

vision |

**NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY**

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*...do this in remembrance of Me,
...at the supper he took the
...cup under the new covenant*

*G*rowing at the *L*ord's *T*able

*G*rowing at the *L*ord's *T*able



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The Economic Impact of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans Seminary

BY DR. CHUCK KELLEY

February 29 marks two and one half years since Hurricane Katrina slammed into New Orleans and the campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The impact was so massive it has been difficult to get an accurate understanding of its total effect. Some of the picture is still out of focus, but we have a much clearer idea of its economic impact today than we did in the early months after the storm. Much work remains, but REJOICE! The Seminary is fully operational and students, singles, married and married with children, have returned. We were the only institution of higher education in the city to continue teaching every course we started before the storm, to keep every faculty member on the payroll, and to keep every academic program intact. If you want to see what a miracle looks like, come and see us! As you read this report, please keep that all important fact in mind. Here is what we know about where we are and what we need.

The Bottom Line:

- Katrina recovery costs will be about \$75,000,000
- Our Insurance Reimbursement is \$33,483,444
- Southern Baptist gifts are about \$12,300,000
- State of Louisiana (faculty salaries) \$1,951,000
- Bush/Clinton Fund assistance \$0

Biggest problems now:

- Replacing destroyed two-bedroom apartments
- Dramatic increase in fixed costs
- Finishing the “loose ends” of basic restoration
- Replacing destroyed Swap Shop
- Replacing destroyed Providence Guest House Lobby

Here are the most common questions people ask me about our recovery:

1) What does the total cost include?

- Physical restoration of the campus
- Relief and assistance provided to our students, faculty, and staff
- Operating the seminary without our campus for a year
- Loss of normal income streams, some of which are not back yet

2) What remains to be done in the physical restoration of the campus?

- “Loose Ends” such as tennis courts, drainage repair, etc. (\$800,000 plus)

These items are not necessary for the Seminary to operate, but they do affect the quality of life for our seminary family. Completion of this list will enhance the feeling of normal.

- Replacing destroyed apartments (\$17 million).

We lost 92 two-bedroom apartments as a result of the storm. This is the most popular unit of student housing. This year we had thirty students who had to live in hotel-style rooms until other students were called to a church field. We will replace the apartments lost with three buildings. The first of these will cost approximately \$7 million. This is the most significant of all our needs.

- Replacing destroyed “Swap Shop” (\$100,000)

This is the name given to a small building where we received and stored donations of goods for student families. Every year kind Baptists and others bring clothing, appliances, dishes, furniture, etc., for our student families. It has been a crucial source of help. Most students who live on campus get something from the swap shop during their seminary days. It is especially important for our international students who often arrive with nothing but clothes. The small building was destroyed by the storm and we have no storage space for precious donations of this sort (other than the president’s guest bath tub!). No one notices the absence of this building but the seminary family, and they miss it dearly.

- Replacing destroyed guest housing lobby (\$900,000)

The lobby building of Providence Guest House was destroyed by the storm. It is the place individuals and groups came to check in to all guest housing. Temporary check-in facilities have been arranged in Hamm Hall, but they are not as convenient for all guests. Also, when the lobby building is replaced, we will have finished the master plan for Providence Guest House.

3) Has the shape of the NOBTS annual budget changed significantly? Yes!

Katrina forced a change of course for our seminary. The new course is plotted and the turn is in process, but it will take time for this big ship to complete the turn and reap the fruit from the adjustments made. We need a bridge from where we are to where we are going to be. Your financial support is more important than ever.

One million dollars (conservatively) of fixed expense has been added indefinitely to our budget. We use the term “fixed expenses” because they are unrelated to the size of our faculty or our enrollment.

They are costs that come with having a seminary in this region, whatever size that seminary may be. Insurance and utility costs are the primary drivers, but all prices in the city are up, including a minimum wage significantly higher than the national average.

There are three categories of financial assistance following disasters: helping people, restoring property, and facilitating ongoing operations. Most of the help we received was for the first two categories. We face a dramatic increase in fixed costs with a weakened, not enlarged, income stream. One can see the damage Katrina caused and get an idea of the costs involved to repair the damage. What one cannot see is the sudden increase in costs for similar operations that is also a result of the storm.

For an institution that has long been a national leader in cost control, a dramatic increase in fixed operating costs while facing rebuilding costs poses a great challenge.

4) What is the seminary doing to respond to the challenge?

We continue to aggressively control costs we are able to control. For instance, our permanent staff is half as large as it was before the storm. We fill faculty vacancies carefully in line with our resources.

We shifted the priority of our development program for the next five years from raising funds for endowment to raising funds for our operating budget. This year we raised more money for our annual budget than in any previous year.

We sold our extension center property in Atlanta and relocated our program to a very gracious host church (Johnson Ferry Baptist Church). This dramatically reduced the costs of our extension center program and set up a future injection of income.

We spend to position us for the future, not to help us recover our pre-Katrina past. We anticipate breaking every enrollment record we have within the next five years, but the student body will look much different than our pre-Katrina student body.

5) What are the biggest obstacles to getting New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary all the way back and on into its future?

The biggest challenge is to replace the two-bedroom apartments destroyed by the storm. This year we had more

students than housing. At least half the housing in most of New Orleans is still off-line, making off-campus options both few and expensive. Pray with us for the \$7 million needed for the first of three apartment buildings.

The second biggest challenge is to increase our operating budget at least 10 percent to address the new fixed costs after Katrina. We would normally do that in four or more years. We need to do it in two.

The urgent challenge casting a shadow over those obstacles above is time. Katrina forced a change of course for our seminary. The new course is plotted and the turn is in process, but it will take time for this big ship to complete the turn and reap the fruit from the adjustments made. We need a bridge from where we are to where we are going to be. Your financial support is more important than ever to our students, faculty, and staff.

Finally, Thank you! We never forget nor take for granted what Southern Baptists have already done for us. Because of it we were the only school in New Orleans that continued teaching every course we started prior to Katrina, and we were the only school that did not lay off any faculty or eliminate any programs. Eighty-five percent of our students were able to keep studying and stay on pace for church fields and mission fields. Because of Southern Baptists we were able to provide at least some help for every faculty, staff, or student family living on campus to replace what was lost as they rebuilt their households from scratch.

For two and a half years I have spoken with passion about the Cooperative Program all across the Convention because it was there when we were in desperate need. I have also spoken about you and what you have done, and about your churches and what they have done. Grace has been poured out on us in every conceivable way. My words will never be able to express the depth of what my heart feels. Thank you!

Please do not forget us. It has become very clear that complete Katrina recovery will be a 10-year process. We are working very hard to shave time off that number. We are much further along than the city. But ten years is a long time for Southern Baptists to focus on anything. Please do not stop praying.

God never wastes the tears of His people. I will never call the Katrina experience good, but I am calling it redeemed. Something wonderful lies ahead!

Please do not stop coming to work in this region, and do not stop giving for our recovery. God never wastes the tears of His people. I will never call the Katrina experience good, but I am calling it redeemed. Something wonderful lies ahead! As the churches of this region get back on their feet, a wonderful harvest awaits. No city in America has had the seed of the gospel planted more carefully in its soil than has New Orleans. We are one of the oldest cities in America. At last we will see a great harvest of lost souls come to Christ. Our seminary students and faculty will be in the fields with our churches to bring that harvest in.

Do more than pray. Pray with confidence and expectation that God is going to do something great in this place!

Rankin S. Kelley, Jr.

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MAGAZINE

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Photo by Boyd Guy




Growing at the *Lord's Table*

Growing at the Lord's Table

*E*ach year New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Chuck Kelley selects one of the seminary's five Core Values to receive special emphasis. This year's focus is on the Core Value of Spiritual Vitality.

And while the Lord's Supper may not be the first thing that comes to a believer's mind when he or she hears "Spiritual Vitality," we believe this church ordinance offers ample opportunity for spiritual growth. The attitudes of reflection, remembrance, examination, confession and commitment all draw us closer to our risen Lord Jesus.

As we take a look at this meal of remembrance, we hope you will reflect on Jesus' sacrifice on your behalf. And we pray that your walk with Christ will be strengthened.



Spiritual Vitality and the Lord's Supper

By Dr. Steve Lemke

Last President's Day, how long did you spend being grateful for the contribution of two of our most famous American Presidents who gave their lives for our country – George Washington and Abraham Lincoln? On Columbus Day, did you dedicate some time to feeling thankful for a daring pioneer like Christopher Columbus, who was willing to make an arduous and risky trip to the yet-undiscovered New World, without which we would not have all that we have today? As well-intended as such a celebration might be to remind us of the sacrifices and achievements of a great leader, it is easy for us to forget that person's significance and the celebration becomes just another date on a calendar with no real significance.

The Lord's Supper should be one of the most profoundly spiritual experiences in Christian life. However, it is always possible in any remembrance that is repeated over and over again for us to slip into a mode of just going through the motions. Scripture warns us not to take the Lord's Supper lightly or in an unworthy manner (1 Cor. 11:27-32). The Apostle Paul gives us instructions about how to partake of the Lord's Supper in an appropriate manner, and in so doing provides us with insights into the deep spiritual significance of this observance ordained by Jesus Himself (1 Cor. 11:23-34). As we move through the observance of the Lord's Supper, we should keep in mind two key meanings of this ordinance, each of which has profound implications for our own spiritual lives.

