

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# VISION

KATRINA SPECIAL EDITION • FALL 2006

*Restored, Renewed and  
Reaching the City*

*P*URPOSE  
AFTER THE STORM



**Charles S. Kelley**  
NOBTS President

## The Dawning of a New Day

What a difference a year makes. The city of New Orleans had become America's largest ghost town. Like the neighborhoods around it, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary was more battered and bruised than anyone ever imagined it could be. One year ago we totally emptied the campus in a caravan of grief, tears, and prayer, and the Seminary family scattered to 29 different states. Hundreds of workers filled every corner of the campus, and the massive effort to restore the campus in time for fall classes began. Gray sludge and dead brown were the predominant colors of the day, and the only sign of hope was the light on our chapel steeple in the ocean of black that was New Orleans after sunset. The Trustees studied the situation and carefully considered the future. They unanimously voted to restore the campus and keep the Seminary in New Orleans, knowing the city would be coming back and wanting to be here to partner with our churches in their recovery and be a witness to the "new" New Orleans. As I traveled the country in the aftermath of this worst natural disaster in the history of our nation, more than one person wondered if anything so badly damaged could ever recover. A year has passed and the answer to that question is now clear. Yes! New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is fully operational again!

## The Campus Is Restored

Thanks to the grace of God expressed through the outpouring of support from Southern Baptists and the incredible work of our passionately Christian contractor, Mr. Mike Moskau, this School of Providence and Prayer is fully operational once again. New grass, landscaping, and fencing has restored the beauty of the campus. Most housing is back on line, with all of it to be finished by the end of the month. A bed was found for all who needed it as classes began: student, staff, and faculty. All of our front block buildings, including the library, were spared from flooding and suffered relatively minor damage. All were ready to go when classes began. The organ in Leavell Chapel was severely damaged and had to be removed for repairs. It will return in early 2007. The structure of the steeple was weakened internally and could not withstand future hurricanes. The old steeple has been removed and an identical new steeple will be installed no later than January. Sunshine Park is once again the site for walking, football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, picnics, exercise, and just plain play.

In addition to repairs, many improvements have been made along the way. The electrical capacities of the dorms, along with their heating and cooling systems, have been significantly enhanced. Samaritan's Purse repaired the ground surface of all our playgrounds, but they also built for us a brand new playground across the street from the Farnsworth Apartments. Sidewalks have been both repaired and elevated to keep them dry during our famous thunderstorms. The chapel sound system and carpet are being completely replaced. Exterior surfaces for most buildings are being painted and resealed. The Preschool Center was heavily damaged. Not only is it being repaired, but the tans and browns of old are being replaced with bright primary colors. The Maintenance Building was made unusable, but as we replace it we will move it to a more appropriate location in the back of campus. In many ways the campus after the storm will be even more beautiful and functional than it was before the storm. You must come and see for yourself.

## The Seminary Family Is Back

For a year we have wondered whether or not students would return once the Seminary reopened. We were both proud and grateful that approximately 85 percent of our students continued their studies last year in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Our enrollment this year has been a pleasant surprise. The campus was not open for students to return until June, but I am thrilled to announce that the students and their families have come back. Once again we have children filling the playgrounds and covering the campus with their bicycles. Most of our housing is filled. The students I have spoken to have a passionate commitment about being here at this point in time and under these circumstances. They want to make a difference in this city while they are preparing for their lifetime vocation. Our enrollment thus far is about 2,400 for the fall semester. This is only about 300 students less than last year before Katrina, which is a miracle! We are particularly encouraged with the number of new students. We are close to the same number of new students as we had a year ago. God is doing a miracle on the Mississippi!

## God Continues to Provide

One of the greatest thrills of my life has been watching God provide what we needed at each step of the way. With the biggest repair bill in its history, God is in the process of providing exactly what we need. The Cooperative Program gave us a special gift of more than six million dollars. The International Mission Board gave us a special gift of more than one million dollars. Hundreds and hundreds of Southern Baptists and churches from this country and around the world have given sacrificially to help us get back on our feet again. We will not have any money left from Hurricane assistance funds, but God is balancing the books and providing what we need. We have distributed more than two million dollars of cash assistance to faculty, staff, and students. We spent more than two million dollars relocating our offices and families, operating without the campus for most of the year. In addition to that our repair bill will be more than 50 million dollars. This is a far smaller amount than most of the schools in the city, but it is huge for us. With insurance and gifts, approximately 40 million dollars of these costs have been received thus far. Praise the Lord! Although the job is not quite finished God has been so faithful in providing for our needs. The latest good news: we have received the largest cash scholarship gift in our history. The Alabama Baptist Convention has given us \$200,000 for scholarship assistance for students affected by the hurricane. To quote an ancient Hebrew expression: Wow!

## Where Are We Now?

We need to rebuild our faculty. We were understaffed when the storm hit. This faculty delivered one of the greatest performances by an academic faculty in the history of the world last year, and did it under very difficult conditions. Since the storm hit we have lost 11 members of the faculty who have gone on to other ministry opportunities. This means our professors are working even harder than usual in this post-Katrina year. Dr. Lemke and I are now in search mode. Pray for us as we seek the right people for our setting. We also need to finish the restoration process, and then move on into the future development of the campus. We do not want to simply get back to where we were before the storm. We want to move ahead. The Trustees have authorized us to begin the planning process for building a new library. With the largest theological library in this region of the country, we are out of space. Although we are still early in the process, we know this library will reflect the needs and visions of the 21st century. It will be the most interesting project we have done to date.

One of our more critical needs is the acquisition of property around the campus. Hurricane Katrina created a once in a century opportunity to buy land. Please pray that God will provide the funds we need to expand our campus to its natural borders. We believe some key pieces

of land may become available that will not be available again in our lifetime. A fourth opportunity before us is the need to recruit new students. So much bad news was broadcast about New Orleans that many people think it is impossible for the Seminary to be back on its feet. Tell everyone you know we are indeed open for business. The city has more and better student employment opportunities than at any other time in its history. The ministry opportunities are also exceptional. Just this year we will be working with the Baptist Association of New Orleans to restart 27 churches severely damaged or destroyed in the storm. Finally, we need to work with our churches to root Jesus deeply in the "new" New Orleans. There has never been a greater openness to the Gospel in this city than there is right now. We do not know how long this window of opportunity will last, but we must take advantage of it.

