



INSPIRE

APRIL 2024, ISSUE NO. 16

Call to Action

BY DR. CHRIS TOWNSON -
2024 FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIRMAN

I was in the passenger seat of his pickup truck when my friend looked over and said, “I just want to do something that matters for Jesus.” His statement was more definitive than it was searching. He was a man on a mission to steward the financial blessings that our Lord had entrusted his family. The words he vocalized that day have stayed with me. I’ve often wondered how we can do more to serve Jesus.

At our March Foundation Board meeting, we heard from faculty, staff, and Dr. Dew how the NOBTS Foundation Board plays a critical role in shaping the future of our beloved institution. We support our seminary's financial health and strategic growth as we work to secure the resources necessary for NOBTS to continue offering accessible, high-quality theological education in the strong tradition of our Southern Baptist heritage.

[CALL TO ACTION CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

mission

The New Orleans Baptist Seminary Foundation is to raise funds for and awareness of NOBTS and Leavell College, empowering the institution to prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.



The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation

Call to Action

CONTINUED from pg. 1

I testified that my connection to the seminary is deeply personal. I am a proud graduate of NOBTS, and now, my oldest son and daughter-in-law are seminary students, witnessing daily NOBTS's commitment to spiritual growth and academic and ministry excellence. Additionally, my youngest son plans to join the NOBTS community next year, further strengthening our family's enduring bond with the seminary. The Foundation Board's legacy of generosity is evident in our family's life and ministry. As a bivocational minister, the NOBTS community supported my studies and encouraged me personally when I needed it most. Through your generosity, this institution has helped shape my professional ministry and touched my family profoundly.

Serving on the Foundation Board is both practical and personal for me. There is too much at stake eternally to not do all we can for Jesus. So, Melissa and I are considering the following four steps in 2024-2025, and we ask you to join us in doing the same. First, will you pray for and ask three specific families to join the Foundation Board this year? We need givers to give more and more people to give.

Each of us can help our friends and Alumni understand that by participating, they too can play a crucial part in steering our institution toward a future filled with promise and purpose.

Secondly, will you pray for and ask three specific NOBTS and Leavell College Alumni to engage with the seminary community through the Alumni Association? Our alumni's involvement is crucial. They are the bearers of our legacy and the key to our future. Their experiences and insights are invaluable, enriching our community and enhancing our collective impact.

Third, will you pray and sacrificially give toward Giving Tuesday? This foundation board has pledged \$250,000 as a matching gift toward our \$500,000 goal. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of this day. Giving Tuesday represents a unique opportunity for our community to unite and support our seminary meaningfully. Our God, who owns everything (Ps. 50:10-12), calls us to steward the resources he has entrusted us well. By His grace and mercy, we can sacrificially give to Him, trusting that He will advance His kingdom and receive the glory.

Your generosity can make a significant difference in our students' lives and our seminary's overall health.

Lastly, will you pray and take steps to include NOBTS in your estate planning? This is perhaps one of the most profound legacies you can leave. It is a way to ensure that the gospel values we all hold dear are passed on to future generations. By planning for a future gift, you are planting seeds that will grow and provide for the spiritual and educational needs of future NOBTS students.

The strength of NOBTS lies in our past achievements and our ongoing, collective commitment to God's mission. Let's be the kind of people who, like my friend, do something that matters for Jesus, and let's bring others along to do the same as we continue to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission. ✠



Chris Townson - 2024 Chairman

Repurpose; Access

BY WANDA GREGG- DIRECTOR OF DONOR RELATIONS

In the 2022 Foundation Board meeting, members voted to continue fulfilling the ADA upgrades on the campus by installing an elevator in the Frost Administration Building, where key offices are located, including the office of the President and the Provost. When the City of New Orleans and the Fire Marshall performed an inspection to grant permits for the elevator installation, it was determined that the building was unable to meet the fire code requirements.

This news was communicated to the Board and a new plan was set into motion to renovate the DeMent Room, a large conference room located on the first floor of the Frost Administration Building.

