



# INSPIRE

NOVEMBER 2021, ISSUE NO. 10

Above: Legacy Plaza; 2017 Foundation Board project.

## Future Impact Today

BY DR. MIKE WETZEL

Can you believe that it is already November? Here on campus, as we recover from Hurricane Ida and the significant damage done, we press on toward the end of the school year and December graduations.

Giving Day is Tuesday, November 30, and it is just around the corner. You have helped us already by giving \$100,000 that we are using as a matching pledge. In addition, many of you stated you would be able to make your gift later. November 30 is the date of this Giving Day, and our goal is \$250,000. The only way to make this goal is by God leading and all of us participating at whatever level we can give.



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*The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation Board*

## Future Impact Today

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We want you to start making plans for our Foundation Board Meeting, March 4-5, 2022. This is the first opportunity for us to meet in person since 2019. I can't wait to gather together and accomplish the tasks we have chosen as the Foundation Board.

In January, you will receive a packet of information about the meeting along with the agenda for the meeting. We will add some new surprises to this year's gathering and certainly hope you make plans to come to New Orleans for the event. Once again, we will be offering the Saturday, March 5 meeting virtually, but you cannot eat a meal from Dragos virtually. So come.

Please keep us in your prayers. God is doing some incredible things here, and I look forward to sharing them with you. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)



Are you ready for March 4 & 5, 2022? We want everyone to be involved in the 56th annual Foundation Board meeting. Incorporated in the fall of 1965, the Foundation Board was established to raise funds supporting the work of the seminary's capital projects along with other fiduciary responsibilities. Today, the members have been able to help broaden our stability and continue our ministry assignment.

Please, plan on being here on March 4 & 5 to share a good time of fellowship, networking, and hearing directly from Dr. Jamie Dew and other key members of our seminary's administration.

We will have much to discuss and ask for your guidance and input. The meeting will be available virtually, but you just cannot have a **BIG TIME** in New Orleans if you're not here.

# God's Provision

BY MARK HAGELMAN

You may have heard the old saying that you can't out-give God. I don't know if you have tried lately, but it is exhausting to think of the energy a person will exert pursuing God's perfect generosity.

With November 30 rapidly approaching, we cannot think of a better way to thank you all for your generous spirit. Your gifts for our Giving Day Matching Gift challenge make all the difference. But, more than that, we know God will get all the glory for what we hope will be the BIGGEST giving day in the history of NOBTS.

We know you're excited to hear the results, but you can help in three specific ways until then.

1. Share! Go to [www.nobts.edu/givingtuesday](http://www.nobts.edu/givingtuesday) to find sample emails and social media posts & images to share with your community of family and friends.
2. Give! Online donations can be made by going to [www.nobts.edu/donate](http://www.nobts.edu/donate).
3. Pledge! If you want your donation counted for Giving Day but want to give it by December 31, contact Nancy at 504-282-4455 ext. 3252 or by email at [development@nobts.edu](mailto:development@nobts.edu)

Would you please join your fellow Board members to promote and drive Giving Day results? Students benefit from stable tuition and fees when donations to the Providence Fund are made. Really, every dollar given to the Providence Fund saves a student a dollar.

Thank you for your unwavering support!







Above: Bo Smith

## Meet Bo Smith

BY BOB BUNN

After some rebellious years as a teenager, Bo became a Christian during his freshman year at Auburn University. Still a relatively young believer when he graduated, he began working on a master of divinity degree through Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. That experience convinced him that God was calling him into local church planting.

"After graduation, I went to Atlanta and served as a North American Mission Board church-planting apprentice with the congregation of M28 Church. They taught me how to engage the community and be an urban missionary. I was able to exercise the evangelistic gifting I had."

That's also where he met his wife, Katie, who happened to be considering a dental school in New Orleans. That meant the Smiths had a decision to make. "We knew that we were falling in love and wanting to get married. I was trying to plant a church in Atlanta, and she was trying to get into dental school in New Orleans. So, we prayed about that and felt like God was calling us to dental school. That required me to step away from my church planting efforts in Atlanta."

Even though New Orleans had never been on his radar, the move proved to be a blessing for Bo. Like Atlanta, New Orleans is a NAMB Send City. He started serving at a church plant and working as a full-time physical education teacher. But, he also decided it was time to continue his education, and NOBTS was a natural choice.

