seminary community to



pray for and support the family during this time of grief.

“We want to pray for his family – his sweet wife Nina and both of their families. Their families are here now, having to sort through terrible sadness and great, great loss,” he said.

Gauthier was making his second lap of the campus with fellow chaplaincy candidate Conrad Meadows when he collapsed near the back of campus. Efforts to save Gauthier’s life began immediately as students notified the NOBTS campus police and emergency medical responders.

When NOBTS campus patrolman John Rushing arrived on the scene, Gauthier was not breathing. Rushing began performing CPR assisted by several students.

Two student wives, both registered nurses, also arrived on the scene shortly after the incident and assisted with the CPR process. Other students and faculty members who came upon the scene prayed with bystanders and helped direct traffic as EMTs tried to revive Gauthier.

Fellow students, professors and staff members ministered to Nina and other members of the Gauthier family by providing meals. The seminary also set up a fund for donations to assist Nina in this difficult time. **V**

## Angola undergraduate program specializes in changed lives

BY FRANK MICHAEL McCORMACK

**T**he New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary community, including trustees on campus for their spring meeting, got a rare first-hand glimpse of the spiritual impact of the seminary's undergraduate program in Christian ministry at Louisiana State Penitentiary April 12 when Warden Burl Cain and several current and former members of the Angola program led the chapel service.

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley offered attendees a brief history of how the undergraduate program at the prison came about. Kelley said it all began with Cain's vision and faith.

"It was about 16 years ago when a Baptist layman took his faith to work," Kelley said. "His work happened to be serving as warden of Angola, the Louisiana State Penitentiary, the largest maximum security prison in the United States, ... known as the bloodiest prison in America."

But despite that reputation, Cain believed in the power of the Gospel to change lives, Kelley said.

"He had a deep-seeded conviction in the power and possibility of moral rehabilitation and the fact that God could do a work in any life," Kelley said.

The warden turned to his local Baptist association's director of missions, who happened to be an NOBTS graduate. The director of missions then put Cain in contact with New Orleans Seminary. The rest is history.

To date, more than 200 inmates have graduated from the seminary's Angola program, violence is down remarkably at the prison; and inmates are even being sent from Angola to help change the cultures in other state prisons.

"The result of the vision and the dream of Burl Cain is the greatest living illustration of the power of the Gospel that I have ever personally witnessed," Kelley said. "The ripples of Angola simply continue to go on and on."

But while Kelley praised Cain for having the vision for change, Cain praised NOBTS for having the courage to take action.

"You jumped down into the prison, into the very bowels of society, and you picked it up and it started changing lives there," Cain said. "We know that the culture has changed within the prison, there is no doubt."

During the service Angola student Daryl Waters shared the story of how he went from a college track athlete to a prison inmate. Throughout his testimony, Waters praised God for his grace and faithfulness along the way.

"I'm so humbled by this opportunity. Only God could do such a thing," Waters said. "I was sitting there thinking, 'Certainly I don't deserve to be where I am today, in the midst of such a great people.' God is good."

Waters said he was raised primarily by his grandmother in a Christian home in rural Louisiana. He eventually went to college on a track scholarship. During college, Waters said, was when he began to go down the wrong path.

"I ventured for the first time onto the proverbial other side of the tracks," he said. "The world came at me with its allures, and I was taken. I've been incarcerated now for almost 18 years."

Waters placed his faith in Christ and repented while in prison



Photo by Boyd Guy

Inmate Daryl Waters shared a powerful testimony of how God is using him as a minister of the Gospel inside the prison.

in Florida. He said he overheard some other inmates studying the Bible and singing "Amazing Grace." Hearing that helped him "return to my roots," Waters said, and reach out to Christ.

"From that day to this day, I've been walking by faith in his grace, trying to please God," Waters said.

Waters said in 1994 he got word that, when he finished his sentence in Florida, he would be transferred to Angola to serve a life sentence. He'd already heard how violent prison life at Angola was like.

"I did like King Hezekiah. I cried out to the Lord," Waters recalled. "I prayed a simple prayer. I said, 'God, please change Angola.'"

Waters offered up that prayer not long before Cain approached NOBTS to begin the prison program.

"When I arrived at Angola in 2001, I knew that God had answered that prayer," Waters said.

Soon, Waters enrolled in the NOBTS Angola program. He said the intense coursework really helped him grow in his faith and become a better minister at the prison. The Angola program, Waters said, gave him and other inmates at the prison a fresh start.

"I think for some of us it was just an opportunity to do something good. We'd done so many bad things. We were living with that regret every day. Now we had an opportunity to do good, to give back," he said. "We began to serve the local church, the church at Angola."

Echoing Cain, Waters offered a special "thank you" to both Kelley and the NOBTS trustees "for having faith in God and loving people enough to give."

"I am so blessed and so thankful that, despite this life sentence I have, I am free," he said.

In addition, NOBTS trustees officially named the NOBTS prison program the "JoAnn Horner Center of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary at Angola" following a \$250,000 gift in her memory. 

## Women's prison training program offers hope at LCIW

BY GARY D. MYERS

**T**he chapel at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW) brimmed with hope Jan. 12 as New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary celebrated the launch of a new training program at the St. Gabriel-based facility. Tears of joy and anticipation flowed freely.

The emotional highlight of the launch celebration came when the 20 female inmates selected for the NOBTS program led the small crowd in the praise song "Give Us Clean Hands." The lyrics, which speak of turning to God in repentance, set the tone for the dedication event.

The gray hairs of some program participants bear witness to an inescapable fact – many of these women are serving long prison terms. Sixteen are serving life sentences. LCIW houses almost 1,100 inmates, and as the state's only women's facility, it is home to minimum, medium and maximum custody offenders. The average maximum sentence for women entering the prison is more than 20 years. In the midst of these hard realities, though, the program is offering this group of women a new reason to hope.

The historic initiative at LCIW marks the seminary's first training efforts for female offenders.