The first and primary reference of the Lord's Supper is to the past – to Jesus' freely giving His own body and blood for us in His sacrificial death on the cross. As Jesus shared the Passover meal, the *seder*, with His disciples, He poured new meaning into this customary Jewish meal (Matt. 26:1-29; Mark 14:1-25; Luke 22:1-20). The unleavened bread came to symbolize Jesus' body that was crucified for us. The wine came to symbolize the blood that Jesus shed on the cross for us, through which Jesus obtained the remission of sin. Scripture teaches that the stain of sin is hard to cleanse, and in fact there is no remission of sin without the shedding of blood (Heb. 9:18-22; 10:17-18; 12:24). In the old sacrificial system, the blood of animals was sacrificed regularly as an atonement for sin. But Jesus' blood purchased the remission of our sins once for all. Jesus mediates a New Covenant based on God's grace, replacing the Old Covenant that was based on human obedience to the Law (Jer. 31:29-34; Matt. 26:24; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:24-25; 2 Cor. 3:4-5; Heb. 8:6-13; 9:11-22; 12:24). Jesus underscored the significance of this memorial when he commanded us, "Do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19, 1 Cor 11:24-25).

As we reflect on Jesus' sacrifice, our thoughts must turn to the unfairness of such a sacrifice. It doesn't seem fair that Jesus, a righteous person, the only human without sin (Luke 23:47), should have to pay such a price for all of us who have repeatedly fallen short of God's ideal for our lives (Rom. 3:23; 5:6-10, 15-19). It was our sin that made Christ's sacrifice necessary. Therefore, as we partake of the cup and the bread symbolic of Jesus giving his body and blood for us, we cannot help but be seized with an overwhelming sense of the weight of our sin. It was for you and me that He paid this great sacrifice. If we do not

confess our sins in the midst of communion, we are guilty of presumption. Had we not sinned, He would not have had to pay the price for our sin. But even in the midst of our sense of guilt and unworthiness, we also feel a profound sense of debt and gratitude for the grace of God expressed through Jesus Christ. "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe, sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow."

In light of such a great sacrifice, Scripture instructs us to "examine" ourselves (1 Cor. 11:28). The purpose of this Spirit-guided self-examination is not to discourage us from participating in the Lord's Supper but to assure that we participate in this observance in the right spirit. Scripture exhorts us not to approach the Lord's Supper in a lackadaisical attitude, warning us about the severe consequences of partaking in this observance "unworthily" (1 Cor. 11:27-32). Ironically, the principal way we could take part in the Lord's Supper unworthily is precisely to partake of the body and blood of our Lord without being painfully cognizant of our unworthiness to do so. The only way to take communion worthily is with an awareness of our own unworthiness. We should partake of the body and blood of the Lord only with a broken and contrite heart. One who correctly discerns the significance of the Lord's body being sacrificed for us (1 Cor. 11:29) cannot approach the Lord's table with the attitudes of pride, arrogance, complacency, presumption, self-sufficiency, self-congratulation and self-satisfaction. The appropriate response to such a great sacrifice is humility and gratitude.

"The Lord's Supper should be one of the most profoundly spiritual experiences in Christian life."

The second reference in the Lord's Supper is to the future. The Apostle Paul said that we should partake in this remembrance "until He comes" (1 Cor. 11:26). In instituting the Lord's Supper, as he was partaking of the cup, Jesus said, "I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom" (Matt. 26:29). So as we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we should not look only to the past but also to the future. We look forward to Christ's victorious return, ushering in another meal – the wedding feast of the Lamb (Matt. 22:1-14; Rev. 19:7, 9, 17). The crucifixion was not the end of Jesus. God resurrected Him from the grave, and we look forward to a reunion in heaven. Therefore, as we partake of the Lord's Supper, we do so with hope, looking forward to the time when we celebrate a meal with our Savior in heaven. Even so, come Lord Jesus!



Dr. Steve Lemke is Provost and Professor of Philosophy and Ethics at NOBTS. Lemke serves as the Executive Editor of *The Journal for Baptist Theology & Ministry*. He also is the co-editor of *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Introduction to Interpreting Scripture*, published in 1996 and revised in 2002.

The Lord's Supper: Remembrance, Reflection and Spiritual Growth

By Gary D. Myers

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus are the central events of Christianity and of all human history. Through His suffering on the cross and His victory over death on Resurrection Morning, Jesus made a way for sinful people to enjoy forgiveness and right relationship with God. What an unfathomable sacrifice. What amazing results.

For those who have entered into a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ, the enormity of Jesus' sacrifice is overwhelming. Knowing what one is saved from and initiated into provides ample motivation for spiritual growth and spiritual vitality.

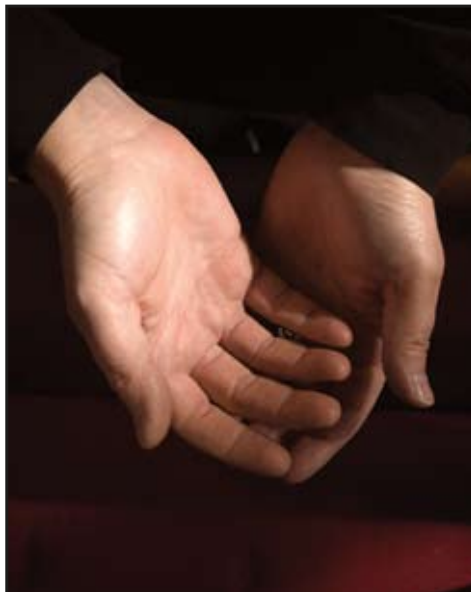
Just before His death on the cross, Jesus shared a last Passover meal with His disciples. "This is my body which is given for you," Jesus said. "Do this in remembrance of Me. This cup

"We have an opportunity to facilitate a meaningful worship service," Pounds said. "This takes a great deal of time preparing and praying to lead the service."

If churches are not careful with the observance, the Lord's Supper can lose its significance, Pounds said, becoming either ritual or routine.

For personal participation, Pounds sees three necessary actions: reflection, confession and reconciliation.

"There must be personal confession of specific sins before the service," Pounds said. "If this has not been done, do not participate in the service. We must 'get it right' with someone we have sinned against before we participate in the service. If we simply ignore this spiritual principle, then we make a mockery of our service unto the Lord and we sin."



which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood" (Luke 22:19 and 20b). In the observance of the Lord's Supper, Christians remember and reflect on Jesus' great sacrifice.

Does the practice of the Lord's Supper encourage growth in the lives of believers? The Vision staff spoke with Dr. Jerry Pounds and Dr. Mark Tolbert – professors at NOBTS – on the spiritual growth aspects of the ordinance.

A significant worship event

For Pounds, Professor of Discipleship and Director of the Spiritual Formation Program, the Lord's Supper is a significant and worshipful event in the life of the church.

"We are guests to God's Supper. We focus our attention on Him," he said. "The service is not to be 'tacked on' to the end of a worship service. The Lord's Supper service *is* worship."

The ordinance offers believers the opportunity for quiet reflection on what Jesus has done, Pounds said. The remembrance and reflection should stir a deeper level of obedience.

Pounds warns against a *laissez-faire* attitude toward the service – both on the part of those who plan and those who participate.

A "powerful, sacred moment"

Tolbert said the Lord's Supper is a "powerful, sacred moment."

"I think the Lord's Supper is one of the most powerful things the church should come together to do," he said. "I think it is a time to slow down and really reflect on what Jesus did and why He did that for us. We should never get beyond that. It should move us once again."

Over his 24 years as a pastor, Tolbert has always sought to make the Lord's Supper a time for worship and spiritual growth. Each observance is a focused, worshipful time of deep reflection on the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross.

The Supper also offers a time for the believer to reflect on his or her personal walk with Christ, Tolbert said, pointing to Paul's admonition for self-examination. Some mistake the aspect of self-examination, Tolbert said. But even after examining themselves and confessing their sins, some people fail to participate because they do not feel worthy.

"None of us are worthy, but we are to do it in a worthy manner," Tolbert said.

For Tolbert, a “worthy manner” means making the time serious, reflective and focused. The ordinance should not be tacked on to the day’s events; it should take on a prominent role in worship service. As a pastor, Tolbert built the entire service around the Meal – the music and the sermon were used to prepare the church for the Lord’s Supper.

The Supper can also be a time for developing community within a local church.

During one of his pastorates, Tolbert and the deacons provided the Lord’s Supper for the elderly and ill shut-ins of the church. The Saturday before the church was to observe the ordinance, the deacons would visit each of the home-bound or “shut-in” church members leaving pre-packaged bread and juice for the Lord’s Supper. The deacons asked the shut-ins to tune in to the church’s live television broadcast and participate with the ordinance.

“It made them feel included and not forgotten,” Tolbert said.

“Approach the supper as if you’re doing so for the very first time. You’ll be surprised at what God will teach and show you.”
- Dr. Jerry Pounds

A portrait of the gospel

While the Lord’s Supper is exclusively for believers, the observance offers churches the opportunity to share the gospel with the non-Christians who happen to be in the service that day. It serves as a living illustration of the gospel message, picturing Jesus’ sacrifice.

“We should always take this opportunity to present the gospel through Scriptures chosen, prayers prayed, and music sung,” Pounds said. “The Holy Spirit has an open invitation to move in our hearts and touch the lives of those in the service who might not know Him. This service is a wonderful opportunity to be encouraged to take this message through the doors of the church and out into our community.”

Tolbert agrees, saying the observance mandates an explanation to those who are visiting. Though the non-believers are not eating the bread or drinking the cup, they see and hear the gospel proclaimed, Tolbert said.

A means for Spiritual Growth

Does the Lord’s Supper encourage growth in the lives of believers? The answer from Pounds and Tolbert is a resounding “Yes.”

The Lord’s Supper provides a beautiful picture of the gospel reminding believers of what Jesus did on their behalf. It causes Christians to point our thoughts toward Christ and worship Him. In both preparation and participation, growth can happen.