## Is The Future Really That Bright?

One of the frequently asked questions I face is from those who wonder why I am so excited and optimistic about the future. The answer is in two parts. If God wanted to close us down as a Seminary, he had the perfect opportunity. Two universities approximately five blocks away from us have reported damage costing hundreds of millions of dollars. Our total repair bill is a relatively small 55 million dollars. The restoration of our campus is a major project, but it is doable. More important than that, however, is my conviction about God's response to the suffering of His children. We took our hardest blows in our living spaces and our personal lives. It has been a tough and brutal year for every member of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary family. Never have the faculty, staff, and students of NOBTS made greater sacrifices for the Kingdom of God than those they have made this year. Thank God for an honest Bible. God's Word warns us in advance that his children will suffer for the sake of the spreading of the Gospel and advancing His Kingdom. When obedience to God leads us to difficult circumstances, we can be sure that the Lord will not waste that obedient suffering. He will redeem it and use it. Our Seminary family has born up under this catastrophe in a magnificent way. Spirits are sweet. Hope is everywhere on the campus. This is an obedience that God will honor. He will not let it pass unnoticed. A great harvest is coming to New Orleans. The Gospel is being sown down in every neighborhood. God will take our tears and turn them into a highway for the Gospel. This city and our Seminary are now ready to serve as the backdrop for a mighty act of God. Last year may have been very difficult, but today is a good day and tomorrow will be a great day!



Dr. Chuck Kelley

# The Year in Review

Important Milestones on New Orleans Seminary's Road to Recovery

## 2005 *two thousand and five*

### August 29

Hurricane Katrina hits; levee failures leave NOBTS and the city under water.

### August 31

Twenty-four Seminary workers who stayed to protect the NOBTS campus during the storm launch a daring escape from the flooded city.



### September 1

Forty NOBTS officials meet in Decatur, Ga. to assess the situation and work on a plan to provide relief for Seminary families and continue the fall semester.

### Early September

Seminary officials light the Leavell Chapel steeple as a testimony to the city. A lone light in the sea of darkness, the steeple could be seen for miles.

### September 12

Campus cleanup begins.

### September 27

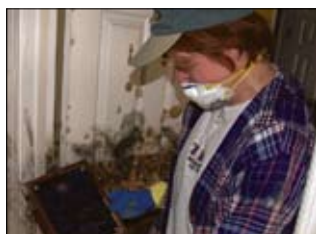
Meeting in Decatur, Ga., NOBTS trustees unanimously vote to keep the Seminary in New Orleans.

### October 3

Fall main campus courses continue via reformulated online study.

### October 5-9

Seminary residents return to campus to salvage personal items. The move-out days were possibly the most difficult time in the Seminary's recovery process.



### October 31

Volunteers from churches, associations and ministries began helping with campus restoration.

## December 17

137 graduates receive NOBTS degrees in the first post-Katrina graduation held in Birmingham, Ala.

## 2006 *two thousand and six*

### January 11

The first round of seminary housing restoration is complete and a limited number of NOBTS offices return to the main campus.

### January 23

Commuter courses begin on the main campus; more than 200 students take classes in New Orleans. Online courses continue for displaced students.



### April 24

All campus offices returned to the main campus in New Orleans from Decatur, Ga.

### May 13

Seminary celebrates spring graduation in Leavell Chapel on the main campus, with 241 students participating.



### June - July

Students and Faculty members begin moving back in on-campus housing.

### August 1

NOBTS resumes normal campus operations; campus restoration more than 80 percent complete; SBC volunteers saved NOBTS over \$2 million in repair costs.

### August 16

Fall classes begin. Seminary officials are encouraged by strong enrollment numbers.

### August 29

700 NOBTS volunteers mark the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina with ministry projects throughout the city.

# VISION

MAGAZINE

Fall 2006

Dr. Chuck Kelley  
President

Dr. Jerry Garrard  
Vice President for  
Institutional Advancement

Gary D. Myers  
Editor

Jimmy Cole  
Staff Photographer

Astasha Baker  
Michael McCormack  
Katie Nalls  
Editorial Team/Proof Readers



VISION magazine is published three times a year by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
3939 Gentilly Blvd.  
New Orleans, La. 70126  
(800) 662-8701; (504) 282-4455  
www.nobts.edu  
nobtsfoundation.com

Please send address changes and Alumni Updates to the office of Alumni Relations at the above address. NOTE: Alumni Updates will be used for publication in both the Vision magazine and on the Alumni website.



New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is a Cooperative Program ministry, supported by the gifts of Southern Baptists.

## PURPOSE AFTER THE STORM

# *Restored, Renewed and Reaching the City*

PAGE 7



God's Call Awaits New & Returning Students ..... 6



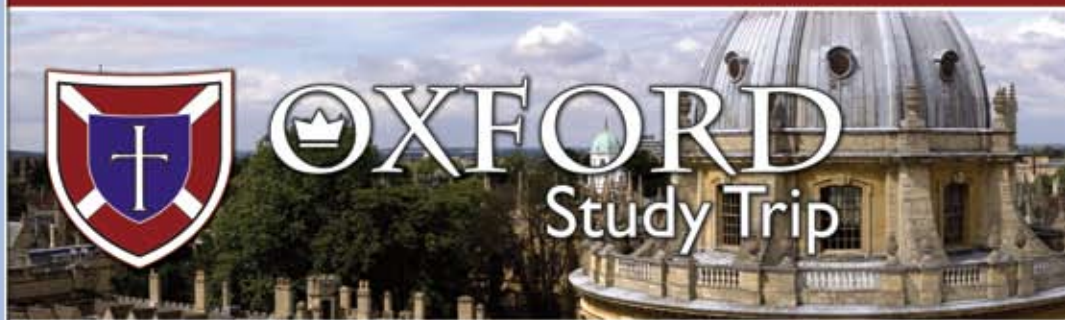
Puttings Hands and Feet to the Gospel ..... 9



Alumni, Students Provide Hope in the City ..... 16

Editor Helps Professors & Students Replace Lost Books ..... 18

Dr. Jerry Garrard Named VP for Institutional Advancement ..... 20



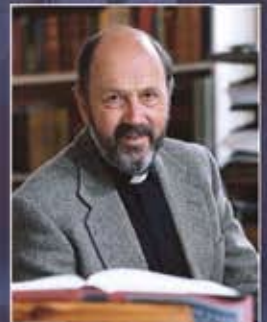
### Study at Regent's Park College, Oxford University