It is also the first program of its kind in a women's prison. While the LCIW program will begin by offering an 18-hour Christian ministry certificate for women, seminary officials hope to eventually gain approval to offer accredited undergraduate degrees at the prison.

Funding for the program comes from private donations.

The courses at LCIW will be taught by women including Kristi Miller and Debi Sharkey, who are both recent doctoral graduates of NOBTS. Miller, who earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree last December, serves as the program's director.

Since 1995, NOBTS has led a successful ministry-training program at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, La. Burl Cain, warden at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, has often credited the NOBTS program for helping reduce violence and changing the culture at Angola. The accredited undergraduate program at Angola has garnered national attention and led to the creation of similar programs at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss., and the Phillips State Prison near Buford, Ga.

LCIW Warden Jim Rogers opened the launch celebration by commending the seminary for the hard work and perseverance needed to start the program. He also thanked the leaders at the Louisiana Department of Corrections for being "open-minded" and willing to try new things. Rogers closed his remarks by sharing the hope he has for this first class of students.

"We have a great bunch of students to start this program," Rogers said. "They need to be proud of the fact that they are the first students in the country to do this. These students have the desire to be servants, to be helpers and examples of godly living to all the offenders on the compound."



Photo by Gary D. Myers

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley talks with LCIW inmates during the launch celebration Jan. 12.

Officials from NOBTS, Louisiana Baptist Convention and the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge also greeted the inmates with words of encouragement. The three Southern Baptist groups, along with individual churches throughout the state will partner to support the program. Funding so far has been raised privately.

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley spoke to the students about God's unique timing in the launch of the program.

"This is a moment in the fullness of time when God has prepared exactly the right students to be a part of this," Kelley said. "What He has been doing in your hearts and lives is all in preparation for you to be here."

The transformation that takes place in programs like the one at LCIW is a great testimony to the church, Kelley said. No sin or situation can take a person beyond God's ability to save.

"The grace and the mercy and the hope of God is freely available to ALL who call on Him and it is sufficient for every need," Kelley said. "You are becoming a living illustration of that truth."

Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director David Hankins greeted the women on behalf of the Southern Baptist churches in Louisiana. Recalling the words of Paul in the letter to the Philippians, Hankins said God will use the work at LCIW to advance His Kingdom.

"God is going to use you and this circumstance to cut a path of progress for the Gospel," Hankins. "We're glad to be a part of it. We're going to continue to pray and cooperate and give. Then we will watch and wait to hear the good news of how the Gospel is being advanced through you. God bless you."

Warden Cain of Angola offered the women straight talk and words of caution. He warned that they would face trials and persecution for following God's path. Cain urged them to persevere and avoid any hint of impropriety.

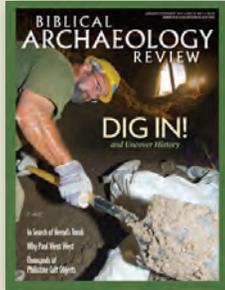
"You have to set the example in this prison. Your light has to shine. You can't let it dim," Cain said. "You have to be humble and not stumble because the whole country is looking at you." **V**

## news *in brief*

### *NOBTS archaeological expedition at Gezer garners national attention*

Last summer, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) and Leavell College launched a monumental archaeological expedition into the water system of the ancient city of Gezer, Israel. The dig will continue for the next two summers.

The dig is now receiving significant attention from the archaeological community. NOBTS professor Dennis Cole is featured prominently on the cover of the January/February 2011 issue of *Biblical Archaeology Review* (BAR). The dig is featured along with others taking place in Israel this summer.



Dan Warner, associate professor of Old Testament and archaeology and director of the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at NOBTS, and Tsvika Tsuk, chief archaeologist for the Israel Parks and Nature Authority, are directing the excavation of the water tunnel, which is believed to date to between 1800 and 1500 BCE, around the time of Abraham. Harold Mosley, NOBTS professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, and Jim Parker, associate professor of biblical interpretation and associate vice president of facilities, are also involved in the dig.

### *Seminary begins iPhone/iPad app development, set for summer release*

The Office of Public Relations at NOBTS began working toward the creation of an iPhone/iPad app in the Summer of 2010 as part of a larger social media strategy. At the time, priority was given to Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The idea was to implement the other social media elements before focusing on the app.

Now with a strong social media network established, NOBTS has taken the next logical step – developing a smartphone app. The NOBTS app will provide instant access to news articles, seminary blog posts, mp3s and videos. But more than just news and information, the app will also provide tools and resources such as Greek and Hebrew flashcards, an evangelism tract and PowerPoint presentation to help pastors and church leaders.

The new NOBTS app is scheduled for release this summer in the iPhone/iPad format. Future plans call for the development of an Android version of the app.



Photo by Boyd Guy

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley, middle, prays with students during the seminary's solemn assembly March 1.

### *Solemn Assembly: Seminary joins SBC president's call to prayer, repentance*

With a long, trumpet-like blast from a shofar, the campus revival at NOBTS began with a time of repentance and recommitment known in the Bible as a solemn assembly.

NOBTS professor Preston Nix used the call of Isaiah as a guide, setting forth the biblical account in the context of a focus upward, a focus inward and a focus outward.

The focus upward, echoing the prophet Isaiah's words "I saw the LORD..." in Isaiah 6:1, included music and Scripture readings that acknowledged and praised the character of God.

The focus inward entailed confession of private and corporate sin, echoing the "woe is me" of Isaiah 6:5. Members of the audience were given time for introspection and personal prayer; small groups of three to four people then were encouraged to share commitment needs and struggles, confess the sins which are common among groups of believers and pray that God would bring renewal to the seminary family.

The solemn assembly's focus then turned outward to the needs of the world, akin to the "here am I, send me" of Isaiah 6:8. Nix exhorted the seminary community to a deeper commitment to sharing the Gospel throughout the city of New Orleans and to the ends of the earth.