As believers are reminded of the great cost of salvation, they are called to deeper commitments and motivated to witness to others. Far from empty ritual, the Lord’s Supper offers believers the opportunity to grow in their walk with Christ.

Pounds said that a person’s attitude plays a key role in how he or she grows through participating in the Supper.

“Approach the supper as if you’re doing so for the very first time,” he said. “You’ll be surprised at what God will teach and show you,” Pounds said.



giving churches

FBC Bogalusa scholarship funds honor former pastor and faithful missionaries

BY GARY D. MYERS

With the proper planning, gifts given today can keep giving for years to come. First Baptist Church of Bogalusa, La., provides an example of this type of investment. A commitment, made by the church 10 years ago, will help generations of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary students prepare for a life of ministry.

In 1998, the church launched a 10-year effort to provide student scholarships at NOBTS by establishing two church scholarship funds. One fund was established to honor Dr. Jerry Breazeale, former Pastor Emeritus at FBC Bogalusa. The other honors the memory of "all the missionaries and those in church-related vocations who have faithfully served" either in the United States or overseas.

Breazeale served as the church's pastor for 10 years. He left in 1976 to join the NOBTS faculty. During his time at the seminary, Breazeale served as Director for the School of Christian Training, the undergraduate program now known as Leavell College. Breazeale continued training seminary students for 14 years until 1990, when he retired.



Breazeale

Breazeale passed away on Sept. 10, 2005.

The church's commitment was not small. The members at First Baptist pledged 5 percent of church's total annual budget to the funds. The 10-year commitment will be fulfilled later this year and the result is a fully-endowed scholarship fund. The interest income from the endowed fund will continue to provide financial assistance to NOBTS students each year for many generations.

When the seminary awards scholarships from this fund, preference is given to students from FBC Bogalusa. If no student from Bogalusa is currently training at the seminary, the scholarship is given to an outstanding NOBTS student.

On April 20, NOBTS President Chuck Kelley will preach during the Sunday morning service at First Baptist Church in Bogalusa. The day will also be a time for the seminary to say "Thank You" for the church's significant investment in lives of NOBTS students.

"First Baptist Bogalusa is an example of what it means to see the big picture," Dr. Jerry Garrard, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at NOBTS. "They have invested in a way that has the potential of touching millions of people with the gospel. Only heaven will reveal the impact of their generosity."

First Baptist Church of Bogalusa has given a gift that keeps on giving.

Georgia Baptists give \$150,000 for recovery

Dr. Robert White, Executive Director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, spoke during the Jan. 23 chapel service in New Orleans Seminary's Leavell Chapel. Much of NOBTS President Chuck Kelley's introduction of White recounted all that Georgia Baptists did for the school after Hurricane Katrina.


Theirs was a multifaceted response.

"Georgia Baptists leapt to our aid when Katrina came. There's no other way to put it," Kelley said that day. "Within a week after the storm, they had found housing for more than 100 NOBTS families."



Monetarily, Georgia Baptists provided much-needed Wal-Mart gift cards to the seminary family. They even donated clothes, appliances, furniture and more to the seminary. The churches of the GBC donated close to \$5 million toward the recovery effort during a three-week special offering emphasis.

Before his sermon, White continued the generosity demonstrated by Georgia Baptists ever since the August 2005 storm by presenting a check to Kelley from Georgia Baptists in the amount of \$150,000.

"This is a check to help you, because I know you're still doing recovery work," White said. 


Thank you for Annual Fund gifts; additional giving needed to reach 2007-08 AF goal

The seminary's Office of Institutional Advancement is grateful to all who have donated to the seminary's Annual Fund. In the first five months of the 2007-08 giving campaign, more than 45 percent of the \$1,025,000 goal has been raised through tax-deductible gifts given by alumni, friends of the seminary, NOBTS faculty and staff. All Annual Fund gifts go directly into the seminary's operating budget.

While everyone is affected, the Annual Fund perhaps most directly impacts students. The purpose of the Annual Fund is to slow the rising cost of tuition. Therefore, the more that is given helps keep seminary education affordable and accessible to God-called men and women. While the Cooperative Program provides a significant portion of the overall budget, student fees are important, too. Since Hurricane Katrina, operating expenses have sharply increased. The Annual Fund prevents students from having to make up the difference.



Giving to the Annual Fund is easy and convenient. Credit or debit card donations may be made online at the seminary's web site (www.nobts.edu). Checks may be mailed or given in person at the Office of Institutional Advancement.

The deadline for the 2007-08 Annual Fund campaign is July 31, 2008. Please make the seminary a matter of prayer and see how God may have you be a part of meeting the Annual Fund giving goal. You may want to share these needs with family members and friends who may wish to give to the seminary. Reaching the goal is a team effort. "A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart." (Ecclesiastes 4:12) 

 For further information contact Bill Hughes, Director of the Annual Fund, at (504) 816-8435 or via email at bhughes@nobts.edu.

Seminary's Top 5 Giving Needs for 2008

1 Student Housing

Three new two-bedroom apartment buildings are critically needed. (92 apartments were destroyed by Katrina.) Many families are currently on a waiting list for campus housing. The new buildings will include 100 apartments.



Proposed Two-Bedroom Apartments
Three Buildings, 100 apartments

2

Reaching the Annual Fund Goal of \$1,025,000

See Back Cover for Details

3

Completion of Katrina Restoration Work

Katrina restoration needs include rebuilding the campus recreation area (tennis courts and playground) for seminary families.

4

Increased Scholarships for New Students

5

Launch of a Comprehensive Internet Curriculum



For details, contact the Office for Institutional Advancement at (504) 282-4455, ext. 3252.

NOBTS family mourns passing of Messer and French

Dr. Thomas S. Messer Sr.

Dr. Thomas S. Messer Sr. (MDiv '48; ThD '50), 84, of Hattiesburg, Miss., died Dec. 27, 2007, at his home.

Messer was a retired minister and professor at Southeast Missouri State University.

Both he and his wife, Mary Wheeler Gray Messer (MRE '45), are NOBTS graduates.

A long-time supporter of his alma mater, Messer established a scholarship and an endowed doctoral fellowship. In 2002, the Messers purchased a facsimile reproduction of an important fourth century Greek Bible, the Codex Vaticanus, for use in the H. Milton Haggard Center for New Testament Textual Studies at NOBTS.

"In 1943, the week before school began, Mary and I were married," Messer said. "We came straight to the seminary and we began school together. We've loved this seminary ever since."

Survivors include his wife; his son, Dr. Thomas S. Messer Jr. of Hattiesburg; and two grandchildren.



FILE PHOTO

Dr. Thomas Messer Sr. (seated) examines the seminary's Codex Vaticanus facsimile along with Dr. Bill Warren.

Memorials may be made to the Thomas S. Messer Sr. Scholarship Fund at NOBTS.


Mary French

Mary French, 77, of Baton Rouge, died Jan. 14, 2008, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Mary assisted her husband, Rev. T.C. "Tommy" French Jr., in the establishment of the Jefferson Baptist Church of Baton Rouge. She was an incredible pastor's wife, serving as Sunday school teacher, choir member, counselor and anywhere she was needed in the service of the church.

Tommy and Mary French shared a deep love for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and financially supported the school's work.

Tommy French is a current trustee and Foundation Board member at NOBTS. He served two terms as the chairman of the Board of Trustees and currently serves as the secretary for the Foundation Board.

Mary is survived by her husband of 56 years; two daughters, Anne French Scroggs and husband Scott; and Carol French Garon and husband Danny; and nine grandchildren. 



Oceans Apart Yet Woven Together

BY PAUL F. SOUTH

This is the story of a rich Indian tapestry woven from three strong threads of Christian love.

One thread is the fire of foreign missions, from the heart of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary student Boyd Guy, who spent time in India last summer training Indian pastors.

A strand of compassion comes from NOBTS alumnus Rick McGovern. A letter from an Indian pastor drew him to the hurting people of the subcontinent and provided “a textbook example of how God puts two people together for a specific purpose.” As a result, more than 300 children are being raised in an orphanage fueled by Christ’s love.

The last stitch in the trio of threads was indeed tangible fabric courtesy of Jacksonville, Fla., clothier, Jim Tatum. For 48 years, Tatum has provided quality suits at bargain-basement prices to ministers and missionaries. When he heard Guy’s passion for India, he shipped 250 cool, crisp, colorful shirts to the poverty-stricken Indian pastors at the conference.

The story of these three men who met at the confluence of the Cross, compassion and the Great Commission – the student, the alumnus and the friend of the seminary – chronicles the team effort behind missions. In the work of God’s kingdom, no one labors alone.

NOBTS alumnus Dr. Rick McGovern, now pastor of Brandywine Christian Fellowship, was “cutting his teeth” preaching to inmates at the Jefferson Parish Correctional Facility in Gretna, La. A letter, passed along by a saved inmate, sparked McGovern’s interest in India. Written by Indian pastor G. Parishudha Babu, the letter chronicled the need for money to help rescue orphans from the streets. The rescued orphans would be raised in a Christian orphanage.

“That struck a deep chord,” said McGovern, who earned his doctorate in Hebrew and Old Testament from NOBTS in 1998. The

young American pastor began sending regular contributions to the orphanage. A friendship blossomed.

“Babu begged me several times over the years to come and teach his people,” McGovern said. “But I wanted to keep my association to monetary contributions. This went on for 20 years. Then, in 2003, the Lord spoke directly to me, telling me to visit Babu.”

In his excitement, Babu organized a pastor’s conference, which opened the door to sound biblical training for pastors hungry for the Word of God. In 2004, 600 pastors were trained. The following year, the number doubled.