"I didn't fall in love with New Orleans or NOBTS and Leavell College until I became a student. It wasn't one of those deals where I had heard about the seminary or heard their mission statement and wanted to be a part of it. I just knew I was in a city with a Southern Baptist seminary so that I could work on my doctor of ministry degree."

Early on, the seminary got what Bo called his "leftovers." With so many other things on his plate, his education ranked third or fourth on his priority list. But, as Bo worked on his doctoral ministry project for the first time, he saw the benefits of higher education beyond simply gaining more academic credentials.

Bo has since enrolled in a PhD program, and he also joined the NOBTS and Leavell staff as the Director of Alumni Engagement.

"I love my job because it's all about relationships and connecting with our alumni." Bo continues, "We are nestled in this city that represents nations from all over the world. We have this laboratory here at our fingertips. Once we finish a lesson in the classroom, we can walk outside our seminary gates and do ministry with people from India, Africa, China; you name it. Because of that, students are more prepared for ministry after graduating from New Orleans than they would be anywhere else."



## Order Legacy Bricks Online

BY MARK HAGELMAN

From 2017 to today, the Legacy Plaza project began by the Foundation Board has been a fantastic addition to our campus atmosphere.

We always desire to improve our service to alumni and friends. Therefore, we have partnered with a new brick engraving company to make online ordering possible.

What do you give to someone who has everything they need? Consider making this year extra special with a permanent tribute to a family member, friend, pastor, mentor, or yourself with a Legacy Brick or Paver.



Order Your Brick for  
Christmas!

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

**Go to the website and then look under the  
Legacy Brick tab for online ordering details.**





## Board Officers -21/22

Your officers are available to serve every member.

Here are your Foundation Officers:

- Mike Haley - Chairman
- Ron McCaskill - Vice-Chair
- Cory Armand - Recording Secretary
- Brett Allen - Executive Treasurer
- Mike Wetzal - Executive Director

Don't hesitate to get in touch with us with any questions or concerns.

(504) 282-4455 ext. 3252 or email us at [development@nobts.edu](mailto:development@nobts.edu)

## Team Work; Dream Work

Teams are new, and we want you to succeed. Would you please pray for each group as we serve together?

1. Recruitment - Jody Dean, Captain
2. Events - Carol Wilken, Captain
3. Board Training - Chris Townson, Captain
4. Giving Tuesday - Mike Haley, Captain
5. Directory & Fellowship - Becky Harris, Captain

Your efforts as a team member matter, and we thank you for your help!

## What is membership?

As voted during the March 2021 meeting, here are your membership requirements.

- Initial three-year commitment to give or raise \$5,000 minimum per year to the Foundation Endowment.
- Attendance at the Annual Meeting is to be missed only by excused absence.
- Members are to pray for the Seminary daily.
- \$100,000 in a one-time gift secures Lifetime membership.
- Enlist new members within three years.

- Each board member will be asked to help facilitate a regional "NOBTS and Friends" event in their region.
- A person is eligible for membership by enlisting others who meet the membership requirements or securing gifts from an outside entity that matches the membership requirements. These persons are encouraged to give personally on an annual basis.
- A commitment to continued giving on an annual basis (after the first three years).



# You're Invited!

## 2021

- **Christmas Concert in Leavell Chapel**  
Nov. 30

## 2022

- **Defend 2022 - Apologetics Conference**  
Jan. 3 - Jan. 7
- **Women's Auxiliary January Luncheon**  
Jan. 28
- **Abide Women's Conference**  
Feb. 4 - Feb. 5
- **Foundation Board Annual Meeting**  
Mar. 4 - Mar. 5
- **Senior Fest**  
Apr. 29
- **Graduation**  
May 13 - May 14



We mourn the loss of Mrs. Melanie Stoff, Capt. Jim and Mrs. Carolyn Lee's daughter, who passed away on October 18, 2021. Please join us as we pray for her husband and family.

## NOBTS Advancement Team

**Mike Wetzel**

*VP for Institutional Advancement*

**Nancy Whatley**

*Administrative Assistant*

**Betty Lynn Campbell**

*Director of Development Services*

**Wanda Gregg**

*Director of Donor Relations*

**Mark Hagelman**

*Director of Development*

**Lindsay Holder**

*Data Secretary*

**Taylor Anderson**

*Development Recorder*

**Meagan Stedman**

*Gift Processor*

**Shann Phillips**

*Project Manager*

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*The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation Board*

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