

INSPIRE

NOVEMBER 2020, ISSUE NO. 6

Foundation Board Project Progress

BY DR. MIKE WETZEL

One of the best things about Autumn is the cooler temperatures. Here in New Orleans, we have been blessed by the change of seasons, with bright sunny days and brisk “sweater weather” temps.

Classes are still going well despite being closed for two days as a result of Hurricane Zeta. New Orleans has been fortunate this season, even as Zeta did her damage to campus as she blew over the city. In addition to limbs and large branches coming down, a third of the campus was without power for several days. You can read more about Zeta further in this issue.

I want to share some of the highlights of what is going on with the Foundation Board Project:

PROJECT PROGRESS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



ADA Compliant ramp construction - Leavell Chapel



Get the latest updates through the NOBTS Foundation Board Facebook Group.

JOIN TODAY!



The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation Board

Project Progress

CONTINUED from pg. 1

The Foundation Board approved some Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance projects. One of the many needs is related to Leavell Chapel access, but we also will be able to meet needs in multiple classrooms and two Courtyard Apartments. The total cost for the project is estimated at \$155,000.00.

Between your email responses, phone calls, and text messages, we were able to get the majority of votes needed to begin work. We did not have a single vote cast against the project.

Here are some of the projects that will help bring the campus up to ADA compliance:

Two automatic door operators and a new ramp with railings will be added to Leavell Chapel for easier access. \$30,000.00

Eleven buildings on campus will include automatic door operators. This number includes the Early Learning Center and Cafeteria. \$105,000.00

Two Courtyard Apartments (student housing) will be converted to comply with ADA regulations, including roll-in showers and kitchen appliances. \$20,000.00

The photos on the right show the progress being made at Leavell Chapel with the new ramp and railings.

If you would like a total break-down of the estimated project costs, contact me and I will be happy to provide it for you. Email me - mwetzels@nobts.edu

We want to say thank you for your willingness to fund this important project. We applaud your commitment to keep NOBTS and Leavell College up-to-date by providing an atmosphere of learning for everyone.



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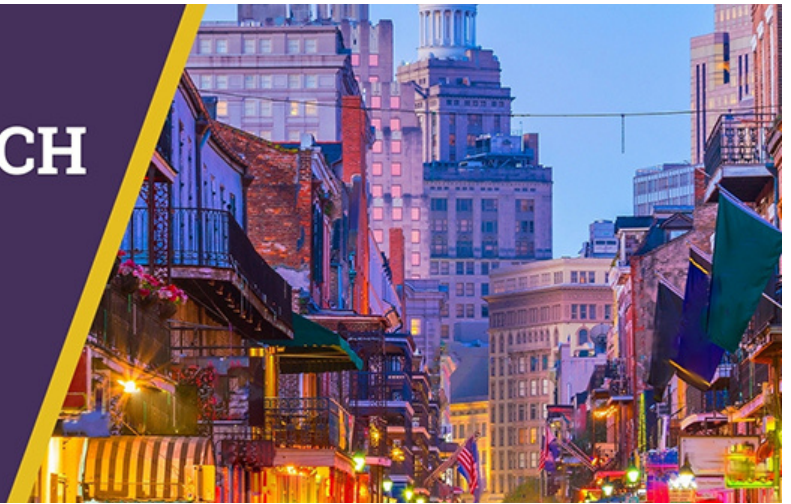
DR. MIKE WETZEL

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NAMB and NOBTS PARTNER for CHURCH PLANTING CENTER

||>> NAMB  NOBTS



Prepare here; Serve anywhere

BY MARILYN STEWART AND GARY D. MYERS

In a move that brings together the Seminary's heart to reach the city and the North American Mission Board's efforts for Gospel impact in New Orleans, NOBTS trustees approved a partnership with NAMB to launch a church planting center on the NOBTS campus.

"We are thrilled to partner with NAMB in reaching the city of New Orleans," said Jamie Dew, president of NOBTS and Leavell College. "We believe that this city provides the perfect context for training in urban ministry and church planting. If you can do ministry in this city, you can do it anywhere."

"This partnership allows our students a wonderful opportunity to make an impact for Christ in a city that desperately needs the Gospel, and it strengthens the good work that NAMB is already doing here in the city," Dew said.

Dew's heart for missions and engaging the city is expressed in the NOBTS mission statement adopted last year, committing the seminary to prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Kevin Ezell, NAMB president, believes the partnership can assist in NAMB's efforts to meet the growing need for equipped church planters across North America.

"I am incredibly excited about where Jamie Dew is leading NOBTS and this partnership will make the seminary a hub for anyone who wants to be immersed in the skills needed for church planting," Ezell said. "We have the capacity to plant hundreds of additional churches each year if there are more qualified planters available and I believe this partnership will help us do that."

As a NAMB Send City, New Orleans is the beneficiary of NAMB resources, church planting efforts and ministry initiatives. The center will centralize NAMB's investment in the city.

The center will be located on campus in a 4,900-square-foot space inside the Hardin Student Center.