The plan was to convert the space into a reception area where both the President and Provost could meet with guests in Frost.

The DeMent Room is now complete and ready to welcome guests. The room, designed by PhD student Amy Williams, has a beautiful seating area and a conference table and chairs that will be used for meetings and meals. The room was repainted, new flooring was installed, and all new furniture was added.

There are several historical focal points in the room, including: A cabinet belonging to John T. Christian, an early faculty member for whom our library is named.

The cabinet came from Christian's travel to England. His 18,000-volume collection became the nucleus of the library of Baptist Bible Institute.

Several books are written by our former and current presidents are displayed.

Two chairs that were used during the presidency of Roland Q. Leavell accent the space.

Presidential portraits line the room. The centerpiece portrait is of Dr. Byron Hoover DeMent, our first president. His portrait is more than one hundred years old. ❀



Empowering Our Mission

Inviting New Voices to Join Our Board

BY MARK A. HAGELMAN - DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

At the heart of the New Orleans Baptist Seminary Foundation lies a potent mission: to raise funds for and awareness of NOBTS and Leavell College. Through this mission, we empower the institution to prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission. As we journey toward achieving this noble goal, it is imperative that we continuously assess and enhance our Foundation Board's engagement and effectiveness.

One significant aspect of our Foundation's effectiveness is ensuring a diverse and robust membership base. Our ability to bring in new perspectives, expertise, and resources is pivotal in our capacity to innovate and address the Seminary's evolving needs. Diversity not only enriches our discussions and decision-making processes but also reflects the inclusive nature of our mission.

We emphasize the importance of each member's role in member recruitment. As ambassadors of the Seminary, you possess extensive networks and insights that can help identify and invite prospective members who align with our mission and values. Your active involvement in reaching out to potential candidates, sharing our vision, and inviting them to join our Board will strengthen our team and broaden our impact.

To facilitate this process, we would like to encourage you to consider individuals who demonstrate a passion for our mission, have relevant skills or expertise, and reflect the diversity we aspire to embody. By welcoming voices from various backgrounds and experiences, we ensure that our Board remains dynamic and responsive to the needs of the institution we serve.

As we move forward, let us assert our devotion to advancing the Seminary Foundation. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those called to fulfill the great commission. Thank you for championing the work set before us!

We extend a warm welcome to the three individuals who have committed to joining us in this worthy endeavor. Their dedication and contributions will undoubtedly enrich our collective efforts and propel us closer to realizing our goals.

David Caston, Ruston, LA

Terry Ewing, Choudrant, LA

Sean Vereen, Chattanooga, TN

Welcome to each of you, and thank you for joining us!



Membership Requirements

- Members are to pray[†] for the Seminary daily.
- Commitment to give or raise* \$5,000 minimum to the Foundation Endowment per year.
- Enlist new members.
- Attendance at the Annual Meeting is missed only by excused absence.
- Each board member will be asked to help facilitate regional “NOBTS and Friends” events.
- Members give above their annual commitment to the Giving Tuesday Matching Gift fund.
- Members who give a minimum of \$100,000 in a one-time gift secure Lifetime membership. These persons are encouraged to continue providing financial support to meet the Seminary’s needs.
- *A person is eligible for membership by enlisting others who meet the membership requirements or securing gifts from an outside entity helping them meet the membership requirements. These persons are encouraged to give personally on an annual basis.

†How Shall We Pray?

President’s Prayer



Father, we come before you humbly, praying for our beloved School of Providence and Prayer. We pray the administration will always know the best way to operate the school, fulfill its mission, and, above all, honor you. We also pray that students being called will consider NOBTS and Leavell College a place where "Prepare Here Serve Anywhere" becomes their reality. Lastly, we ask that our faculty, staff, and students serve the SBC in the best way they know how, with humility and integrity - Amen.