The March 1 event was part of a Convention-wide movement to call Southern Baptists to repent and return to God. SBC President Bryant Wright, in an open letter to Southern Baptists last November calling on churches and entities to hold solemn assemblies, expressed his yearning "that in the sight of God and His witnesses we might renew our commitment to Christ and the Great Commission."

Leading up to the solemn assembly, Nix called on members of the seminary community to prepare to hear from God through fasting and prayer. He specifically encouraged all who were willing and able to fast from noon Feb. 28 until noon March 1 – breaking the fast after the solemn assembly.

## news *in brief*

### *Documentary about NOBTS prison program at Anogla wins award*

*A New Hope*, the story about the New Orleans Seminary's program at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, won the Jury's Special Award in the documentary category at the WorldFest Film Festival in Houston, Texas, April 8-17. This is the top prize at this prestigious International film festival. The film by Herb Kossover will be screened at the Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix, Ariz.

### *Google Apps: NOBTS turns to cloud technology for email service*

Faced with the prospect of replacing aging email servers, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) recently turned to new "cloud" technology and adopted Google Apps for Education. Other institutions that have made the switch include the University of Notre Dame, Louisiana State University and the University of Southern California.

Google Apps utilizes the "cloud computing" model rather than software installed on individual computers and onsite servers. The seminary's email and calendar systems are now stored in Google's network of servers.



Using Google Apps results in lower computer infrastructure and support costs compared to the previous system, while allowing the seminary to retain its NOBTS.edu email domain.

But the biggest advantage is accessibility. The Google-hosted email, calendar and collaboration tools are accessible world-wide from any Internet-equipped computer or mobile device. Because the servers and backups are located off-site, NOBTS will not experience email downtime during evacuations or information loss during power spikes or outages. Officials also hope the many collaboration features will foster increased interaction and innovation among faculty, staff and students.

The implementation process began with faculty and staff training sessions in March and a phased migration in April. NOBTS completed the migration to the new system April 15.

### *Online Gatekeeper off to strong start*

In August 2010, the NOBTS Office of Public Relations launched a new online format for *The Gatekeeper*, the weekly campus newsletter. Utilizing Google's Blogger service with a personalized url, [www.nobtsgatekeeper.com](http://www.nobtsgatekeeper.com), the online Gatekeeper has been a success. The site is user-friendly for readers and is easy to maintain for the PR staff.

To date, the new Gatekeeper has received more than 60,000 page visits – an average of close to 2,000 page views per issue.

### *Gordon Fee donates specialized library to NOBTS textual studies center*

After a half century of service to the church and the academy, renowned New Testament scholar Gordon D. Fee has donated his specialized textual studies library to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS). Designated as "The Gordon D. Fee Collection on the New Testament Text," this significant donation contains books that Fee amassed in his half century of textual studies as well as extensive files with Fee's notes and data for textual projects realized over the years.

An internationally acclaimed textual scholar and passionate evangelical, Fee has contributed significantly to ensuring the accuracy of the New Testament text. His studies led him to oppose various viewpoints in the field that he saw as inadequate for explaining the history of the transmission of the New Testament text. Two such examples were his opposition to those preferring the less well-attested texts and those overplaying the role of theological motivation in explaining the rise of variant readings. His methodological contributions to the study of the New Testament text in the writing



**Fee**

of the Church Fathers have paved the way for many advances in that field, and the text-critical notes in his articles and exegetical commentaries have impacted the field repeatedly.

Fee served as editor of numerous publications and as a key committee member of the International Greek New Testament Project. He also was part of the translation committee of the best-selling New International Version English Bible. He is currently working on a revision of his acclaimed 1 Corinthians commentary in the New International Commentary on the New Testament series, of which he is the editor.

The collection will be used extensively by scholars and Ph.D. students at the seminary's H. Milton Haggard Center for New Testament Textual Studies (CNTTS). CNTTS has produced its own extensive apparatus of the variants of the Greek New Testament (available in BibleWorks and Accordance software programs). Recently, work has commenced on a 10-year online textual commentary project that explains the exegetical significance of the manuscript readings, with the first results to be available in early 2012. CNTTS also cooperates with other international projects in the study of biblical manuscripts.

Given Fee's integration of faith and learning, and mutual commitment to church and scholarship, the donation of his library to a theological seminary with a textual studies center was not unexpected. Reflecting similar values, CNTTS director and New Testament professor Bill Warren not only researches biblical manuscripts but also serves as the founding pastor of a new church plant in Pass Christian, Miss.

"Since we find the basis of our knowledge of Jesus in the Bible and have such a high view of its inspiration, we have a responsibility to be involved in the study of the manuscripts that undergird the text and the history of the textual transmission of the New Testament in as much detail as possible," Warren said.

# in print *books by faculty & alumni*

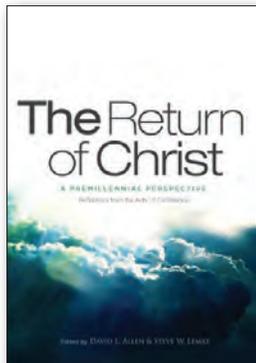
## ■ The Return of Christ: A Premillennial Perspective

Steve W. Lemke, co-editor  
B&H Publishing, 2011

*The Return of Christ*, to be released in June, gathers presentations from the Acts 1:11 Conference where church leaders spoke in support of the premillennial position and pre-tribulation rapture.

Regardless of whether a reader holds this same position, the text emphasizes the deep importance of eschatology in Christ's teaching ministry and as the focus for our hope. Indeed, without the promise of Christ's return, Christianity has little to offer the unbeliever.