In 2007, despite sweltering, sticky subtropical heat, 3,500 pastors traveled to the conference. Funded by American donors at a cost of \$66,000, the gathering provided teaching, three meals of rice daily, travel money and Bibles in the Telegu language to pastors who proclaim Christ in the face of brutal persecution.

Many pastors work hut-to-hut proclaiming the gospel. Some of their colleagues have been martyred for their faith. Those who remain, however, press on. Christians are outcasts in an Indian society where the caste system, though illegal, still exists.

Professing Christians in India face greater persecution, Guy said. And they are haunted by a specter of violence from religious extremists. Still, with poverty and persecution a constant, they remain faithful.

“Whether we are persecuted or not, it does not matter. We will continue preaching the Gospel,” Guy said, relating the words Babu shared with him.

According to Guy, God is at work in India. The 2,600 pastors chosen for the 2007 conference were chosen from among 5,000 applicants. But organizers received an unexpected blessing.

“There were 900 pastors who were not part of the 2,600 who came the first day,” Guy said. “They said they would not take a Bible and eat only one meal a day if they could simply hear the teaching it

was amazing. This was truly a sign that God is moving in this part of the world.”

New shirts and the Scriptures may seem an odd couple. But not for Jim Tatum. A longtime friend of NOBTS, whose ministry Suits for Servants has helped and encouraged ministers and missionaries for nearly half a century, learned of the India initiative from Guy. Luggage filled with new shirts made their way to the 2007 conference. Tatum is active in the Florida Baptist Convention’s international mission efforts. Recently, he helped lead an initiative to provide more than 4,200 pairs of shoes for Haitians in flood-ravaged areas of the island nation. The convention has also planted some 700 churches in Haiti.

“I was [at NOBTS] last year and Boyd and I were talking about his work in India,” Tatum said. “My heartbeat is missions, so when Boyd was telling me about India, I thought, ‘I’d like to help him.’”

This year, Tatum plans to send 500 shirts to the pastors. Guy witnessed the impact of a single shirt. Many of the pastors came to the 2007 conference with only the clothes on their backs. Materially speaking, one shirt meant the world.

“On the third day of the conference, the pastors were allowed to pick out a shirt in the size and color they liked,” Guy said. “They removed the tattered shirts they had and put on Mr. Tatum’s shirts, grinning from ear-to-ear.”

They wore the shirts for the remainder of the four-day meeting.

Tatum said he has been blessed by the Indian effort.

“It just motivates me and makes me want to help more,” Tatum said, “especially after seeing pictures of the men receiving the shirts. In the future maybe we can even do more.”

Meanwhile the work in India continues. Guy recounted a story of a life changed by God’s amazing grace.

Babu sees the persecution of the church every day. He runs an orphanage of 300 children, some whose parents were Hindu, and others whose parents were martyred because of their faith in Christ.

The orphanage ministers to children who were abandoned on the streets, many forced into sexual slavery. One girl, now 16,

“The hunger for the word of God that these pastors have and the sacrifice they will go through to hear it is beyond the American Christian’s comprehension,”

-Boyd Guy

was beaten and left for dead. Her battered body was found by two pastors who work with Babu.

“She’s now physically and spiritually healed,” Guy said. “She accepted Christ and is receiving training as a seamstress. This is truly a life changed by God’s grace.”

Christians in the region and across India have an unquenchable desire to hear the word of God, Guy said. Indian Christians hunger for more Americans to come to teach the Bible, so that the world’s second-largest nation can be won for Christ. McGovern, Guy and Tatum – the alumnus, the student and the friend of NOBTS – believe it can happen.

“The hunger for the Word of God that these pastors have and the sacrifice they will go through to hear it is beyond the American Christian’s comprehension,” Guy said.

McGovern sees a larger conference in 2008.

“The goal is to train 4,000 pastors in a land of 1 billion Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and countless other sects, but where Christianity is growing steadily,” McGovern said. “It is the only training they have any hope of receiving due to a shortage of Christian seminaries and the suffocating poverty on the part of men who have twice the zeal of typical American Christians, but only a fraction of their money.”

For more information about the 2008 pastor’s conference in India, contact Christian Fellowship at 5049 Ehret Road, Marrero, LA 70072, (504) 347-4875, or drodrig704@aol.com.

FACING PAGE: Worship service from the Pastor’s Conference week. BELOW (RIGHT TO LEFT): 1. The feet of children at Pastor Babu’s orphanage. 2. Ricky and Michelle McGovern having their name tags attached. 3. Boyd Guy and his translator speaking to the pastors from behind a stack of Telegu Bibles. Photos by Boyd Guy and Ricky McGovern.



news briefs

Seminary launches RSS newsfeed

NOBTS recently launched an RSS news feed to help students, alumni and donors receive news and information from the seminary. RSS documents or “feeds” contain a summary of news and information items from the seminary website, making it possible for people to stay informed in an automated manner.



RSS content can be read using software called an “RSS reader” or “feed reader.” Users may subscribe to the NOBTS feed by entering www.nobts.edu/rss into the reader. Clicking the orange RSS icon shown above in a browser also initiates the subscription process. RSS readers check the subscribed feeds regularly for new content, downloading any updates that the reader finds.

 For more, visit www.nobts.edu/rss/faq.html

Former NOBTS First Lady Sarah Eddleman passes away at 95

Sarah Fox Eddleman, wife of the late NOBTS President Henry Leo Eddleman, died Dec. 23, 2007, in Louisville, Ky. She was 95.

A native of Marianna, Ark., Mrs. Eddleman was a missionary, an author and a homemaker. Her husband served as president of NOBTS from 1959 to 1970.



“Sarah Eddleman was a wonderful First Lady throughout her husband’s tenure as president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary,” NOBTS President Chuck Kelley said. “His outstanding scholarship and missionary passion combined

with her warmth and hospitality gave them a distinct and powerful ministry.”

Sarah Eddleman was a graduate of Meredith College and Carver School of Missions. She is survived by her daughters, Dr. Sarah E. Duvall and Evelyn E. Gordinier, six grandchildren and 15 grandchildren.

Theological Fellowship restarted

Yet another campus organization has been revived at post-Katrina New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The Student Theological Fellowship began monthly meetings in January.

A group of on campus doctoral students met late last year to discuss restarting the fellowship, which had lain dormant since 2005, newly-elected STF President Christopher Black said.

Black added, “We’re opening up to all faculty, staff and students, so Leavell College is included in that. It’s geared toward people who are interested in theological thought.”

Trustees add training sites; expand prison program

Jacksonville site offers new leadership training model

BY GARY D. MYERS

Trustees at New Orleans Seminary added new certificate teaching sites at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., and Vaughn Forest Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., and approved the expansion of the prison training program in Mississippi during the board’s executive committee meeting in December.


The newly-approved Jacksonville site will offer undergraduate certificates aimed at preparing lay leaders to serve in Bible study and Sunday School ministries in the local church. NOBTS Provost Steve

Lemke said the site could become a model for leadership training for megachurches.



The Vaughn Forest Baptist Church certificate site will offer both undergraduate and graduate certificates. Lemke said the site is needed to be more convenient to many students who live too far from the seminary’s extension center in Birmingham. The undergraduate and graduate courses offered at the Montgomery certificate site are fully transferable to the seminary’s other degree programs.

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley said the expansion of the undergraduate program at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss., will essentially double the number of prisoners who can take associate’s- and bachelor’s-level courses through Leavell College.


The program, a partnership between the seminary and the Mississippi Baptist Convention, began in 2005 targeting only one cell block. The trustee vote authorized the creation of a second class cycle in another cell block. Kelley said the inmates who have completed the NOBTS training programs at Parchman are providing a bold witness for Christ in their respective prisons. 

Seminary offers training courses to ministry wives

Thirty years ago NOBTS created the Certificate of Excellence program to give student wives the opportunity to learn about ministry while their husbands are in seminary. From the start, the program has been a success.

Now courses are also available to ministry wives who are not currently student wives at NOBTS. Along with this change, the name has also been changed to “The Ministry Wife Certificate” in an effort to better reflect the purpose of the program. Dr. Rhonda Kelley, who directs the ministry, has developed a series of courses to help women establish a foundation for their own faith and walk with the Lord, as well as prepare them for dealing with and ministering to people in the local church.

“I am so grateful for the impact of student wives classes on my own life. My heart’s desire is for all ministry wives – in seminary and in churches – to be equipped for personal ministry as well as ministry alongside her God-called husband,” said Kelley.


The program is not only for ministry wives living in the New Orleans area. Online courses are also available each semester. 

 Details at www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege click “Student Wives”

Former NOBTS president subject of new biography

Roland Q. Leavell, the fourth president at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, is the subject of a new biography published by Pelican Publishing in Gretna, La. Written by his youngest daughter, Dottie Leavell Hudson, the book depicts the impressive career and personal struggles of this Southern Baptist minister, evangelist and leader.

Compiled using Leavell's personal diaries, the book follows him through pastorates in small, country churches, to his work with the Home Mission Board, all the way to NOBTS presidency.

Leavell's leadership and organizational skills made him a perfect candidate for president of the seminary (known as Baptist Bible Institute at the time). Under his leadership the school changed its name to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and moved from a cramped Garden District campus to the present location on Gentilly Boulevard. 




 For information about purchasing the book, contact Wanda Gregg at (504) 282-4455, ext. 8424.

NOBTS to launch email updates in April

To keep alumni and friends of the seminary better informed, New Orleans Seminary will launch monthly email news updates called *Seminary News*.

The monthly email updates, coming to your inbox in April, will include links to the latest news articles from campus, videos and announcements about upcoming NOBTS conferences.