Board Officers

Chris Townson - Chairman

Jerry Pounds - Vice-Chair

Ben Humphries - Recording Secretary

Larry Lyon - Treasurer

Mike Wetzell - Executive Secretary



Team Captains

Recruitment - Jody Dean

Stewardship - Errol Wilken

Alumni Engagement- Gil McKee

DeMent Society- Chuck Simmons

58 Years & Counting

BY DR. MIKE WETZEL - EXECUTIVE SECRETARY;
VP for INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

At this year's lively Annual Banquet and Meeting, we were thrilled to see old friendships rekindled and new connections formed. We were honored to present Ray and Ann Allen with the Nelson Price Churchman's Award and to celebrate Mrs. Becky Harris as the recipient of the Mike Moskau Award.

During the meeting, significant decisions were made, including the approval of a \$175,000 renovation project for the Richard and Louise Danielson Center. This renovation will accommodate our campus' Homeschool activities and Institutional Advancement offices. With an initial \$143,442 contribution from the Foundation's endowment, a vote was held and unanimously approved to raise an additional \$35,000 from interested Foundation members to fund the project fully. We're delighted to share that, thanks to the increasing generosity of our members, the project has been fully funded. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed.

We're excited to announce the establishment of two new Foundation teams: the Alumni Engagement Team, led by Gil McKee, and the DeMent Society Team, led by Chuck Simmons. These teams will complement our existing Recruitment Team, led by Jody Dean, and Stewardship Team (focused on Giving Tuesday), led by Errol Wilkin.

As we embark on the Foundation's 58th year, I am continually humbled by your unwavering support and dedication. Your contributions are truly invaluable to us. 🌸

Remarkable Accomplishments!

Giving Tuesday Campaign



Your contribution to the GTMGF exceeds what is expected from your Foundation membership.

The Foundation members have set a Giving Tuesday goal of \$500,000, and they have decided to raise half of this amount, specifically \$250,000. Your contributions and commitments to the Giving Tuesday Matching Gift Fund (GTMGF) play a significant role in inspiring NOBTS & Leavell College alumni and friends to achieve remarkable accomplishments! Thank you for inspiring alumni and donors to join you in this initiative!

Dates to remember:

September 30 - GTMGF gifts and pledges are due
December 3 - Giving Tuesday Campaign



DEMENT SOCIETY

Those Who Have Gone Before

BY WANDA GREGG - DIRECTOR OF DONOR RELATIONS

As we mourn the Foundation Board members we have lost, we also celebrate their legacy and lasting impact on New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College.

We're reminded in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 "...do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again..."

Our prayers and deepest sympathies are with their families. Forever remembered as cherished members of the Foundation's history, they are a source of inspiration for future generations.

Stanley Cheatham	October 14, 2023
Janet Kemp	November 12, 2023
Jimmy Dukes	December 4, 2023
Joyce Harrington	January 30, 2024
Claude Gulley	February 14, 2024
Rhonda Kelley	February 17, 2024

NOBTS Communications wrote two articles, one for Dr. Jimmy Dukes and the other for Dr. Rhonda Kelley. Click on their names above to read these articles.

Many Foundation members have chosen to impact the Kingdom through a NOBTS-designated estate gift. If you have questions regarding including NOBTS in your plans, contact Institutional Advancement to begin the discussion today.

Save These Dates

- Graduation - May 10
- SBC Convention - June 9-12
- Fiscal Year-End - July 31
- Convocation - August 20
- Founders Day - October 8
- Giving Tuesday - December 3
- President's Christmas Dinner - December 5

NOBTS Advancement Team

Mike Wetzel

VP for Institutional Advancement

Nancy Whatley

Administrative Assistant

Mark Hagelman

Director of Development

Wanda Gregg

Director of Donor Relations

Lindsay Holder

Director of Development Services

Carla Ross

Director of Stewardship

Elisabet Alfonso

Data Secretary

Caroline McLaurin

Gift Processor



Contact Us!

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or by email at
development@nobts.edu



The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation

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