**Steve W. Lemke** is Provost and Professor of Philosophy and Ethics, occupying the McFarland Chair of Theology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary



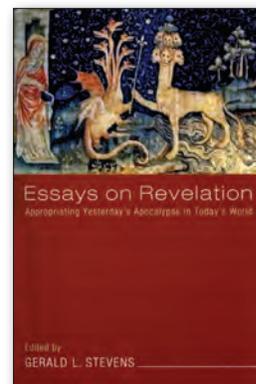
## ■ Essays on Revelation: Appropriating Yesterday's Apocalypse in Today's World

Gerald L. Stevens, editor  
Pickwick Publications, 2010

Gerald L. Stevens and five other New Testament scholars mine the depths of John's apocalypse and explore several issues relevant to modern Christian life. The collection of 12 essays endeavors to draw Revelation out of the realm of the fantastical and into practical application. The book covers topics such as interpretation, Christology, peace, the imperial cult, sociological issues, and even ecology.

A good resource for pastors, Bible teachers, or anyone interested in studying the book of Revelation, these essays will provide insight and help students look beyond the book's symbolism to its underlying, eternal truth.

**Gerald L. Stevens** is professor of New Testament and Greek at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.



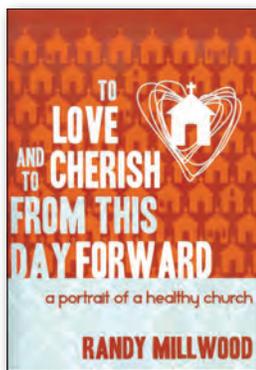
## ■ To Love and To Cherish From This Day Forward: A Portrait of a Healthy Church

Randy Millwood  
Missional Press, 2010

In the pages of *To Love and To Cherish From This Day Forward*, Millwood sets out to paint a different picture, a new picture of the Church: a portrait of a Church which is not a building, a business, an institution, a school, or an organization. Rather, a Church who is a person – a Bride – a Bride who adores Her Groom.

The goal of the book is to call Church members and leaders to get off the Church-As-Merry-Go-Round...take a deep breath...and to make the hard decision to look into the mirror and compare our churches to this portrait of a healthy Bride.

**Randy Millwood** works with the churches of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware where he coaches pastoral leaders. He earned two degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.



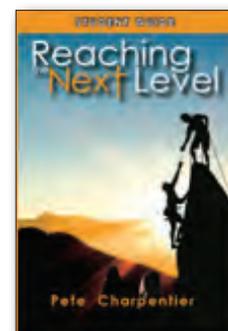
## ■ Reaching the Next Level – Leaders Guide and Student Guide

Pete Charpentier  
CrossLink, 2010

Do you long to know God's Word but don't know how to study or apply its truth? Do you struggle with receiving God's forgiveness and moving past your failures? Do you want to help others become more fruitful disciples?

If these questions describe your passion, *Reaching the Next Level* is for you. These interactive resources are great for new and seasoned believers alike. You can use the Student Guide for personal study, the Leader Guide for mentoring others, or both books for equipping small groups. Prepare to experience God's powerful grace by applying six key spiritual disciplines in your daily life.

**Pete Charpentier** is the senior pastor of Woodland Park Baptist Church in Hammond, La. He earned a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Work from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.



## in print *books by faculty & alumni*

### ■ **Orphanology: Awakening to Gospel Centered Adoption and Orphan Care**

Tony Merida and Rick Morton  
New Hope Publishers, 2011

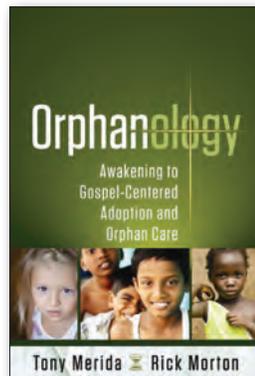
An organic movement has begun in pockets of the evangelical community to live out James 1:27. People and churches are discovering opportunities to care for the fatherless in very creative and practical ways. God is awakening a spirit in the contemporary evangelical church to live out the Gospel through the care of orphans.

*Orphanology* is a practical response to God's command to care for the fatherless told through the stories of families and ministries who are responding. *Orphanology* extends the call to minister to the nearly 150 million orphans in the world with real-world ideas and illustrations for engaging in orphan ministry.

Containing concrete ideas for how Christians, their churches, and groups of churches can respond tangibly to God's call to care for the fatherless, *Orphanology* demonstrates how adoption, foster care, and other forms of orphan ministry are accessible to every believer and every church and introduces innovative approaches to orphan ministry including orphan hosting.

**Tony Merida** will join the Southeastern Seminary faculty in August and serve as a church planter. He earned three degrees at NOBTS.

**Rick Morton** is Discipleship Pastor at Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Miss., and Associate Professor of Christian Education at NOBTS. Morton earned two degrees at NOBTS.



### ■ **Catastrophic Crisis: Ministry Leadership in the Midst of Trial and Tragedy**

Steve F. Echols and Allen England  
B&H Academic, 2011

Nature's fury, horrible accidents, criminal acts, moral failures, personal attacks. Nothing tests a ministry leader's skills more than a crisis. When sudden events turn things upside down, and the normal methods of operation are no longer possible, the leader and the leadership moment are placed in the fire and thrust into the spotlight at once. Authors Steve Echols and Allen England take a case study approach to understanding effective Christian leadership, looking back at eight trials or tragedies faced at religious institutions in recent years.

From the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's encounter with Hurricane Katrina to the First Baptist Church in Maryville, Ill., where pastor Fred Winters was shot and killed while preaching, this well-researched book tells the inside stories of each event, analyzes the leadership responses to draw out important lessons, and then poses direct questions that will help the reader actively process what is being learned.

The book concludes with the "Leadership Lifeboats" and "Aftermath" chapters, focusing respectively on practical, biblical insights from various other leadership authors and the hope and blessing God ultimately provides following a personal catastrophic crisis.

**Steve F. Echols** is Associate Dean of the Alabama and Georgia Extension Center Systems and the Director of the North Georgia Hub at NOBTS, occupying the Nelson L. Price Chair of Leadership.

**Allen England** is Associate Professor of Church and Educational Administration, occupying the J. M. Frost chair of Christian Education at NOBTS.