SEMINARY NEWS Additional email updates will include *Partnership News* for Alumni and the *Foundation Update* for Foundation Board members.

"These are exciting days at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. God is doing amazing things," said Gary D. Myers, Director of Public Relations. "We hope these updates will help us communicate more of what He is doing through our students, professors and alumni." 

news briefs

Seminary community raises over \$8,000 for Union University tornado recovery

The campus of Union University, a Baptist college in Jackson, Tenn., suffered millions of dollars in damage Feb. 5 when a powerful storm hit and destroyed much of the school's student housing.

Just days after the tornado struck Union, NOBTS President Chuck Kelley urged the seminary community to respond. Kelley called on NOBTS students, professors and staff members to pray for Union family and to give to the financial needs facing the school and its students. An offering was collected during chapel Feb. 7.

"The aftermath of the storm sounds very familiar to those of us who went through Katrina," Kelley said. "As recipients of grace ourselves, we must respond."

The seminary community answered Kelley's call by raising over \$8,000 for the relief and recovery efforts.

Union University tornado impacts students with NOBTS connections

For four families with ties to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, the tornado that struck Union University in Jackson, Tenn., Feb. 5 hit quite close



to home. Current professors Bob Stewart and Philip Pinckard have children at Union – Bethany and Matthew, respectively. In addition, former professors Stan Norman and Jim Shaddix also each have a son at the school – Andrew and Shane, respectively.

In all, 51 Union University students were treated for injuries and nine were hospitalized after the tornado blew through the campus, damaging or destroying almost every building on campus. There were no fatalities on the Union campus. All the students with ties to New Orleans Seminary were unharmed.



Church-Minister Relations

The Church-Minister Relations office at New Orleans Baptist Seminary maintains a database of alumni and student resumés. These resumés are available to churches seeking to fill ministerial positions. To use this free service, call 800-662-8701 ext. 3291, or visit www.nobts.edu/cmr to complete the Church Resumé Request questionnaire.

Connecting Churches with Ministers [\[nobts.edu/cmr\]](http://nobts.edu/cmr)

NOBTS partners with Evangelism Response Center

North American Mission Board ministry provides encouragement to those with spiritual needs

BY MICHAEL McCORMACK

Answering 200 phone calls in a year isn't hard to imagine. But for Michael Procella, an undergraduate student at New Orleans Seminary's Leavell College, each call came with an eternal significance.

Many of them had just heard a Billy Graham sermon or watched an evangelistic television program. When the toll-free number was given at the end of the program, they stepped out on faith to call, and Procella was waiting.

What connected Procella to those callers? That's where the Evangelism Response Center (ERC), a ministry of the North American Mission Board, comes in.

Procella has been a telephone encourager with ERC since January 2007. The ERC partners with Christian ministries in order to make telephone encouragers available around the clock to viewers or listeners who want to respond to a message or invitation.

"Phone numbers come from various ministries," said N SRK Ravi, director of the response center. "We have a partnership with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. We get about 20 percent of their calls."

Ravi said ERC also partners with local campaigns or short-term ministry work. In one evangelistic outreach to Mormons by evangelical churches in Utah, the ERC received 4,100 calls. "We had 32 decisions from Mormons," Ravi said.

ERC also has aided Oklahoma Baptists in a statewide radio and television campaign and the Operation NOAH Rebuild project in New Orleans, an ongoing Baptist ministry to aid in recovery and rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina.

"It's not only witnessing but also sending follow-up material and bringing them into the church."

N SRK Ravi

Blake Newsom, another New Orleans Seminary student intern with ERC, has specifically worked with calls from New Orleans residents stemming from Operation NOAH.

"We have maybe 6,000 people [in the New Orleans area] who are seeking some kind of spiritual help," Ravi said.

Both locally and nationally, ERC needs more volunteers.

Anyone can volunteer to be a telephone encourager or Internet encourager. ERC simply requires that volunteers undergo a two-hour training course, which is provided by the organization.

Once volunteers receive training and are certified, they are asked to make a 30-hour commitment for a year.

such call came from a single mother in Minnesota in February.

Procella explained the gospel to her. When he asked if she believed and wanted to give her life to Christ, she responded, "Yes, that's what I want to do."

ERC's ministry to the woman in Minnesota and to other callers doesn't end with the phone call. Volunteers are asked to report decisions made by callers to the organization, and ERC forwards that contact information to a church in the caller's area.



BY BOYD GUY

N SRK Ravi of NAMB's Evangelism Response Center (left) meets with New Orleans Seminary Provost Steve Lemke; Michael Edens, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies; and seminary students in the Hardin Student Center.

"That is about two and a half hours a month," Ravi said. "They can choose their own timing, whether that's after midnight, during the daytime, in the morning or when it's raining outside."


Volunteers receive a password upon completion of their training. When volunteers are ready to receive phone calls, they simply dial the ERC phone number, input the password and type in the phone number where they can be reached. ERC then forwards calls to that phone. When volunteers answer, a voice identifies which program the call is coming from so that the telephone encourager can know how best to greet the caller.

So far this year, Procella has led seven callers to profess faith in Christ. The first

"Covenant Churches," as they're called, are then asked to follow up anywhere from three hours to three days after the call.

"We send a person from that local church to follow up," Ravi said. "It's not only witnessing but also sending follow-up material and bringing them into the church."

Since ERC was established in mid-2006, the center has fielded more than 41,000 calls that resulted in 8,000 decisions. Of those 8,000 commitments, 900 involved first-time decisions for Christ. A team of about 200 counselors received all of those calls.

Ravi said ERC has an ultimate goal of 8,000 volunteers in order to adequately meet the needs of callers. 

newly-elected faculty

Mrs. Sandy Vandercook

Assistant Professor of Education and English in Leavell College

Sandy Vandercook earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida and a Master of Arts degree in English and a Master of Education degree from the University of New Orleans. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Curriculum and Instruction/Educational Linguistics.




An experienced classroom teacher, Vandercook taught elementary school for 11 years.

In addition to her classroom experience, Vandercook has also been involved in missions on the international and local levels. Vandercook also served a two-year term as an

International Mission Board Journeyman missionary in Sao Paulo, Brazil. For many years, Vandercook has been involved with Global Maritime Ministries where her husband, Philip, serves as executive director. The ministry serves seafarers from around the world when their ships dock at the Port of New Orleans.

While new as a trustee-elected faculty member, Vandercook is no stranger to the seminary family. She began teaching English at Leavell College on an adjunct basis in 2000.

"Sandy Vandercook's kind spirit but high academic standards have already made her a beloved teacher in Leavell College," Provost Steve Lemke said. 

faculty appointments

The following faculty appointments were made during the December 2007 meeting of the NOBTS Trustees:

Dr. Preston Nix, Associate Professor of Evangelism and Evangelistic Preaching, was appointed to the Roland Q. Leavell Chair of Evangelism. He will also serve as Director of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health and Chairman of the Division of Pastoral Ministries.




Nix fills the vacancy left when Dr. David Meacham accepted a position as Senior Strategist for the North American Mission Board's Church Planting Group.

Dr. Bayne Pounds, Assistant Professor of Christian Education, will serve as the Director of Institutional Reports.

Dr. Jerry Pounds, Professor of Discipleship, was appointed to the Broadmoor Chair of Discipleship. He will also serve as Director of Spiritual Formation and as Assistant to the President.

Dr. Dennis Phelps, Professor of Preaching and Director of Church-Minister and Alumni Relations, was appointed to the J.D. Grey Chair of Preaching.

Dr. Jake Roudkouvski, Assistant Professor of Evangelism, was appointed to serve as the Director of Supervised Ministry. 

NOBTS NATIONAL

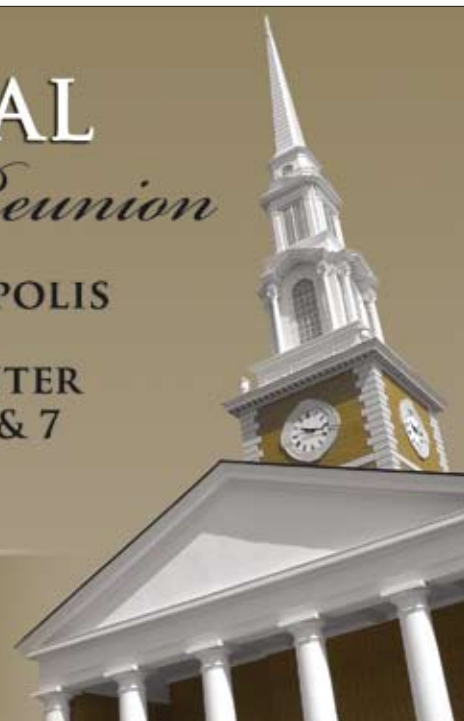
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For tickets, contact Alumni Relations (1-800-662-8701, ext. 3331 or alumni@nobts.edu). Cash or check only. Tickets will also be available at the NOBTS Booth at the Convention.



Butler uses expertise for film on Christian martyrs

BY MICHAEL McCORMACK

Most doctoral students dream of seeing their dissertation in print. And for NOBTS Associate Professor of Church History and Patristics Rex Butler, that dream was realized.

In 2006, the Catholic University of America Press published his doctoral study under the title *The New Prophecy and "New Visions": Evidence of Montanism in the Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas*.

But for Butler, attention given to his expertise on the deaths of early Christian martyrs Perpetua and Felicitas didn't stop there. Over the Christmas holiday, Butler participated in the filming of a documentary on the event, which occurred in A.D. 203 in Carthage, an ancient North African city located in present-day Tunisia.



A film crew prepares the camera for one of Dr. Rex Butler's presentations at the Roman ruins in Sbeitla, Tunisia.