**July 2-15, 2007**

Trip includes visits to:  
Edinburgh Castle  
St. Paul's Cathedral  
Westminster Abbey  
John Bunyan's Church  
C.H. Spurgeon's Church  
John Wesley's Chapel  
Stonehenge  
British Museum  
Tower of London  
and More



Trip will be led by Dr. Bob Stewart



Spend an evening with N.T. Wright

Open to both students and guests. Cost for students is \$3990, for guests the cost is \$3490. Students may take up to 9 hours of seminary course credit. For more information, contact Linda Jackson at 1-800-NOBTS-01, ext. 8060

**"We are sowing the seeds of the Gospel at every level of the New Orleans culture and in all of its neighborhoods. I think in five to 10 years there is going to be a great harvest in our churches. I think we have an incredible opportunity to be a witness for the Gospel."**

*Dr. Chuck Kelley*

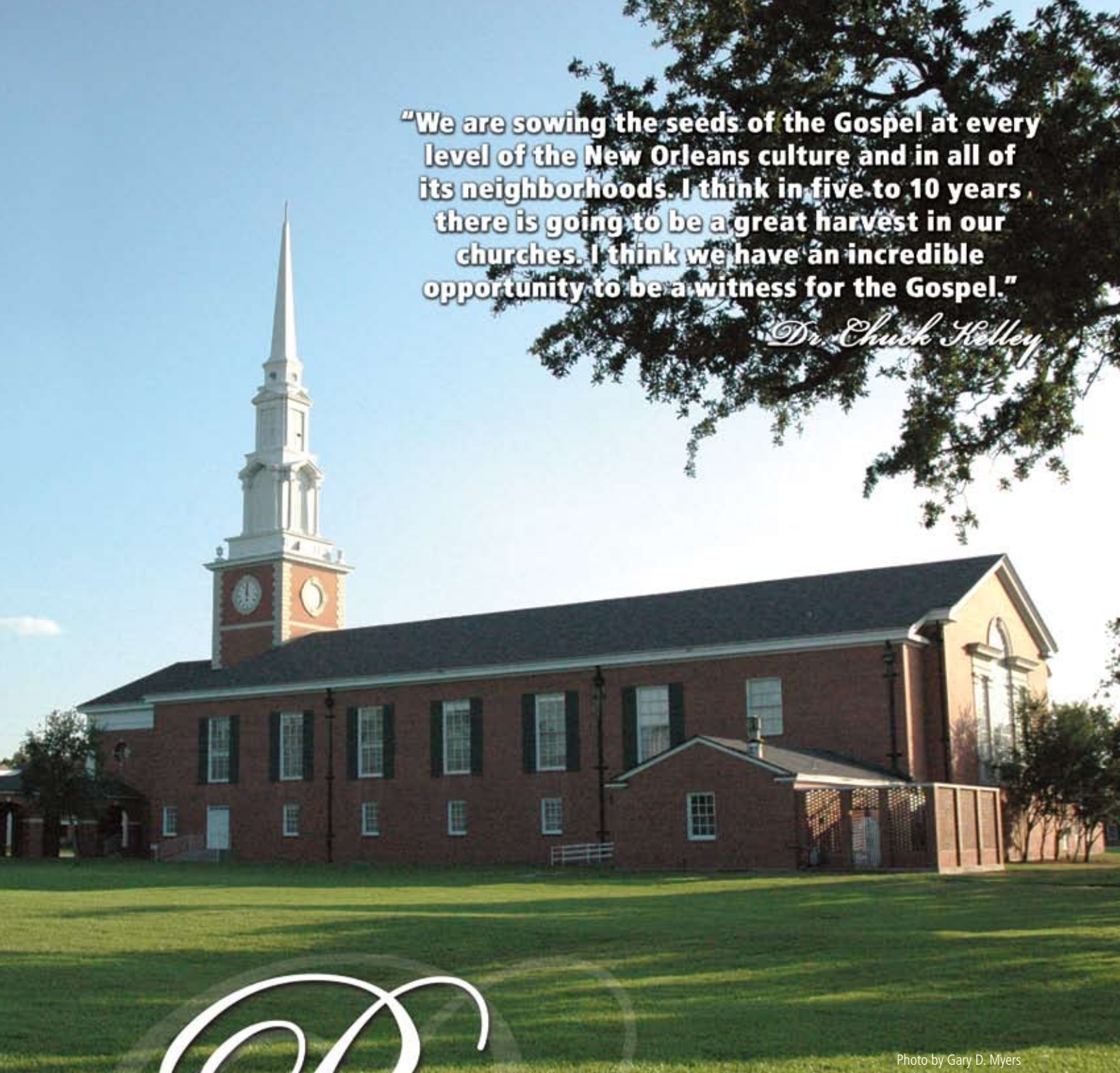


Photo by Gary D. Myers

**PURPOSE**  
AFTER THE STORM



Photos by Jimmy Cole

# *Restored, Renewed and Reaching the City*

The first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina has come and gone. And while no one would tell you that it has been an easy year for the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary family, hope fills the campus. Along with the challenges and hardships, the year has also been filled with blessings and new beginnings.

God freely poured out grace and mercy on the Seminary family. He used people of all ages to encourage our students, professors and staff members. Southern Baptists gave freely, served faithfully and prayed fervently for this School of Providence and Prayer.

The memories of Hurricane Katrina will last a lifetime, but during this fall semester the seminary family is looking forward – focused on ministry, not mourning.

The signs of life fill the restored campus. Students rush to and from classes and study late into the night. Professors pass on the

things they have learned about ministry to the next generation of church leaders. Joggers get in early-morning exercise. Families visit together, as their children play on restored campus playgrounds.

In short, life is getting back to normal at NOBTS. In the city it is a different story. The residents of New Orleans are still hurting, still waiting for help.

Jesus said in Luke 12:48, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

The Seminary family has been given much during this time of restoration and renewal. We have much to share with the city – our sweat, our tears and most of all, our Savior who is Christ the Lord. The campus is restored, our people are renewed ... our goal: reaching the city with the Gospel.

# Students Follow God's Call Back to the City

## Kelley: God's Call Awaits New & Returning Seminarians

By Michael McCormack

At the start of each academic year, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary offers a "welcome home" to both new and returning students. For the start of the 2006-2007 academic year, each student received a warm welcome to the inside of an unfolding miracle – the recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

"Welcome to the inside of a miracle," NOBTS President Chuck Kelley said to new students. "You are now going to be a part of the story of what God does both in this city while you're here and in the world after you leave. We're glad you're here."