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## Brooks, professor and military chaplain, spends year in Iraq

*Editor's Note: Dr. Page Brooks began pre-deployment training on Jan. 5, 2010. He entered Iraq on March 17, 2010, and returned to New Orleans Dec. 17, 2010.*

BY MARILYN STEWART

**H**e thought of his wife and daughters – ages 3 and 2 – as he loaded his sand-colored camouflaged gear into the Humvee. This time the mission would last a week.

He didn't have to go. Chaplains weren't expected to; they were unarmed.

But he had gone out with his battalion on every mission so far and skipping out now wasn't something he was going to do. He hadn't told Ashley about this one. When they got back, then he would tell his wife.

This wasn't about the mission. It was about a calling. It had to be. Once he set foot outside the Green Zone, the military base of operations in Baghdad, he was as much in harm's way as anybody else.



Page Brooks sat down at his computer in his faculty office at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the images of Iraq evaporated. It was good to be back, though his teaching ministry would never be the same.

He smiled at the irony. A year earlier, he thought shipping out meant leaving the classroom behind. Instead, he was dropped into the middle of a crash course on ministry. The needs of the 400 men in his battalion were so different. Most were Catholic; one was a Wiccan.

The soldiers often talked of their favorite restaurant for etouffee, or the birthdays and school programs they were missing. Home was a world away.

"You're a cool chaplain," a young soldier once told him.

Brooks knew it wasn't about him or being cool. It was about being engaged in people's lives, like Jesus did. He just didn't realize the impact it would make.

The problems were intense – divorce, assault, sexual issues. Chaplains live by a code of "ministry of presence," of being there and being available when trouble comes. In active duty, trouble always comes.

When a soldier regretted the affair he had fallen into while in Iraq, he confided in Brooks. After suicide rattled the unit, the soldiers turned to him.

Theology books lined the walls around Brooks as he clicked to open his Facebook page. He smiled at the new post on his "wall."

John\* had been out of church for 20 years and his affair almost ended his marriage. But he wanted Brooks to know he is back in church with his wife and family.

Brooks thought of Donald\*. Before they shipped out, before they'd even been at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Miss., a week, Donald came to him desperate for help. The wife he was leaving behind was having an affair.

Divorce papers were filed and things look hopeless, but Brooks continued counseling Donald weekly. At a formal

*\*Names changed*



Chaplain Page Brooks, right, baptizes a soldier during his deployment in Iraq.

dinner a month after the unit's return, the couple sought him out to thank him.

"We're still together. We're stronger," they told him.

As assistant professor of theology and Islamic studies, Brooks frequently fields questions about the Muslim worldview. Before deployment, Brooks had encountered Muslims only on mission trips, but in Iraq, he shared his faith with many. The cross insignia on his uniform made them curious. He could answer their questions. That was allowed.

As a member of the American Embassy's Religious Leader Engagement Team, Brooks met with leaders of civic, Christian, Islamic, and governmental organizations. He saw firsthand a culture where religion intertwines with every aspect of life.

Life is so much slower back in New Orleans, so much safer. There, danger and persecution is real. The Catholic Church seized by Al-Qaeda last fall, where more than 50 lost their lives, was two miles from base.

On his last Sunday in Iraq, Brooks baptized 57 people in a 3-foot kiddie pool. Each had been led to faith by a civilian contractor from Africa, who shared his faith as he lived and worked alongside others.

Though Brooks felt caregiver's fatigue when he returned, the experience had been one of the most rewarding of his life. He understood in a new way the importance of being engaged in others' lives. This is what he'll share with students. This is how he'll live.

At home, the Louisiana Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is stationed out of Jackson Barracks in New Orleans. The soldiers stay in touch with Brooks and often invite him and his family to events they're involved in. Some hang out at the pub near his home.

"We've stayed too long in our safe zones. We've got to go to them." His ministry to the men of his unit, in many ways, has just begun. **V**

## CP decline leads to faculty cuts

**D**r. Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, has announced that in the light of the economic recession and a reduction in Cooperative Program funding, the seminary will be cutting some faculty positions and moving others to a part-time status. Kelley offered this statement:

“As a result of the ongoing effects of the recession, the decline in Cooperative Program giving, and the recent reduction of projections for expected CP income next year, some difficult personnel decisions are necessary. Our budget and staff had already been slashed – first after hurricane Katrina, and again in austerity budgets since the beginning of the economic recession. Now the seminary has no alternative but to make faculty personnel cuts. We simply no longer have income sufficient to support our current level of full-time faculty. Therefore, in order to present a balanced budget to our Trustees, with great reluctance and regret, we must reduce the number of full-time faculty, effective August 1, 2011. The changes in next year’s budget include laying off three professors, asking four professors to shift to part-time status, and eliminating six ministry-based faculty positions. All of these individuals will be paid full salary through the end of the academic year in July. Although curricular needs may require us to fill a few mission-critical positions, all other open positions will remain vacant for the immediate future.

“The actions we are taking now are similar to steps already taken in many SBC churches, conventions, and entities. However, seminary communities have more of a family atmosphere than some other ministries. These individuals whose positions are being eliminated are people we love – our colleagues and friends. We deeply regret having to make this painful move, but economic necessity requires us to do so. We are profoundly grateful to Southern Baptists for their support by continued giving through the Cooperative Program during such difficult times. I encourage the NOBTS family and all Southern Baptists to pray for these families and the thousands of others across the nation who are being affected by this recession.

“This decline in Cooperative Program giving comes as the seminary enrollment is returning to pre-Katrina levels. Last year, we were within 100 students of our highest enrollment in the institution’s history. The interest in affordable, accessible theological education remains high, and we will make the necessary adjustments to continue serving those whom God has called. We remain passionately committed to making theological education as accessible as possible to everyone anywhere, so that we can train the next generation of pastors, missionaries, and other ministers to fulfill the Great Commission and impact our world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. “

Kelley announced the faculty cuts to the seminary staff and faculty on Friday, April 1, after meeting personally with the individuals affected by the cuts. These changes were presented to the NOBTS trustees at their April 12-13 meeting as a part of the proposed budget for next year. 