Robert Fernandez produced the documentary, which will be distributed by Torchlighters, a company that produces animated children's videos about Christian heroes. Previous Torchlighters videos have focused on William Tyndale, John Bunyan and Jim Elliot, missionary to the Auca, an Ecuadorian people group. Each animated video produced by Torchlighters includes a live action documentary on the same subject. Gateway Films Vision Video will also distribute the documentary.

"Robert contacted me and asked me to participate," Butler said. "I expected him to come to New Orleans. He decided he wanted to go on location and film from the amphitheatre where Perpetua was martyred, from Bursa Hill where she was imprisoned and from some other sites that provide a backdrop from the Roman Empire."

Butler was on location in Tunisia from Dec. 16 through Dec. 23, 2007. To Butler's surprise, his role in the film was much more than mere interviewee.

"I expected for them to ask me questions and for me to answer them," he said. "It ended up being a lot of drama as well as a lot of teaching."

"The focus of the interview was the Passion of Perpetua, which includes her diary about her imprisonment and the visions she had in prison, the vision of heaven that was recorded by Saturus her

teacher and an eyewitness account of the deaths of all the martyrs," Butler recalled.

The Passion of Perpetua tells the story of six Christians who were imprisoned and killed for their faith. Five of the martyrs were catechumens, new believers who had not yet been baptized. The sixth prisoner was the young Christians' teacher, Saturus. Their martyrdom took place during the reign of Roman Emperor Septimius Severus. Seeking harmony through syncretism, Septimius Severus outlawed conversion to Christianity and Judaism.

"Roman religion was polytheistic and relatively tolerant of other religions," Butler explained. "As the Roman Empire spread, they would assimilate other religions into their own. They really did not object to worship of gods other than their Roman gods, as long as the new religion's adherents would worship the Roman emperor."

Butler called this emperor worship the "predominant religious glue" that held the empire together. Refusing to worship the emperor was considered treason, and that became a major source of conflict between Christianity and the Empire.

"They had to speak the confession 'Caesar is Lord,'" Butler said. "For Christians, only Jesus is Lord."

Of course, there were still conversions to Christianity. And that's where Perpetua, her teacher and her companions enter the story.

A timeless example of faith

"Perpetua was a young noblewoman who was newly married and had an infant son," Butler said. "The other converts were all slaves, perhaps from Perpetua's household. When Perpetua was arrested, her father begged her to renounce her faith in Christ, but she refused."

Perpetua was imprisoned at Bursa Hill, the governmental seat of Carthage. Part of the documentary was actually filmed from the Bursa Hill dungeon where Perpetua and the others were probably held.

"When she first arrived there, she said the dungeon was dark, it stank and it was hot," Butler said. "The deacons of her church were able to bribe the guards to allow her to receive her infant son. When she had him and was able to nurse him, she said the prison became a palace and that there was no place she'd rather be."

Perpetua and Felicitas, another female martyr, were tied to and injured by a wild heifer. A leopard killed Saturus. Perpetua survived the heifer, so a gladiator was ordered to kill her.

"The final story goes that Perpetua was dispatched by a young, inexperienced gladiator," Butler explained. "When he went to strike her, he missed his aim and struck her collarbone. It's said that Perpetua actually had to guide the gladiator's sword to her throat."

Perpetua and Felicitas' passion story testifies to the costliness of Christian faith. Christianity may not always lead to physical harm or death, but it always comes with a price. The six martyrs' faithfulness unto death offers a timeless witness to Christians today. **V**

For more photographs and a longer version of this article, visit www.nobts.edu/Publications/

The full passion narrative is available at www.newadvent.org/fathers/0324.htm. For more information about the upcoming documentary featuring Dr. Rex Butler, visit the Torchlighters website at chi.gospelcom.net/torchlighters or the Gateway Films Vision Video website at visionvideo.com.

Stewart book features Intelligent Design dialogue

BY PAUL F. SOUTH

In its brief three-year history, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum has attracted internationally-known scholars from across the philosophical and theological spectrum to debate the challenging questions of this era.

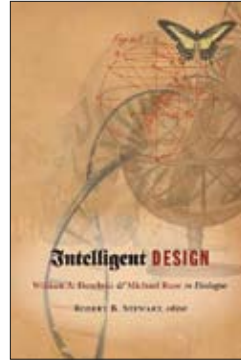
A recent book, edited by Greer-Heard Director and NOBTS Professor Robert Stewart, has taken the forum's 2006 dialogue on Intelligent Design to a wider audience, both in the United States and in Europe.

This is the second volume to come out of the Greer-Heard forum. The 2005 debate on the Resurrection of Jesus featuring N.T. Wright and John Dominic Crossan was also published in book form. A third Greer-Heard book is slated to be released in October.

Fortress Press, an academic publisher that counts conservative theologians Wright and Ben Witherington among its authors, published *Intelligent Design: William A. Dembski and Michael Ruse in Dialogue* in 2007. The dialogue between Wright and Crossan on the Resurrection was published by Fortress.

The new book includes the debate between Dembski and Ruse, papers presented at the event, as well as articles by internationally known thinkers such as Wolfhart Pannenberg and Oxford University theologian and Christian apologist Alister McGrath.


"The second book is longer than the first book, in part because everybody I asked to be a contributor to the book contributed," Stewart said. "I'm not used to that. I had a really good response, with a wide variety of thinkers. Some are very pro-Intelligent Design, others are very adamantly opposed to Intelligent Design,



and then a number of Christian scholars somewhat in between. Some of them were conservative, but not Intelligent Design advocates. They think there's more work to be done."

Stewart said having so many prominent scholars contribute was both an honor and a noteworthy feat.

"I'm very pleased with the quality of scholarship in the book," said Stewart. "I'm pleased with all of the books. But to have Wolfhart Pannenberg contribute an article – he's probably the most

significant Christian theologian living today – or someone like John Polkinghorne (a Fellow of the Royal Society who left the physics department at Cambridge to become an evangelical Anglican priest and theologian). I was very pleased with the quality of scholarship and that we were able to bring Americans and Europeans together for the project." 

England co-authors student guide for OT textbook

BY PAUL F. SOUTH

As a college student, Dr. Archie England's emphasis in Bible study was on the New Testament.

"All my life, I had been taught Romans, the Gospels, Acts," he said. "I had studied everything in the New Testament. Revelation was the great mystery of what would happen. There were a few interesting verses in the Old Testament as well."

England's scriptural focus, indeed his life, was transformed by a pastor's challenge to study Bible without using study notes.

"All my life, I had read the study notes, and then read the scripture that applied to it. I was never interested in what the Bible had to say, per se. I was more interested in what the study notes could do to help me understand what the Bible had to say."

Seven years after that pastor's challenge, it was as if the scales had fallen from England's eyes.

"I emerged from that process with a very different understanding than what I'd had for the first 20 or so years of my life," England said. "The difference was that I came to love the Old Testament. When I realized I could better understand the New Testament by understanding the Old, I was hooked."

England's latest effort to help students, pastors, even laypeople to understand the Old Testament is a study guide/workbook companion to Paul House and Eric Mitchell's *Old Testament*



Survey. England and Mitchell co-authored *Old Testament Survey: A Student's Guide*, published by Broadman & Holman.


The study guide, England said, is designed to work in tandem with the textbook.

"We wanted to create a new kind of workbook that would be teacher-friendly as well as student-friendly," England said. "We wanted a workbook that dealt with the geographical or spatial issues of the Old Testament." The book features master maps that are progressively more detailed, providing students with a localized understanding of the places and people of the biblical text and the textbook.

The book was also designed to get students interested in the Ancient Near Eastern backgrounds of the Old Testament.

"One of our heart's desires was to address the geographical, the historical, the spatial issues of the Old Testament, because when the Bible says that Abraham is from Ur of the Chaldeans, most students don't have a clue where that is relationally in the Ancient Near East, in the Levant, or how many hundreds of miles it is from Jerusalem or Palestine."

England's goal for the study guide is to open the eyes of readers to the power of the Old Testament scripture.

"The Old Testament remains a darkened room, and very few people want to go in and stay there," England said. "My goal, through my teaching and this study guide and the book that Paul and Eric have written is to bring light to the Old Testament, to make it something that people look at and then revel in wonder and awe at what God is doing in the Old Testament." 

Alumnus brings gospel to Mardi Gras guests

Move to Hawaii cannot erase Emerson Wiles' burden for New Orleans during the Carnival season

BY PAUL F. SOUTH

In the wee, small hours of the morning, the whole wide world is fast asleep. But not in New Orleans, not at Carnival time.

And not for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary alumnus Emerson Wiles. For him, the nighttime is the right time to share the life-changing message of Jesus Christ during the Mardi Gras season.

Wiles, a pastor on the big island of Hawaii at Waikoloa Baptist Church, has brought the gospel message of hope to the streets of Carnival New Orleans for more than two decades.

Between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., on the nights leading up to Mardi Gras day (Feb. 5 this year), Wiles and his team walk the streets of the French Quarter, sharing the gospel message with the multitudes that descend on the Crescent City for Carnival.

While Wiles' message hasn't changed, his methods have.

"It took me 15 years to figure out how to do it," he said. "The first 15 years, we came with crosses, big ol' crosses. In my

mind, there are only two responses to the cross: You either love it or you hate it. So we spent more time arguing than we did witnessing."



Wiles

Wiles then read a book that transformed his thinking and his tactics. Until he read *Out of Their Faces and Into Their Shoes: How to Understand Spiritually Lost People and Give Them Directions to God* by John Kramp, Wiles had been what he called "a very condemning witness."

"(The book) taught me that lost people do what lost people do because they're lost," Wiles said. "Not because they hate God."