At the Seminary's first post-Katrina chapel service, Kelley used the story of Moses' call and the Exodus to speak of each students' call to ministry and to New Orleans. He stressed that God's plan for Moses was both personal – "I will send you" – and very specific – "to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt" (Ex. 3:10). In the same way, Kelley said students with whom he had talked told



Photo by Jimmy Cole  
Leavell College student Dominique LeGree is all smiles during the first week of Fall classes.

him of their personal and specific call to New Orleans.

"You came here because you knew that God wanted you here this fall to prepare for ministry," he said, "and be a part of the witness of the church in these post-Katrina days in the city of New Orleans."

However, Kelley warned that God's calling on a person's life will be inevitably challenged.

"That call will be challenged because it's not safe," he said. "That call will be challenged because it's not productive. That call will be challenged because it's not reasonable. And that challenge will come from everywhere."

"I bet everyone in this room was - advised by at least somebody not to come to New Orleans."

Whatever challenges confront a person in his or her calling, Kelley said, there is only one proper response: obedience. Despite Pharaoh ignoring all the plagues and in spite of the enmity the Israelites felt toward Moses when their circumstances worsened, Moses continued to be obedient to God's calling. And in obeying God's call, Kelley said, a person's sense of calling will be continually clarified.

"You get to a point in your life when you know you don't have it in you to be or do what God wants you to be," he said. "You



Photo by Gary D. Myers  
NOBTS student Billy Puckett unloads a U-Haul during the summer as his family moved back to campus.



cast yourself completely on the mercy of God, seeking His forgiveness, His restoration, His work and not yours.”

For the entire Seminary family, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina laid bare the full meaning of casting oneself completely on the mercy of God. And just as Moses’ obedience proved a part of God’s work to liberate the Israelites and introduce Himself as the one true God, the continued obedience of the Seminary family to their calling will play a part in God displaying His faithfulness to New Orleans and to the world.

**“Our Seminary family has really had to grapple with the priority of God’s call over everything else in our lives and with the fact that God’s call can lead you to difficult circumstances.”**

*– Dr. Chuck Kelley*

In an interview about the past year, Kelley explained how members of the Seminary deal with the call of God.

“Our Seminary family has really had to grapple with the priority of God’s call over everything else in our lives and with the fact that God’s call can lead you to difficult circumstances,” he said.

“We can have a very settled peace in our hearts because our Father’s grace is always sufficient. We have really experienced God’s wonderful grace.”



Photo by Jimmy Cole  
Audrey Garrett, left, and big sister, Caroline, play at the Manor Apartment playground on a Saturday morning.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Craig Garrett



Photo by Jimmy Cole

## ‘God’s Ordinary Work’

By Christi Gibson

Craig and Phyllis Garrett wanted to come to New Orleans four years ago, but at the time, all the doors seemed closed.

The Garretts lived in Beaumont, Texas, where Craig worked with Buckner Benevolences and taught as an adjunct at his alma mater, Lamar University. When Hurricane Rita blew through, Craig assisted in the evacuation of elderly residents to Dallas. The Garretts eventually returned to repair their hurricane damaged home of fifteen years and settle back into the community.

That was when the doors to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary began to open at last. While they were amazed at the scope of the disaster in the city, the Garretts are not discouraged. They have five children under the age of nine, and the on-campus neighborhood provides a lifestyle they value. A full-time on-campus job for Craig and a solid homeschool support system for Phyllis cleared the way for Craig to pursue his Ph.D. in counseling while meeting his family obligations.

Craig and Phyllis were drawn to a local church involved in hands-on ministry to the city, and they plan to become involved, but their primary call to New Orleans did not come from a burning desire to do disaster relief.

“God is still doing the ordinary work of the seminary – even in the midst of a post disaster city,” Craig said.

Craig’s is a simple desire to get the best education in the area of ministry to which God has called him. For him, that means New Orleans.



Photo by Gary D. Myers  
Dave Best measures siding at the Baptist Crossroads Habitat for Humanity site in the Upper Ninth Ward of New Orleans.

# Putting Hands and Feet to the Gospel

## NOBTS Family Marks Katrina Anniversary with Ministry

By Gary D. Myers

Instead of spending the day mourning, 700 volunteers from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary put “hands and feet to the Gospel” at 28 sites throughout New Orleans on the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

Subjects like pastoral ministry, missions and evangelism were not taught in the classroom that day, but out in the city. Real-world training took place in hard-hit areas like the Ninth Ward, St. Bernard Parish and the Seminary’s own Gentilly neighborhood. The volunteers’ work was a message of love, hope and God’s grace – a hug for the hurting city.

Seminary groups illustrated the love of God in word and in deed. Groups gutted homes, chopped waist-high weeds, worked on churches and prayed. Roving counseling and evangelism teams also walked through neighborhoods offering hope, encouragement and a Gospel witness not only in English but in Spanish as well. At least seven people accepted Christ that day.

Teams went out in groups of 10-15 people wearing bright yellow t-shirts imprinted with the day’s theme – “NOBTS: Rebuilding New Orleans in Jesus’ Name.”

NOBTS urban missions professor Ken Taylor, co-organizer of the service project, said he hopes the day will help the Seminary community see how widespread the hurricane devastation is.

“Hopefully, [Seminary] people will develop

a passion for getting out and ministering and seeing what a difference it makes,” Taylor said.

“Getting the students out and letting them get the flavor of the needs in the city and what God is doing was one of our main goals,” he said. “Students just got in there and worked and realized that they were doing it for the Lord. I was amazed and pleased with the student participation.”

The day began with disaster relief training

in the Seminary’s Leavell Chapel. At 1 p.m., after a meal provided by a Louisiana disaster relief feeding unit, the volunteers moved out into the city.

“Our Katrina Ministry Day was a great opportunity for our Seminary family to be a living illustration of the love of God,” said NOBTS President Chuck Kelley, who visited many of the worksites during the day. “With so many New Orleans neighborhoods still

in ruins, you understand why it is difficult for many to believe in the love of God. We intend to be evidence to the contrary. God does love the people of New Orleans, and we are here to demonstrate the reality of that love in tangible ways.