## faculty updates

### Dr. Dan Holcomb to retire, will serve as Senior Professor

Dr. Dan Holcomb has been a mainstay of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary’s theological and historical studies division for more than 30 years.



**Holcomb**

He came to NOBTS in 1979 after serving 10 years on the faculty of Oklahoma Baptist University. In many ways, that 1979 move from Shawnee, Okla., to New Orleans was a homecoming. After already earning two baccalaureate degrees, Holcomb first came to New Orleans Seminary in 1957 to pursue a Bachelor of Divinity degree (similar to today’s Master of Divinity degree). He studied under the preeminent Southern Baptist historian Dr. Penrose St. Amant.

When St. Amant went to The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to become that school’s first dean of theology, Holcomb soon followed to pursue a doctoral degree. It was at Southern Seminary that Holcomb got his first teaching experience.

But it was at New Orleans Seminary that Holcomb built his legacy. After more than 30 years on faculty, Holcomb is still energized as he teaches about the rich history of the Christian faith. One of his most popular classes is “Christian Devotional Classics,” in which students explore Christian classics like Augustine’s *Confessions*. Holcomb also recently delivered the opening lecture at New Orleans Seminary’s Institute for Faith and the Public Square’s inaugural conference.

To honor Holcomb’s longtime teaching ministry at NOBTS, seminary trustees during their April 2011 meeting voted to make him Senior Professor of Church History. Though Holcomb will no longer teach full time, he will continue his teaching, researching and lecturing duties at NOBTS on a part-time basis in the future.

## In Memory

### Dr. Jim Cogdill Jr. (former faculty member)

Dr. James Paul “Jim” Cogdill Jr., 55, of Cape Girardeau, Mo. passed away Thursday, March 17, 2011, in Southeast Missouri Medical Center in Cape Girardeau.

Cogdill served on NOBTS faculty from 2000 to 2003. He was also the Director of Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health. Cogdill is survived by his wife, Debbie.

### Myrtis Swartz (former faculty wife)

Myrtis Ione Bowden Swartz, 93, of Waco, Texas, passed away Feb. 26, 2011. She was the wife of former NOBTS faculty member Wilbur Swartz. She is survived by her husband of 69 years, her children and grandchildren.

## NOBTS alumnus Alan Day dies in motorcycle crash

**A**lan Day, pastor of First Baptist Church in Edmond, Okla., died Feb. 16 from injuries suffered in a motorcycle crash.

Day's motorcycle hit a patch of sand on an off-ramp from Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City about 4:30 p.m., according to *The Daily Oklahoman* newspaper. He was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash but died at the hospital from head injuries.

Day, a former trustee of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and vice chair of the Oklahoma Baptist University trustee board at the time of his death, celebrated his 25th anniversary at the church this past summer, associate pastor Keith Haygood told *The Oklahoman*.

Word of Day's crash came during the church's Wednesday evening fellowship dinner, Haygood said.

"Tonight, we just went in and took the microphone and told the church what had happened and called the church to prayer," Haygood told *The Oklahoman*. "It was a very surreal moment, and a lot of them had no idea. Word had started to kind of get out a little bit that he'd been in an accident, but no further word, and so around the tables, everyone began to pray ... We called everyone into the worship center and just prayed together."

Born in Bogalusa, La., Day, 62, had been a pastor since 1968, serving churches in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Oklahoma. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and Bible from Louisiana College. He completed M.Div. and Th.D. degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

One friend from seminary days noted Day's multifaceted contribution to Southern Baptist life.



Day

"Oklahoma and Southern Baptists have lost a great leader, pastor, theologian and friend," Anthony Jordan, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, told the *Oklahoma Baptist Messenger* newsjournal. "Alan has contributed in immeasurable ways to our cooperative work. For me, the loss is very personal. Our hearts were knitted together from seminary days.

"I remember well sitting around the table in [the] seminary cafeteria discussing ministry and theology. His remarkable intellect, passion for the church, evangelism and missions formed a bond between us that has spanned many years," Jordan added. "I feel a deep sense of loss and will miss his wisdom, spirited laugh and love. I love Alice and their family and ask you to join me in lifting them to the Savior in prayer. We also pray for the Edmond, First family."

Day served multiple terms on the Oklahoma Baptist University trustee board and as vice chair would have succeeded Reagan Bradford Sr., current board chair, in the 2011-12 year, according to a statement released by the school.

"Alan Day was a consummate Baptist statesman," said David Whitlock, president of the university. "He had a pastor's heart and a servant's spirit, which was demonstrated in his love for his church family and his leadership role in the Edmond community ... He was a student of God's Word and an innovative communicator of biblical truth."

Day was scheduled to deliver OBU's 2011 Founders' Day address Feb. 9, but the event was postponed because of winter weather, the statement said. He was working with university officials to reschedule the address, which was titled "Christian Higher Education in the 21st Century."

Day is survived by his wife of 42 years, Alice; one daughter, Charis; and three sons, Aaron, Richard and Cheyne. **V**

Compiled by *Baptist Press*, Oklahoma Baptist University and the *Oklahoma Baptist Messenger*.



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# alumni updates

## 1950s

**Gebhart, James L.** (BD '55; MRE '56) served as a Boy Scouts of America Chaplain at the BSA 100th Year Birthday Jamboree last summer at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

## 1960s

**Starnes, Charles** (BDiv '60) retired after serving 32 years as Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Slidell, La. He was named Pastor Emeritus.

**Jones, Dr. William H.** (MRE '62) published three books in 2010. They are: *On the Planting of Churches; Faith Seekers, Faith Finders; Jewish Ritual Washing and Christian Baptism*. All three are available at Amazon.com, or from Read On Book Store in Toronto. (books@readon.ca).

## 1970s

**Marshall, John** (MDiv '74; DMin '75) was elected President of the Missouri Baptist Convention at the group's annual meeting in October 2010.