Now, Wiles' method proves the power of God's message. Lives are being changed, in part, due to a blank sign.

"People get curious when you're holding up an empty sign," Wiles said. "I tell people, 'That was my life before Jesus came in.'"

The signs are having an impact, sparking curiosity in a way oversized crosses did not.



BY BOYD GUY

A member of Emerson Wiles' team of Mardi Gras evangelists speaks with two men in the French Quarter's Jackson Square.

"We don't stop anybody," he said. "They come and ask us what we're doing. A lot of times they don't like what we're doing, but they like the way we do it. It's just a way to witness without turning people off."

Wiles, a December 1981 graduate of NOBTS, pastored in Tennessee for 18 years, first at Friendship Baptist Church in Culleoka, then at FBC Fayetteville. His move to Hawaii was the fulfillment of a westward call Emerson first sensed in seminary.

But even thousands of miles away, Wiles never forgot New Orleans. He began annual visits in 1985 as part of a street evangelism ministry. He has missed only one year since. His team worked from Vieux Carre Baptist Church, located a block from Bourbon Street in the heart of the French Quarter.

"Mardi Gras is supposedly the biggest party in the world, where you can come from any place in the world and do anything you want to do and (the attitude is) 'it's OK, because everybody else is doing it.' It's probably the last place you'd expect to find Jesus."

Love is at the center of Wiles' street evangelism.

"We don't want to condemn people," Emerson said. "It's the Holy Spirit that brings condemnation. We just want to tell people about Christ."

For Wiles, the trips to New Orleans are a part of God's call on his life.

"God called me to be a fisher of men," Wiles said. "God called me to go where there's fish. There are plenty of fish in New Orleans during Mardi Gras."

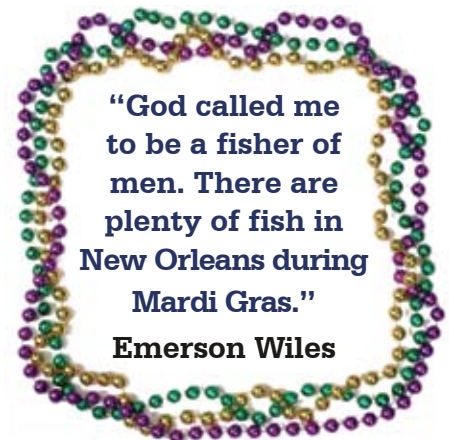
Wiles and his ministry team don't keep a tally of how many are converted. "That's not our role," he said. And they are confronted by those who see the Mardi Gras madness swirling around them and wonder if it is not wasted effort.

"I had a guy come up to me and say, 'Don't you feel like a failure? Look at all that's going on around you. You're not making any difference.'"

Wiles' response is simple: "I'm not a failure. Jesus told me to go and tell people about Him. That's what I've come here to do. How can I be a failure if that's what I'm doing? We don't go around ... counting how many people received Christ. We just spent five or six hours a day telling people about Jesus."

NOBTS, with its emphasis on practical ministry, was a "wonderful experience," Wiles said. "I learned more on the streets and doing practical ministry. It was a great training ground. It was a great place to learn how to tell people about Jesus."

According to Wiles, the Mardi Gras experience has sharpened his church's ministry in Hawaii.



"God called me to be a fisher of men. There are plenty of fish in New Orleans during Mardi Gras."
Emerson Wiles

"I'm training my church members to (share the gospel)," he said. "If you can come on the streets of New Orleans and tell ... a total stranger about Christ, then you can go back home and talk to your neighbors. It makes it easier to share the Gospel. If you can share at Mardi Gras, doing it at home is a piece of cake."

alumni updates

1950s

Dunnam, James T. (BG '55) celebrated 60 years as a Southern Baptist minister on January 11, 2008. He was ordained at the age of 18 by Calvary Baptist Church in Pascagoula, Miss. James is a graduate of Mississippi College and NOBTS. He spent ministry years a full-time pastor in Mississippi and Florida. He was also active in Florida Baptist Convention work. Retired since 2001, James has been busy serving as an Interim Pastor and supply preacher. He and his wife, Betty Sue, live in State Line, Miss. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Quattlebaum, Edwin R. (MDiv '53) completed a history of Bethabara Baptist Church, Cross Hill, S.C., that is celebrating 213 years of service to the Lord.

1960s

Carlson, Neal (BDiv '60) began a new ministry on the Internet and released a new book, *Words for Courageous Living*.

Jones, George K. (MCM '63) serves as pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, Selma, Ala.

Oswalt, Jerry E., (BDiv '65, ThD '69) former Associate Professor of Preaching at NOBTS, retired from The Baptist College of Florida in December 2005 and was named Vice President for Academic Affairs Emeritus in May 2007. He is the pastor of Damascus Baptist Church in Graceville, Fla.

Richards, W. Wiley (BDiv '60, ThD '64) retired in 2002 and was named Professor Emeritus of The Baptist College of Florida in 2007. He has authored six books and written more than 800 Sunday School lessons for the *Florida Baptist Witness*.

Shull, Jr. Lonnie H. (ThB '61) is Pastor Emeritus of FBC, West Columbia, S.C., and Field Coordinator of the Baptist Foundation of S.C.

Smith, Murray C. (BDiv '54, ThD '60) has served as a volunteer chaplain since 1993.

1970s

Cheek, Kenneth (MDiv '73) celebrated 30 years as pastor of Northridge Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Earnest, C. Lonnie (ThM '70) serves as Executive Director of Christian 12 Step Ministry, Inc., in Ocala, Fla., ministering to addicts in America and several foreign countries.

Giles, Jack O. (ThM '70) recently published two books: *Incredible Wealth Awaiting Discovery* and *Unmasking Guerilla Warfare in the Church*.

Neal, Perry D. (ThM '70) received the Doctorate of Divinity Degree from Covington Theological Seminary. He is in his 32nd year of evangelism ministry.

Roberts, M. Wesley (MCM '76) recently celebrated 25 years as a faculty member at Campbellsville University, Campbellsville, Ky.

Smith, Howard Chip (MDiv '75) has been named State Missionary for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions in the office of Leader Care/Church Administration.

Smith, Paul L. (BDiv '65, ThD '72) serves as a volunteer pastor of Romer Beach Baptist Church, Orange Beach, Ala. The church is in the process of building a \$5 million facility to replace the church building destroyed by Hurricane Ivan.

Smith, William L. (ThM '70) celebrated 30 years as pastor of Lakeshore Baptist Church, Monroe, La., on July 1, 2007.

Warren, Doug (MDiv '76) was honored for 20 years of service at Shiloh Baptist Church, Vaiden, Miss.

1980s

Brackin, David (MRE '82) has been inducted into Madison's Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals as an outstanding educator. He is also a member of Who's Who Among American Educators and Who's Who of American Teachers. He has been teaching science in Orange County (Fla.) Public Schools since 1985.

Childers, Timothy W. (MRE '87) was called as pastor of FBC, Sylacauga, Ala.

Curry, Norris W. (MDiv '84) has been called as pastor of Hodge Baptist Church in Hodge, La.

Davis, Roy W. (MDiv '87) celebrated 10 years as pastor of North Shreve Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., in November 2007.

Hamrick, Steve (MCM '86) was named Director of Music and Worship Ministries for the Illinois Baptist Convention.

Kendrick, Paul D. (MDiv '83, DMin '85) retired Dec. 31, 2007. He was DOM of the Washington Baptist Association in Chatam, Ala.

Kirksey, Franklin L. (MDiv '86) celebrated 25 years as pastor of FBC, Spanish Fort, Ala. He was licensed to preach at Shiloh Baptist Church of Saraland, Nov. 7, 1982 and ordained at Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Jan. 17, 1988. He is also the author of *Sound Biblical Preaching: Giving the Bible a Voice* released in 2005. In April 2007, he began a radio ministry called Giving the Bible a Voice.

O'Barr, Daryl A. (MDiv '80) serves as an Evangelist at FBC, Woodstock, Ga.

O'Day, Gary L. (MDiv '79, DMin '83) is the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor for the JROTC (Air Force) at Texarkana Arkansas School District #7.

Platt, Jack G. (MDiv '80) serves as Minister of Education and Outreach at Glynwood Baptist Church, Prattville, Ala., since July 2005.

Wakefield, Mark J. (MDiv '89) serves as Associate Pastor of Moulton Baptist Church in Moulton, Ala., and volunteering as chaplain for the Alabama State Troopers.

1990s

Bray, Richard (MDiv '84, PhD '94) was named director of the Hugh F. Davis Center for Ministry Education and an assistant professor of Christian Ministry of Shorter College in Ga. He is the former Director of Church-Minister Relations at NOBTS.

Brooks, Joe (MDiv '96) began serving as Associate Pastor of Waterville Baptist Church, Cleveland, Tenn., in September 2007.

Chisholm, Danny (MDiv '91, PhD '96) recently became pastor of University Heights Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo.

Cook, Jeffrey (DMin '94) was appointed as Extension Director for the Southwest Louisiana Extension Center for NOBTS in Lafayette, La.

Jenkins, Chris (MCM '92, DMA '95) has been named Dean of Distance Learning at East Central Community College, Decatur, Miss.

Hammil, George (MDiv '97) serves as a U.S. Army Chaplain endorsed by NAMB and was promoted to the rank of major February 2008. He is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (fourth deployment).

looking back

NOBTS Faculty – 1969

Front row (left to right): Harry Eskew, James Taylor, Clayton Waddell, William Souther, Mrs. William Souther, and Herman Warford. Second row: James Brooks, Thomas Delaughter, Stanley Clark, James Mosteller, William Mueller, Kelva Moore, and President Leo Eddleman. Third row: Claude Howe Jr., Helen Falls, Ray Robbins, Nelle Davidson, Eugene Patterson, Edgar Glaze Jr., and Beatrice Collins. Fourth row: Samuel Mikolaski, George Harrison, Paul Gericke, Ronald Hill, Joe Cothen Jr., John Olen Strange, and Frances Brown.