“After 31 years of living, witnessing and going to church in this city, it is becoming increasingly obvious that something fundamental has changed,” Kelley noted. “A window of opportunity has opened, and God is about to do a great and deep work.”



Photo by Jimmy Cole

Lindsey Spencer helps gut a home in the Gentilly neighborhood near the Seminary.



Photo by Gary D. Myers



Photo by Vanee Daure

Rhonda Kelley, wife of Seminary President Chuck Kelley, talks with Ed Prickett at his Gentilly home.

## *Sharing Christ in Word and Deed*

### Students Help NOBTS Alumnus with Recovery and Lead a Construction Worker to Christ on Katrina Anniversary

In Gentilly, 15 students helped one of their own – Ed Prickett who graduated from the Seminary in 1958. Prickett’s home, located near the Seminary, sat untouched during the year since the storm. Students removed all of the contents and placed them on the curb.

Prickett, now in his 70s, attended NOBTS from 1955-58 and moved into the home on Piety Drive in 1963. Prickett and his late wife Willene were members of Gentilly Baptist Church where he was a deacon and she was active in the Woman’s Missionary Union.

In the home, students encountered a two-to three-foot layer of mush consisting of newspapers, books and other items that had melted together. They also encountered rats.

Prickett watched as the students removed ruined items from the home. He watched closely for items to salvage. Very few were found, but he endured the challenging day with grace and dignity. His actions served as a testimony of faith for the student group.

The group was thrilled to see NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke and his evangelism team arrive with cold water to distribute as they walked up and down Piety Drive sharing the Gospel.

“You are working in this home, but that gives us the opportunity to go next door and share and witness,” Lemke said to encourage the students. “We appreciate both – the spiritual and the physical work. Both are indispensable; you can’t have one without the other.

“The guys are sharing with someone right now because the work being done in this home gives us the chance to say, ‘Hey, we’re from the seminary; we’re working over here and wanted to give you this New Testament,’” Lemke continued. “From there, we can begin a conversation with that person and hopefully share the Gospel.”

Through the witness of the evangelism team, a workman in one of the neighboring homes gave his life to Christ.

## Members of Korean Student Fellowship Cleans Gentilly Home on Aug. 29

Just blocks away on another Gentilly street, dozens of students from the Seminary's Korean Student Fellowship gutted another home. Many of the Korean students lost their belongings in the campus flood and were happy to help others overcome the loss.

"We thank New Orleans Seminary for allowing us to help," one Korean student told Taylor.

In storm-ravaged St. Bernard Parish, where every structure was flooded, teams prayer walked and cleaned out homes. The area was inundated by up to 20 feet of storm surge during the storm. In Chalmette, one Seminary team faced the grim task of clearing out a home slated for demolition.

For many students, the day had the profound effect Taylor and the other organizers desired: Many expressed a new passion and understanding for city residents.

One seminarian confessed he had been a little selfish following the storm. While evacuated to Texas, he did not think about the plight of the people of New Orleans. He said the day helped him understand the needs of the city in a new way.

On Aug. 29, the city was the classroom where theory was put into practice. Perhaps the words of NOBTS professor Gerald Stevens best summed up the day: "We just hope our students will catch a vision for putting hands and feet to the Gospel."

– with reporting by Astasha Baker, Michael McCormack, Gary Myers and Katie Nalls.



Photo by Vaneé Daure

Students from the Korean Student Fellowship clean out and gut a flood-damaged home in Gentilly.

## President Bush Greet NOBTS Group at Habitat worksite

By Gary D. Myers

When one group from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary arrived at a Habitat for Humanity project in the Upper Ninth Ward on Aug. 29, they expected a hard day's work. What they didn't expect was to meet the President of the United States.

However, the team of 40 NOBTS students, professors and staff members got the rare treat of meeting and praying with George W. Bush as they worked on Habitat for Humanity's Baptist Crossroads site.

The project, initiated by First Baptist Church in New Orleans, is a plan to provide more than 30 new homes



White House Photo

**See Related  
Photo on  
Page 15**

for working families in the Upper Ninth Ward. The site, sometimes referred to as "The Musician's Village," has become a symbol of hope for the city.

The NOBTS group worked on six homes at the site, spending most of the day installing windows and siding. It was tedious, slow-paced work on a hot August day one year after the onslaught of Hurricane Katrina, but the group was rewarded with the surprise visit from the president.

For all the volunteers, it became apparent early on that something was different at the site. Police and Secret Service agents began arriving around 9 a.m., and at 9:30 a.m. the Habitat staff asked the group to gather across the street. The staffers informed the group that Bush would be visiting. After all their cell phones and cameras were collected the students passed through a checkpoint and returned to work.

After the President arrived, he took time to greet each NOBTS student, faculty and staff member at the site. He shook every hand and spoke to each volunteer. Then he acknowledged the work of the group, saying, "Thanks for the example you are setting – loving your neighbor as yourself. God bless you."

One student asked if the group could pray with him, and he agreed. About 20 members of the NOBTS family, sweaty from long hours in the sun, huddled closely and **laid hands on the President**. Scott Drumm, Associate Dean of the Seminary's Leavell College, voiced their prayer.

"He expressed appreciation of our prayers and we were able to pray for our President – which he seemed to genuinely appreciate," Drumm recounted.



Photos by Emily Bray

Gavin Busby prayer walks with Olivia and Sarah Cate Bray along Gentilly Blvd. A Gentilly resident holds a stuffed animal given by the Bray girls on the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

## *From the Lips of Children... You have Ordained Praise*

### Home School Children Touch Neighbors with Compassion

By Katie Nalls

Their message was simple and their gifts were small, but a group of home school children from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary found a special way to minister to their neighborhood on the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

Paula Stringer, Professor of Childhood Education at NOBTS, led a group of more than 20 children and adults from the Seminary's home school network down nearby Gentilly Boulevard to pray and give bottles of cold water in Jesus' name.

Emily Bray, mother of 6-year-old Olivia and 4-year-old Sarah Cate, told the story of the Good Samaritan for the girls' morning devotion before meeting up with the home schooling group.

"I told the girls that in New Orleans a lot of people have had an opportunity to help but because it's not their hurt or their situation, it's easier to walk on by," Bray said.

When she told the girls that they would be giving out water and talking to people that day, they wanted to do more. Olivia and Sarah Cate got a trash bag and filled it up with stuffed animals. As the group prayer walked and gave

away cold water in the Gentilly neighborhood, the girls gave out the stuffed animals.