**Nelson, Dan** (MDiv '76) recently celebrated his 27th year as Pastor of First Baptist Church in Camarillo, Calif.

**Moore, Doug** (DPM '75) recently celebrated his 25th year as pastor of First Baptist Church in Mt. Olive, Ala. During his tenure the church built a 780-seat sanctuary, a family life center and a two-story education building.

## 1980s

**Militti, Jeffery** (MDiv '85) was featured in an article in *The Post* newspaper for teaching the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and helping organize classes for Ft. Leonard Wood.

## 1990s

**Permenter, Alan** (MDiv '92) called as Lead Pastor at First Baptist Church, Wauchula, Fla. He and his wife, Karen are the parents of three children.

## 2001

**Bowlin, Johnny** (MDiv '01) called as Pastor at Meadville Baptist Church of Meadville, Miss., in April 2010.

## 2008

**McInnis, John** (DEdMin '08) retired from the Florida Baptist Convention after serving 27 years in the Sunday School Department. He now serves as adjunct professor at the Baptist College of Florida and the Graceville extension center of NOBTS. He also serves as a LifeWay consultant in Transformational Church Strategies.

## 2009

**Canton, Craig** (DMin '09) called as Pastor at Northwest Baptist Church in Gainesville, Fla.

## DEATHS

**Albright, Ronald** of Beaumont, Texas (attended '79) died Oct. 22, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Jeanette, their children and other family.

**Allen, Abbott** (MRE '69; SRE '71) died Aug. 16, 2008. He is survived by his wife, seven children and their families.

**Arango, Antonio R.** (MRE '79) died June 14, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Dinorah.

**Brown, Charles Roy** (MCM '63) passed away May 8, 2010, in Hickory, N.C. He is survived by his wife Christine, two daughters and other family.

**Bruce, Nellie Phillips** (AA '45) died Dec. 27, 2010. She is survived by her children and other family.

**Callahan, Leroy** (MDiv '76) died Feb. 2, 2011, in Walnut Grove, Miss. He is survived by his wife Corrine, two children and other family.

**Champion Altman (Hooker), Ernestine** (BRE '56) died Sept. 21, 2010, in Macon, Ga. She was preceded in death by two husbands, John B. Champion Sr. and W. Jerry Altman. She is survived by six stepchildren and other family.

**Conerly, Rodrick** (DMin '76; PhD '00) died Dec. 23, 2010, in Baton Rouge. He is survived by his wife, Caroline, two children and other family. Conerly served as the Director of Missions for the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge and as director of the NOBTS Baton Rouge Extension Center.

**Cooper, Robert S.** (AA '44) died Dec. 31, 2010, in Greenville, SC. He is survived by three children and other family.

**Cork, Ferrell O. Jr.** (BDiv '56) died Sept. 13, 2010, in Tupelo, Miss. He is survived by Billie, his wife of 58 years, their children and other family.

**Corkern, W. E.** (BDiv '53) died Feb. 20, 2011, in Hernando, Miss. He is survived by his wife Charlotte, three children and other family.

**Crochet, Norman** (ADiv '80) died Feb. 28, 2011, in Central Louisiana. He is survived by his wife Joyce, two children and other family. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mayme.

**Cruce, Billy** (BDiv '66; DMin '81) died Nov. 9, 2010, in Tallahassee, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Janice, their two children and several grandchildren.

**Curtis, Beatrice** (Attended 1947) died Jan. 21, 2011, in Graceville, Fla. She is survived by her children and their families.

**Delucca, Leopoldo** (ADPM '87) died April 13, 1999, in Puerto Rico.

**DePriest, Wallace** (MACE '92) died Nov. 1, 2010, in La Plata, Md. He is survived by his mother and two sisters.

**Dixon, Bonnie Louise** (attended 1954) died March 4, 2011, in Baton Rouge, La. She is survived by several siblings and other family.

**Doughty, Dayton A.** (BDiv '54) died Dec. 13, 2010, in Ruston, La. He is survived by his second wife, Susie S. Doughty, three children, two stepchildren and other family.

**Edmondson, Edward B.** (DPCH '69) died Jan. 14, 2010 in Little Rock, Ark. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Mary Jane (Josephine), three children and other family.

**Edwards, Myrtle S.** (Attended 1954), widow of Elmon G. Edwards (BDiv '58) died May 2, 2010. She is survived by one daughter and other family.

**Fortenberry, Addie L. Adams** (ADRE '80), widow of Jasper E. (Jack) Fortenberry (MRE '80), died March 4, 2011, in McComb, Miss. She is survived by three children and other family.

**Foster, James E.** (BDiv '57) died Feb. 5, 2011, in Columbia, S.C. He is survived by his wife Sylvia, three children and other family.

**Foy, Robert H.** (BDiv '56) died Feb. 23, 2011, in Gainesville, Ga. He is survived by his wife, Jessica, four children and other family.

**Gentry, Roy Lee** (DPCH '71) died Nov. 29, 2010, in Cleveland, Tenn. He is survived by two children and other family.

**Gill, Bruce C.** (ADiv '88) died Aug. 9, 2006, in Albany, La. He is survived by his wife, Tressa, three children and other family.

**Griffin, Mary Virginia ("Bootsie")** (Attended 1956) died Sept. 23, 2010, in Kilgore, Texas. She is survived by her daughter and other family. She was preceded in death by her husband, James A. Griffin (BRE '56).

**Guy, Kenneth C.** (MRE '89) died Feb. 2, 2011, in McComb, Miss. He is survived by his wife Mary, three children and other family.

**Hartfield, Jimmy J.** (MRE '55) died Jan. 31, 2011, in Petal, Miss. He is survived by his wife, Susie, son, Paul, and other family.

**Hatfield, Bessie Leola Lagrone** (MRE '50) died Jan. 10, 2011, in Texas.

**Hill, Richard** (BDiv '62) of Chattanooga, Tenn., died May 23, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Janet, their three daughters and other family members.