Head, David C. (MDiv '90) serves as Lead Pastor of Victory Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky.

Law, James B. (MDiv '91, PhD '94) celebrated his 14th anniversary as pastor of FBC, Gonzales, La.

Mooneyham, Steve (MDiv '84, DMin '92) was recently elected Second Vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

2000

Owen, Jesse W. (BACM 2000) serves at Lamar Baptist Church in Lamar, Ark.

2001

Curry, Mitzi D. (CCM '01) has been called as Minister of Music/Education at Hodge Baptist Church in Hodge, La.

Greene, Gary L. (MAMFC '01) has recently become the Director of Granberry Counseling Centers at the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home.

2002

Lee, Tom R. (MDiv '62, DMin '02) serves as Intentional Interim Specialist with the Center for Congregational Health, Winston-Salem, N.C.

2004

Johnson, Edgar L. (MDiv '79, DMin '04) recently returned from a trip to Russia where he taught Business English to Russian Businessmen.

Wells, Stephanie M. (MACE '04) recently completed her Education Specialist degree from the University of Georgia.

2005

Bridges, Reginald L. (MDiv '03, ThM '05, PhD '07) recently received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from NOBTS in December 2007.

Jones, Scott W. (MDiv '94, PhD '05) began serving as Associate Professor of Christian Ministry at Bryan College in Dayton, Tenn. in August 2007.

Lewis, Stan (MDiv '95, DMin '05) recently became pastor of First Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

2006

Dingler II, Densen P. (MDiv '06) serves as pastor of FBC of Lake Rousseau in Dunnellon, Fla. since May 2006. He was ordained June 2006.

Summey, Jr. Kenneth R. (MDiv '99, DMin '06) serves as pastor of FBC Summerville, Ga., since January 2007.

Stutzman, T. Shane (MDiv '99, DMin '06) recently wrote a book, *Does your Church Connect with Blended Families?* More information is available at www.doingwhateverittakes.org.

Births

Feldman, Adam (MDiv '03) and his wife Kimberly recently welcomed a baby girl, Abigail Leigh, into their family on Oct. 25, 2007.

Lamb, Shelvin (MCM '96) and his wife Pam recently welcomed a baby girl, Anna Victoria, into their family on Sept. 13, 2007.

Thompson, Milton Dale (MDiv '05) and his wife, Rebecca welcomed their first child, Toby Scott, on Aug. 6, 2007.

Marriages

Dellinger, Leslie (MACE '06) married Wayne Mertz on Oct. 27, 2007. They reside in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Deaths

Allen, Charles Dewey (MDiv '83) passed away Nov. 5, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Lytress Pierce Allen of Monticello, Miss.

Allen, Michael W. (MDiv '83) passed away on Jan. 27, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Wyatt Allen, of Colerain, Ohio.

Barrett, Richard (MCM '65) passed away Jan. 8, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Yudora.

Beyer, Jim L. (MRE, '68; Spec REEd '69; ThD, '71) passed away April 17, 2007. He is survived by his wife Edna Louise of Georgetown, Texas.

Boudreaux Sr., Floyd H. (DRE '71) passed away on Jan. 27, 2008.

Bowman, Gene T. (BDiv '60) passed away Dec. 13, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Betty Scarborough of Perry, Ga.

Callahan, Sr. William E. (BDiv '56, ThD '60) passed away Oct. 19, 2007.

Childers, Paul J. (ADIV '91) passed away Oct. 12, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Linda Aultman of Ocilla, Ga.

Cooper, Annie L. (BA '46) passed away Jan. 2, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Dr. C. Earl Cooper** (ThM '45, ThD '47) in 1997.

Cope, Padgett C. (AA '48) passed away Nov. 9, 2007.

Crook, Sr. Joseph E. (BDiv, '57) passed away Oct. 2, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Jane Bolding Crook of Inman, S.C.

Galloway, Virginia L. (AA '54) passed away July 18, 2007.

Green, Dr. Tony G. (ThM '91) passed away on Jan. 27, 2008.

Hogan, John A. (MRE '62) passed away Jan. 8, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Vera M. Hogan, of Toney, Ala.

Hogan, Joseph (DPCH '67) passed away on May 30, 2007. He is survived by his wife, June Hogan who resides of Carrollton, Ga.

Kendrick, Mavis E. (spouse of Dr. Paul Kendrick, MDiv '83, DMin '85) passed away Feb. 26, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Kendrick, of Elba, Ala.

Kirkland, Eddie B. (MDiv '78) passed away Oct. 3, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Alice, of Brooksville, Fla.

Matthews, Wilburn (BDiv '56, MRE '58) passed away Jan. 31, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Donniss Brent Matthews of Starkville, Miss.

McCall, Ray B. (BDiv '60) passed away Feb. 2, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Helen Mundy McCall, of Carthage, Tenn.

McKinnon, David C. (AA '40) passed away Nov. 7, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn King of Hickory, N.C.

McMillan, Jesse A. (BDiv '59) passed away May 6, 2007. He is survived by his daughter, Vivian Allene Slayton, of Plano, Texas.

McNealy, Ymogene M. (NDEG '28) passed away Nov. 22, 2007.

Metz Sr., Leroy (AG, '55) passed away Nov. 3, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Nix Davis, of Alabaster, Ala.

Nielsen, R. Elmer (BDiv '52, ThD '56) passed away Dec. 9, 2007.

O'Bryan, Richard W. (MCM '65) passed away Oct. 8, 2007.

Ogburn, Reuben E. (ADPM '91, BGS '93) passed away on Jan. 17, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Gilda Baliton-Ogburn.

Oswalt, Shelvee (wife, Jerry E. Oswalt, former Associate Professor of Preaching) passed away Sept. 27, 2007. She is survived by her husband.

Pace, Samuel W. (BDiv '57) passed away Oct. 23, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Joan Cocke, of Oklahoma City, Okla.

Pounders Jr., E. G. (BDiv '66) passed away Dec. 7, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Betty Ruth Hankins, of Columbus, Miss.

Powell, Danny R. (MDiv '01) passed away July 21, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Debra Chafin, of Dahlonga, Ga.

Ross, William H. (BDiv '49, ThM '52) passed away Dec. 7, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Tommie Jean Irving, of Laurel, Miss.

Sellers, Anna R. (former adjunct music professor for NOBTS) passed away Dec. 26, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Richard Baxter Sellers, of Picayune, Miss.

Smith, Mark R. (DPM '01) passed away Oct. 18, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Rena, of Russellville, Ala.

Stevens, Glenda B. (Spouse, Dr. Paul Stevens, former NOBTS faculty member) passed away Nov. 4, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Stevens, of Lawrence, Kan.

Stone, Thurman B. (AA '93) passed away Jan. 23, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Betty, of Charlotte, N.C.

Stroup, William R. (ThM '68) passed away Nov. 7, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Reda, of Jacksonville, Fla.

Tatum, Joseph W. (MDiv '92) passed away Nov. 26, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Cindy Crony Tatum, of Picayune, Miss.

Tice, Harold (BDiv '55) passed away Nov. 29, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Pat, of Watkinsville, Ga.

Topping, Dorothy S. (ADIV '90) passed away Feb. 5, 2007.

Travis, Kelly A. (MA '85) passed away Nov. 22, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Georgia, of Cordova, Tenn.

Underwood, James A. (MRE '67) passed away Nov. 26, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Fay Southerland, of Webb, Ala.

Williamson, Guy S. (ThD '58, BDiv '53) passed away Nov. 5, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Judy Heaton, of Atlanta, Ga.

Mission Appointments

International Mission Board

Miller, David S. (MRE '86) and his wife **Glynis** (MDiv '86) were recently appointed by the International Mission Board to the Middle America and the Caribbean area.

North American Mission Board

Cooper, Michael

(MDiv '07) and **Devon** are serving in Salmon Creek, Wash., where Michael has been appointed as a Church Planting Missionary Pastor. Previously, he served as a church planting intern at Tri-Mountain Community Church, Ridgefield, Wash. A native of Oklahoma, Michael earned a B.A. degree at Oklahoma Baptist University before attending NOBTS.



White, Alice (MRE '85) was recently named Weekday Ministries Director at Savannah (Ga.) Baptist Center. She is responsible for planning



and implementing weekday programs and ministries to meet the needs of the community. She also enlists and trains volunteers to work in the center's ministries.

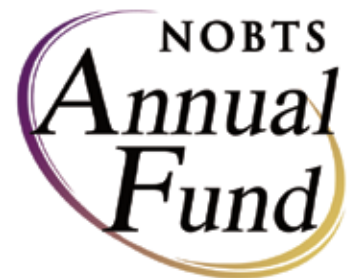
Prior to her recent appointment, White served as Director of NAMB's Andrew P. Stewart Center in Atlanta from 1987 to 2004. She recently served as Interim Minister of Preschool and Children at Flat Creek Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga.

PAYING FOR A SEMINARY EDUCATION SHOULDN'T BE SO PAINFUL



While the seminary has multiple funding sources including the Cooperative Program, student tuition is the most flexible income. This means that when additional funds are needed to meet post-Katrina operating expenses, tuition must be increased accordingly. The Annual Fund was established to slow rising tuition, resulting in accessible theological education for God-called men and women who need and want it. Gifts to the Annual Fund from generous donors help cover these costs so students don't have to.

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