When their mother told them that they probably would meet more construction workers and adults than children, Sarah Cate responded, "But everybody needs a puppy!"

The group met only one child during the day but they encountered many other special people, including an 89-year-old man who was out cutting his grass. He wouldn't take the water but, he did take a stuffed, blue bunny rabbit.

"Well, we just want you to know Jesus loves you," Sarah Cate said.

The man gave her a kiss on the cheek.

Across the street, Olivia offered a woman a stuffed animal. The woman refused saying that nothing had gone right since the storm.

When the woman finally accepted the bear saying that she was sorry not to have anything to give Olivia, the child said, "That's not what this is about. This is about how Jesus loves me and I want you to know that He loves you too."

The lady burst into tears, gave Olivia a big hug and asked her to marry her grandson. She invited the group to come back to visit, and they plan to do so.

# MINISTRY DAY TESTIMONIES

## Love from the Seminary Family

“I was one of the fortunate recipients of having one of the teams from the Seminary come to my house in Chalmette and help drag out some of that ‘used-to-be good’ furniture. And I thought



about that team as I watched them do their work. You know we use the expression ‘Seminary Family’ a lot. We know that we mean by that the faculty and the student body.”

“I have to tell you that after [Aug. 29], that expression took on an incredibly deeper meaning to me because now when I think of the expression ‘Seminary Family’ I see a group of people whose

faces are covered with white masks and their hands are grimy with the mud off that furniture and whose hearts were united as one. And for me, the ‘Seminary Family’ expression will be something a lot more meaningful. Thanks.”

– Seminary student Paul Hussey whose Chalmette home was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina

## A Passion to Reach the City

“It [meeting a new Habitat for Humanity homeowner] spoke to my heart in a way that burdened me to continue to go out into the community on a regular basis and share the gifts and talents God has given to me. I got the feeling that day that people, more than anything, appreciate and crave love and personal interaction with others.”

“Having spent some time in New Orleans prior to Hurricane Katrina, I can definitely say that New Orleans as a whole is extremely open to help, personal conversation, and the Gospel. If we don’t show [the people] the love of Christ and share the message of a redeeming Savior with New Orleans who will?”

“I was honored and blessed to be a part of the whole experience and it has given me a burning passion to reach out to New Orleans.”

– Seminary student Jonathan Bundrick after his day of service at the Baptist Crossroads Habitat site

## The FACTS

**700**  
Volunteers Mobilized

**28**  
Ministry Sites

**7**  
Professions of Faith

**Countless**  
Lives Changed



## Thank You

### Louisiana Baptist Convention



The Louisiana Baptist Convention graciously provided the materials necessary for the kick-off of Rebuilding New Orleans in Jesus’s Name Aug. 29. They invested thousands of dollars to provide training material, books, lunch and t-shirts for Seminary Volunteers. We are grateful for LBC’s participation.



Photo by Jimmy Cole



Photo by Jimmy Cole

# *Rebuilding New Orleans in Jesus' Name*



Photo by Vanee Daure



Photo by Jimmy Cole



Photo by Jimmy Cole

## **A Day of Ministry and Hard Work**

**TOP LEFT:** Anna Palmer and Lindsey Spenser carry a load of destroyed personal items from Seminary Alumnus Ed Prickett's home. **TOP RIGHT:** NOBTS Alumnus Ed Prickett rests as students remove the contents of his flood-damaged home. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Dr. Chuck Kelley talks with students during a break from work. **ABOVE:** Dr. Donna Peavey sweeps out a gutted home. **LEFT:** NOBTS Professor Dr. Preston Nix leads the Katrina Remembrance Service at Leavell Chapel.





Photo by Michael McCormack



Photo by Gary D. Myers



Photo by Jimmy Cole



Photo by Jimmy Cole



Photo by Gary D. Myers



## Sharing God's Love in Word and Deed

**TOP LEFT:** Students enter a Chalmette home to begin the gutting process. **TOP RIGHT:** A Korean student sweeps a gutted home. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Dr. Craig Price mows high grass. **ABOVE:** Students install siding at the Baptist Crossroads Habitat site. **SECOND FROM TOP RIGHT:** Students witness to a man in Gentilly. The man made a profession of faith. **THIRD FROM TOP RIGHT:** Students at the Baptist Crossroads Habitat site pose for a photograph with President George W. Bush. **RIGHT:** A student adds to a growing debris pile in Chalmette.



Photo by Michael McCormack

# *Alumni & Students Provide Hope in the City*

The following three members of the Seminary Family represent hundreds of other students and alumni who are making a difference in New Orleans and all along the devastated Gulf Coast.



Photo by Gary D. Myers

Pastor Kevin Lee stands at the door of Edgewater Baptist Church. Lee returned to New Orleans to help “re-plant” the church.

## **ALUMNUS**

### **Kevin Lee – “Re-planting” Edgewater Baptist Church**

By Marilyn Stewart

Kevin and Lori Lee had moved their young family to Boulder, Colorado, in December 2004. Kevin had graduated from NOBTS with a Master of Divinity degree and was preparing to enter the Doctor of Philosophy program at Colorado University. The Lees soon began to sense God leading them in a new direction.

Little did they know then that this “new direction” meant returning to a post-Katrina New Orleans and the heavily damaged Edgewater Baptist Church, their home church during their student years at NOBTS.

The Lees had already begun praying about a venture into church planting when Katrina made landfall. When Edgewater approached him about returning as pastor, Lee knew immediately it was in God’s plan.

With 10 feet of water on the bottom floor, the church’s physical loss was exceeded only by the loss of its congregation, a dispersed membership who were facing heavy personal losses.

Now as a church “re-plant,” EBC faces the challenge of rebuilding its ministry in a neighborhood that is struggling to survive. The once vibrant church with numerous dynamic community ministries was forced to regroup within a completely new context.

“Our passion and mission are still the same,” Lee says. “We were focused on reaching our city before the storm and that is still our focus today. But the specifics of how we live out that passion have changed.”

The uprooting of everything around them, including city services, resources and community life, has demanded flexibility from Lee and his staff. Planning for future ministry is hampered by the uncertainty as to when the neighborhood will return, and what it will look like when it does.

But when Lee sits down with a hurting person and witnesses God’s healing grace at work, he finds all the reassurance he needs.

“Those are the times when I know exactly why I am here.”