**House, John D.** (ThM '68) died Nov. 14, 2010, in Acworth, Ga. He is survived by his wife, Myrtle Catherine, their four children and other family.

**Howe, Raymond** (BDiv '59) died March 1, 1983, in West Monroe, LA. He is survived by his wife, Faye.

**Kelly, Ralph Newman** (ThM '71; DMin '78) died Sept. 5, 2010, in McDonough, Ga. He is survived by his wife, Pamela and son, Ryan.

**Litton, Robert B.** (attended '87) died June 16, 2010. He was survived by his wife, Lovell, two children and other family.

**Lovett, Robert** (BDiv '62) died July 7, 2005, in Hermiston, Ore. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Agnes McNew Lovett. He is survived by his

second wife, Jeannie, his five children and their families, a foster son, and his wife's children and their families.

**Lurtz, Robert H.** (MRE '61; EdD '68) died Sept. 30, 2010, in DeLand, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Eva; two daughters and other family.

**Madison, George** (BDiv '54; MRE '55) died Aug. 14, 2010 in Detroit, Mich. He is survived by his wife, their four children and their families.

**Martin, Marjorie D.** (Attended '47), died Oct. 9, 2010, in North Charleston, S.C. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Lonnie Martin.

**Miley, Wesley P.** (BDiv '61) died in September 18, 2009, in Jackson, Miss. He is survived by his wife, Ruby, their three children, and other family.

**Morgan, James M.** (BRE '55) died Nov. 3, 2010, in Gainesville, Ga. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruby. He is survived by two sons and their families.

**Newcomer, Jesse** (MCM '68) died Dec. 21, 2010, in Shreveport, La. He is survived by his wife, Sue, two children and other family.

**Northcutt, Benjamin Wylie** (attended '66) died Jan. 11, 2011, in Marietta, Ga. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Carla Northcutt, four children and other family.

**O'Donnell, Phillip A.** (attended '83 to '85) of Bush, La., died Sept. 26, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, their five children and other family members.

**Pace, John H.** (Attended '57) died Feb. 11, 2010, in Lexington, N.C. He is survived by his wife, Bobbie.

**Paige, Richard E.** (attended 1988) died Sept. 26, 2010, in Monroe, La. He is survived by his wife, Mary, four children and other family.

**Parchman, Nicholas A.** (attended 2005) died suddenly at his home in Plantersville, Miss., on Nov. 16, 2010. He is survived by his wife of seven months, Mary Beth, his parents, siblings and other family.

**Phares, Vergy** (BDiv '64) died Nov. 12, 2010, in Dothan, Ala. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, three children and other family.

**Phillips, William Alfred** (BA '95) died Jan. 9, 2011, in Elizabethtown, Ky. He is survived by his wife, Sheila, three children and other family.

**Pierce, Rawls** (BDiv '54) died March 4, 2011, in Crossett, Ark. He is survived by his wife, Merle and other family.

**Pinson, Thomas C.** (BDiv '59) died Oct. 16, 2010, in Little Rock, Miss. He is survived by his four children, his grandchildren and other family members.

**Prowse, Michael** (BDiv '59) died Nov. 14, 2010, in Cookeville, TN. He is survived by his wife, Beth, three sons and other family.

**Purl, John M.** (attended 1952) died Nov. 15, 2004. He is survived by his children.

**Rigsby, Frances** (MRE '67) died April 1, 2009, in Tallahassee, Fla.

**Riley, William O.** (MRE '66) died Sept. 17, 2010, in Abbeville, Ala. He is survived by Sallie, his wife of 50 years, and other family.

**Sparks, James G.** (MDiv '87) died Nov. 27, 2010, in Smyrna, Ga. He is survived by his wife, Tiffany, two children and other family.

**St. Romain, Thecla M.** (Attended 1994) died April 3, 2011, in Breaux Bridge, La.

**Stone, James H.** (CBT '09) died Oct. 25, 2010, in Marietta, Ga. He is survived by two daughters and other family.

**Taylor, James E.** (MA '71) died Nov. 19, 2010, in Oklahoma City, Okla. He is survived by his wife, Mary and four children.

**Terrell, Leon** (BDiv '66) died April 28, 2009, in Bayou Chicot, La. He is survived by his wife, Jeanette, two children and other family.

**Threadgill, Cecil** (EdD '83) died Aug. 9, 2007, in Denton, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne, two daughters and five grandchildren.

**Tweedell, Christopher P.** (Attended '92) died Aug. 19, 2007, in Gainesville, Ga.

**Wallace, Robert P.** (BDiv '59) died Dec. 1, 2008, in Natchitoches, La. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, their children and other family.

## looking back

New Orleans Seminary has a long history of mission work in the city of New Orleans. In this 1930s photo, students from the Baptist Bible Institute (later renamed New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) board buses for preaching and evangelism activities in the city.



**Wells, James D.** (MDiv '77) died Sept. 30, 2010, in Lake Village, Ark. He is survived by his wife, Cathy, two sons and other family.

**Wilcox, Ruby R.** (Attended 1939), widow of John A. Wilcox (BG '38) died Sept. 12, 2010, in Lexington, S.C. She is survived by two daughters and other family.

**Wingate, P. Wayne** (BDiv '57) died Feb. 25, 2011, in Baton Rouge, La. He is survived by his wife, Margaret JoAnn, three children and other family.

**Winstead, Albert W.** (attended '59) died Jan. 18, 2011, in Byram, Miss. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine four children, three stepchildren and other family. He was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Bobbie Warren Winstead in 2002.

**Woodson, William E. Sr.** (ThM '69; ThD '75) died Sept. 4, 2010, in Columbia, Tenn. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne Creasy Woodson, to whom he was married 57 years, their three children and other family.

## social media

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4. Enter your date of birth in this format: mm/dd/yyyy
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6. This page will ask for your user name. It's usually the first initial followed by your last name. No spaces between.
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