NAMB will use the space for labs, assessments, training, coaching, "Catch the Vision" tours and conferencing. NOBTS will have access to the area for meeting space, as needed.

MissionLab at NOBTS will continue to facilitate church mission trips and provide mission opportunities in New Orleans.

NOBTS/NAMB partnership will bolster missions opportunities in the city, network resources, and coordinate missions and church planting efforts.



\$200K Challenge

Giving Day - \$200k

BY MARK HAGELMAN

December 1 is Giving Tuesday, a movement to create an international day of charitable giving at the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season. For the first time ever, we have \$100,000 for a matching gift. Our giving day goal is \$200,000.

Your gift to the Providence Fund on December 1st will be doubled dollar-for-dollar!

I know, I know... how can you pass up an opportunity to help your beloved School of Providence & Prayer when there is an offer to double the gifts you give?

We know you will want to make your financial gift on Giving Tuesday to help meet the challenge, but let me list a few ways that you can participate in this exciting challenge beyond giving financially.

Share Your Story

Please reflect on what NOBTS and Leavell College mean to you. Write those thoughts down and share them with friends, family, and colleagues via email, letter, phone, and through social media.

Your connection to the Seminary is the best story that can be told! When you choose to tell others why you support the work accomplished here, it has the ability to undergird the vision and mission of the Seminary...prepare servants!

Ambassador Toolkit

Go to NOBTS.edu/givingtuesday and you will find all the necessary tools to help you share your NOBTS story. We have sample emails for your use, as well as social media images and giving day logos that you can download! All this and more is available to you in the ambassador toolkit.

Start a fundraising team

How confident are you at influencing your friends and family to support the causes you care about? If you think that you're pretty good at it, why don't you try your hand at starting your own social media fundraising page.

You will find a turnkey way to start your own fundraising page on our website NOBTS.edu/givingtuesday.

Once there, look for the PEER to PEER Fundraising option. This link will lead you to a designated space where you can build your own fundraising page. It is as easy as 1,2,3... Set your goal, add your story, and share it through Facebook, Twitter, or email.

Please prayerfully consider helping us meet this challenge, and THANK YOU for sharing NOBTS and Leavell College with your friends and family.

NOBTS Weathers Zeta

BY MARK HAGELMAN

Adapted from the writings of Gary Myers

Hurricane Zeta raced ashore just after 4 p.m. Oct 28 near Cocodrie, La., with wind speeds of 110 mph. The fast-moving storm quickly reached the New Orleans metro area, and by 7:30 p.m., the storm had passed.

The eye of the storm passed directly over New Orleans, including the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary campus.

“Hurricane Zeta was a direct hit to our city and to our campus. We are grateful that we had no injuries on campus, and all of our people are doing well and in good spirits,” said Jamie Dew, NOBTS and Leavell College president. “There is a good bit of damage to our campus.”

The storm downed trees throughout the city and left more than 400,000 without power in the region. The most significant damage on the NOBTS campus happened at the Farnsworth Apartment complex.

A portion of the roof blew off as the eyewall passed over the campus. Falling roof debris crushed one car in front of Farnsworth.

Tree damage was extensive throughout campus; several cars, campus fences and the fiber optics network were damaged by falling limbs and trees.

A cold front passed through on the heels of Zeta, and the campus community took advantage of the cooler temperatures and sunny weather by helping with the clean-up. Students, professors, staff members, and their families aided the clean-up efforts by piling up branches and debris, and the seminary grounds crews worked to cut up fallen trees and larger limbs.

Zeta knocked out power to most of the NOBTS campus, but some residences retained power throughout the storm. Neighbors came together and helped those without power meet many immediate needs.

Café New Orleans, the seminary’s coffee shop, set up of coffee station in the residential portion of campus and offered free coffee to those participating in the clean-up. Seminary families without power were fed a hot meal that evening. As seminary families faced multiple days without power, the seminary opened the showers at the REC Health Center, and made emergency financial aid available to 100 student families.

Overall, the campus sustained nearly \$750,000 in damages due to the storm. Thankfully, through insurance and the generosity of private gifts, we are taking steps to repair the damages.



DeMent

SOCIETY

As part of the Foundation, you may also be a member of the DeMent Society. If you are, you received a survey from us in September. You may have already fully filled it in and sent it back to us. If so, we sent you a token of our appreciation for helping us keep our records up to date. Thank you!

If you received the survey and have not yet turned it in to us or you want to learn more, please contact us today to find out how you can complete the survey.

If you wish to learn what it takes to be part of the DeMent Society, call us at [504 282-4455 ext. 3252](tel:5042824455), and we will help inform you.

Cash Gifts = 100% AGI!

New Charitable Deduction Limits: As part of the CARES Act bill, individuals and corporations that itemize can deduct much greater amounts of their contributions.

Individuals can elect to deduct donations up to 100% of their 2020 AGI (up from 60% previously). Corporations may deduct up to 25% of taxable income, up from the previous limit of 10%.

The new deduction is for gifts that go to a public charity, such as New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Consult your investment and tax professional to see how you may leverage this limited provision while there's still time!

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