## **STUDENT**

### **Travis Scruggs – First Baptist Church’s “Disaster Pastor”**

By Christi Gibson

Travis Scruggs grew up in Memphis, but family in the New Orleans area often brought him to the city. That’s why moving his family of nine into student housing on the New Orleans Seminary campus, so that he could complete the requirements for his Master of Arts in Christian Education degree, was not as difficult a decision as it might seem.

Travis had fulfilled the on-campus requirements for his degree when Hurricane Katrina hit. So when the family lost everything in their apartment, and took refuge in Athens, Ga., he planned to take his remaining classes at the Atlanta extension center.

Then David Crosby, pastor of First New Orleans, where the Scruggs family had been members, called to say his world-wide search for a “Minister of



Photo by Gary D. Myers

Travis Scuggs leads the disaster recovery ministry at First Baptist - New Orleans. FBC has gutted and cleaned over 700 homes.

Disaster Relief and Recovery” had led him straight to Travis.

“How quickly can you get here? I can have you a ticket this afternoon!” Crosby said. The Scuggs moved to McComb, Miss., in 2005 and Travis began his daily commute to New Orleans where he began to oversee the multitudes of relief volunteers coming through the church.

Now, after a year of pulling sodden sheetrock, carpet, and other debris out of homes, towing cars, cutting down trees, rebuilding and repainting houses, Travis has finally moved his wife and seven children back to NOBTS student housing. He has no regrets. The bottom line for Travis is that people have been saved because of the servanthood of believers.

“I know of a minimum of 751 families that have been changed forever by the planting and watering of the seeds of God’s Word,” Scuggs said.

That was before he heard about an elderly woman who needed wheelchair ramp and set off to see about changing the number to 752 – and counting.

## ALUMNUS and STUDENT

### Jeffrey Friend – Finding New Opportunities in the City

By Christi Gibson

Jeffrey Friend, pastor of Hopeview Baptist Church, would have been perfectly happy staying in Michigan after Hurricane Katrina. His church building in St. Bernard Parish was gone, destroyed by 14-15 feet of water, and his congregation was

dispersed across the country. He was newly married to his New Orleans sweetheart, living in a beautiful house, and comfortable in the midst of his family for the first time for more than a decade. Friend’s return to New Orleans for a meeting was meant to be a brief visit, but he saw a tremendous opportunity for the church. The decision to move back became a “no-brainer.”

An African-American pastor of an African-American church, Friend, a two-time graduate at NOBTS and current NOBTS student, joined forces with Jeff Box, the Caucasian pastor of a Caucasian church. Box is also a New Orleans Seminary alumnus. The pastors decided that, if they wanted the city to see unity in Christ, it wouldn’t be enough to take turns using Box’s lesser damaged church building. They needed to combine their depleted congregations and share the pulpit if they wanted to make a difference.

It hasn’t been easy. Friend calls it, “living in the midst of a miracle,” adding that while we often “relish the end result of a miracle, we don’t necessarily want to be in the midst of one.”

He has had to set some personal desires aside. Preaching every other week and sharing the decision-making for the church requires a great deal of humility in a pastor. Life in New Orleans is harder than ever. Yet Friend is determined to look beyond what Katrina took away to the marvel of what God has given him through the hurricane: “an unquestionable view of what hope looks like.”



Photo by Jimmy Cole

Pastor Jeffrey Friend teamed up with another NOBTS alumnus, Pastor Jeff Box, after the storm. Friend and Box are now sharing the pulpit at Suburban Baptist Church.



Photo by Jimmy Cole

Dr. Jerry Barlow, foreground, points out a preaching resource to NOBTS student Robby Gallaty. Gallaty received books to replace those lost when his Chalmette home flooded.

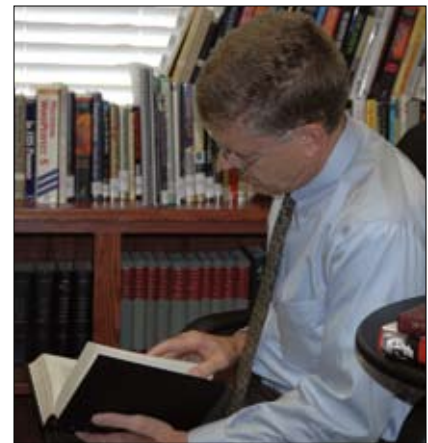


Photo by Jimmy Cole

Dr. Eddie Campbell exams a book in the Library Replacement room. Campbell, a Leavell College professor, lost many of his books when his campus house flooded.

## Magazine Editor Helps Professors and Student Replace Lost Books

By Gary D. Myers

Professors and students lost many items in Hurricane Katrina, but among the hardest items to replace are ministry books. Favorite resources and commentaries were reduced to mush during the flood – many of these books are expensive to replace, some are out of print.

Michael Duduit, editor of *Preaching* magazine, recognized this problem immediately after the storm. In the Fall of 2005, Duduit called Dr. Jerry Barlow, Dean of Graduate Studies at NOBTS, about his idea of doing “library replacement.” Then Duduit called his readers to action, asking them to donate books from their personal libraries. Barlow began receiving shipments of books from across the country this Spring. Books continue arriving daily.

Volunteers and the Graduate Dean’s office staff carefully sorted the books in a vacant office in the Dodd Faculty Building. This September, Barlow began distributing the books to professors and students.

NOBTS Registrar and area pastor Paul Gregoire was one of the recipients of the books. Gregoire lost his home in St. Bernard Parish just south of New Orleans.

“Being in ministry for as long as I have, there were a lot of books that I lost that were out of print,” Gregoire said. “I am finding them here.”

Gregoire was delighted to find one of the commentary sets that he lost on the Library Replacement Program bookshelf. He found a number of his favorite pastoral counseling books as well.

Dr. Eddie Campbell lost all the books in his Seminary Place home. Thankfully, a number of his



Photo by Jimmy Cole

Dr. Paul Gregoire, NOBTS Registrar, replaced a set of commentaries that he lost during the storm.

books were in his Hardin Student Center office, which was not affected by the flood. Often when he goes to his office bookshelf looking for a resource, Campbell will discover yet another book missing – another resource lost in his flooded home. Campbell said that it was a blessing to be able to replace some of his favorite books.

Master’s student Robby Gallaty lost his entire library when his St. Bernard Parish home flooded. Now pastoring Emmanuel Baptist Church in Morgan City, La. and preparing to enter the Doctor of Philosophy program at NOBTS in the Fall of 2007, Gallaty was happy to receive the books.

The students and faculty members who received the books will always be able to remember who donated each book. Information about the donor is enclosed in each book. These resources are gifts that will keep giving for years to come.



# PURPOSE

AFTER THE STORM

Even in the darkest hours following Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary had a clear “Purpose after the Storm” – a calling to return and be “salt and light” in a devastated, hurting city.

Throughout their time away from New Orleans, students continued to prepare for ministry, waiting for an opportunity to return. Southern Baptists raced to the Seminary’s aid to restore and refurbish the beautiful campus. As the year passed, hurts healed and fears were replaced with tested faith.

Armed with a calling from God and ready to face many challenges, students have returned to the Seminary with the desire to impact the city in new and exciting ways. This new eagerness to serve was beautifully illustrated on the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina when 700 volunteers reached out to New Orleans in love.

Our purpose is still clear. Our ministry on the first anniversary of the storm was only a start. Members of the Seminary Family have a new passion to share the Gospel in the neighborhoods of New Orleans. God is opening doors in the city. As we train the next generation of Christian leaders, we are helping rebuild New Orleans in Jesus’ name.

*Restored, Renewed and  
Reaching the City*

## New Trustee-Elected Faculty Members

### Dr. Benjamin Harlan

Professor of Church Music

Benjamin Harlan, who served on the NOBTS faculty from 1989-95, was elected as Professor of Church Music.

A respected composer/arranger and experienced music minister, Harlan served as Dean of the School of Church Music and Music Professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, from 1995-2005. Harlan also has served as a church minister and his choral, keyboard and handbell works have been released by several major music publishers.



### Dr. Preston Nix

Associate Professor of Preaching and Evangelism

Preston Nix was elected to serve as Associate Professor of Preaching and Evangelism. Nix also oversees the Seminary's supervised ministry program.

In ministry since 1975, Nix has served in youth ministry and as a campus evangelism coordinator and a senior pastor. He came to NOBTS after 11 years as Senior Pastor at Eastwood Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla.



### Dr. Trish Hawley

Assistant Professor of Women's Ministry

Trisha Hawley came to New Orleans Seminary in 2004 from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. At Southern, Hawley coordinated the work of FOCUS, the student organization for women's ministry.

Hawley serves as Women's Ministry Coordinator for the Dean of Students office at NOBTS.



### Dr. David Lema

Associate Professor of Christian Education, Ministry-Based Faculty\*

David Lema, a Cuban-born, third-generation minister, serves as Director of NOBTS' Center for the Americas in Miami. His fluency in both Spanish and English is a must at the Seminary's most diverse extension center.

After living for a while in Spain, Lema's family moved to New Orleans.



### Dr. John Robson

Associate Professor of Christian Education, Ministry-Based Faculty\*

John Robson, Baton Rouge Extension Center Director for a number of years, also serves as a Chaplain and Director of the Seminary's undergraduate program at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola.

Robson has 34 years of Christian ministry experience. For 27 years he pastored churches in Kentucky, Georgia and Louisiana.



### Dr. Johnny Bley

Associate Professor of Christian Education, Ministry-Based Faculty\*

Johnny Bley, a former Adjunct Professor with the Angola Prison education program, is working to create a program like the one at Angola in the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. Bley also serves as Pastor of Cherry Street Baptist Church in Clarksdale, Miss.

Bley has 16 years of pastoral experience and from 1995-2003 he served as an Adjunct Professor at Angola.

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



Photo by Jimmy Cole

Dr. Jerry Garrard, seen here with his wife Ruth and youngest son Nicholas, plays a key role in “telling the story of New Orleans Seminary.”

## Dr. Jerry Garrard Named Vice President for Institutional Advancement

By Gary D. Myers

When New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley asked Dr. Jerry Garrard to come serve at the Seminary following Hurricane Katrina, he immediately realized that God was opening a door for him.

Almost 30 years after finishing his Master of Divinity at NOBTS, Garrard returned to his alma mater to serve as Vice President of Institutional Advancement. His primary focus will be “telling the story of New Orleans Seminary” as he leads the alumni relations, development and public relations activities at NOBTS.

“This is where God has opened the door and I am going to give it my very best shot to enhance alumni relations, church-minister relations and all that goes on in the Institutional Advancement office,” Garrard said. “I’m excited about the possibilities.”

At NOBTS, Garrard “will be in a perfect position to strengthen support for our focus on being the church place, a seminary committed to preparing the next generation of leaders for the local church and its ministries,” Kelley said.

“As a student, he often did street evangelism with me in the French Quarter,” Kelley recounted. “As an effective and highly respected Florida pastor, Dr. Garrard built a great church in Tallahassee.”

Garrard, who describes himself as an evangelist,

said he is excited about the opportunity to help train future Southern Baptist church leaders who will take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. He also hopes to build a larger network of support for NOBTS.

“I’m looking forward to assisting people in investing in the work of the Lord through New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, whether they will be studying as a student, coming on a mission trip, giving financially or investing in various other ways,” Garrard said.

Garrard, who has 29 years of ministry experience, served 20 years as the pastor of Celebration Baptist Church in Tallahassee. Celebration called Garrard as the church’s second pastor. Under his leadership the church grew to a membership of 2,400.

Garrard has had an on-going relationship with New Orleans Seminary. He served as a state alumni president, earned a Doctor of Ministry from NOBTS and served for eight years as a trustee.

Garrard grew up in the Baptist church, accepting Christ as Savior as a 9-year-old. After a call to ministry, Garrard was licensed by One Way Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga., and was ordained at Little Woods Baptist Church in New Orleans.

Garrard and his wife, Ruth, have three adult children, Teresa, Clay and Cris, and a 10-year-old son, Nicholas.



★ ★ ★ ON MISSION IN ★ ★ ★

# MOSCOW

★ ★ ★ JUNE 3-10, 2007



## ★ EVANGELISM ★ MISSIONS ★ MINISTRY ★

The trip is open to both students and guests. Students may earn 2 hours of seminary course credit during the trip.

For more information, contact Linda Jackson at 1-800-NOBTS-01, ext. 8060 or [linda@missionlab.com](mailto:linda@missionlab.com)

**Trip Includes:**  
Visit to Red Square,  
Tour of the Kremlin  
and Interaction with  
Russian Baptists

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
3939 Gentilly Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 100  
New Orleans, LA