

DIGGING INTO HISTORY

NOBTS TEAM HOPES TO
UNCOVER MYSTERIES OF
GEZER WATER SYSTEM



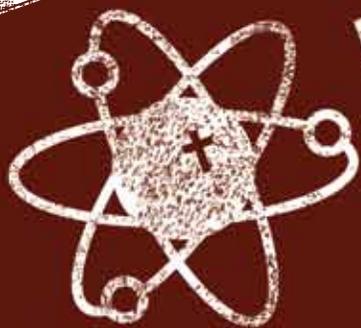
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Dr. Chuck Kelley
President

Dr. Jerry Garrard
Vice President for
Institutional Advancement

Gary D. Myers
Editor

Boyd Guy
Art Director &
Photographer

Suzanne Davis
Editorial Assistant

PR Staff and IA Staff
Proof Reading Team



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On the Cover Photographs by Art Beaulieu

Five memories of Katrina

BY DR. CHUCK KELLEY

August 2005 was the most exciting start to an academic year in anyone's memory. We had become the largest of the six SBC seminaries. We assembled a terrific faculty performing at the peak of their abilities. The students were both passionate and bright, and they came from all over the SBC. Stirring sermons in the second week of chapel by New Orleans pastor Fred Luter and our Dean of the Chapel David Platt had the whole campus buzzing. Never before was our seminary family so filled with high expectations. Everyone knew this was going to be an exceptional year at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In fact 2005 would become the most exceptional year in the history of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary but for far different reasons than any of us suspected.



Kelley

On Friday morning Aug. 26, a category one hurricane named Katrina was moving toward the eastern Gulf Coast. By Friday afternoon it exploded in size and kept moving westward. By Saturday it further transformed into a monster storm filling the Gulf of Mexico, and for the first time in history the mayor ordered a mandatory evacuation of the city of New Orleans. By Saturday night our campus was virtually empty. Forecasters now warned this could be the end of New Orleans. By Sunday afternoon, after intense debate with my administrative team, I evacuated before a storm for the first time in my life. On Monday, Aug. 29, the storm struck, battering the city and breaking some of the levees. I sat on the end of a bed in a hotel room in Birmingham, Ala., watching TV in shock as 70 percent or more of New Orleans went underwater for days and days. A campus buzzing with energy and excitement on Thursday became a silent lake devoid of hope on Tuesday.

Loneliness, grief and despair

My first memory is of a crushing weight of loneliness, grief and despair. Rhonda and I were now homeless. As far as we knew we had nothing but what we carried into our hotel room. I had 400 employees, almost all of them now homeless and overwhelmed. We had 2,000 students studying in New Orleans, many more up and down the Gulf Coast. This was trouble too big for anyone to fix, but the school and all of its faculty, staff, and students were my responsibility. I never imagined a soul could feel such a depth of grief and despair. Not even our cell phones would work.

Then suddenly it changed. As my wife and I wept and prayed before the Lord, Psalm 46 moved into my mind and

heart and refused to leave. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." An amazing calm pushed back the flood of grief and despair. It filled the whole room. This was God's problem, and He showed me how to let it go. My city and my campus were underwater for weeks, but Psalm 46 became my dry ground, the solid rock Katrina could neither flood nor shake.

Mission became our lifeline

My second memory is of the lifeline our mission became. As clearly as I knew my name I knew we had to teach all our classes and have graduation in December. We started the semester with a deep excitement about the evidence of God's grip on us, and that grip was not loosened by the worst natural disaster in our nation's history. By His grace we were going to finish what we started. When we did, we would know we were in the midst of a miracle, not a tragedy. That perspective made all the difference. Focusing on the mission cleared the fog of where to start in the midst of such chaos and destruction.

Three days after the storm I gathered our administrative team and a few faculty, staff, and student leaders in Atlanta and told them we would find a way to keep teaching every class. We would have December graduation and get our students to their fields of service. As we found our students, 85 percent of them told us they wanted to keep studying in spite of what happened. The entire faculty wanted to find a way to keep teaching. We were homeless, stricken with grief, and completely uncertain about much of the future, but we were still on mission. That sense of mission was our point of certainty in the midst of so much unknown. As the lifeline around which we rebuilt our lives and our seminary, knowing we were on mission became important in a way I never imagined.

Southern Baptists at their finest

A third memory etched deep in my soul is that of discovering anew how grateful I am to be a Southern Baptist. The connections we share are truly ties that bind. Katrina destroyed much of the infrastructure of New Orleans, including the cell phone towers. Communication with each other, long after the storm was gone, was extremely difficult. We learned that we were not isolated, however. We had family wherever the storm blew us, for wherever a Katrina evacuee ended up, Southern Baptists were there. Whenever they came back to New Orleans, Southern Baptists were there. The embrace of Southern Baptists in the midst of our grief and uncertainty is something none of us will ever forget.

The winds were just dying down when the disaster response teams began arriving. And they kept coming and coming and staying and staying. Every place Katrina blew our seminary family, they were taken in, assisted, and loved on with tender

mercy. Within days the Georgia Baptist Convention found places for scores of our seminary family, including me, to live. The Florida Baptist Convention moved heaven and earth to get Wal-Mart gift cards to our faculty at the point of their most desperate need. The largest single gift we received, more than \$6 million, came from the Cooperative Program. Every SBC entity sacrificed funds that would have come to them in order to help us. Many sent additional funds and volunteer workers as well.

What makes the story all the more remarkable is that aid and assistance went far beyond what Southern Baptists did for Southern Baptists. The image of Southern Baptists in New Orleans was transformed because of what our people did for those they did not know. New Orleans was amazed that we worked our way through neighborhoods helping anyone who needed it. They were amazed that we would not accept some form of payment. When a great spiritual harvest comes to New Orleans one day, it will be the fruit of seed lovingly and sacrificially planted by thousands of Southern Baptist volunteers.

Katrina taught us that being Southern Baptist is more than a doctrinal identity making clear what we believe. It is more than a missional identity making clear what we do. It is a relational identity making clear who we are. We are a family, a family far larger than any one church. Like a family, it matters not how our relationships look to outsiders. We do deeply care about one another, and we will stand with each other when the hard times come. You do not know how much that means until relationships are your only evidence for hope. The day the SBC entity heads got me on a conference call to tell me they were recommending \$6 million of the Cooperative Program go to NOBTS and not to their entities is a day I will never forget.

Overwhelmed with Gratitude

My fourth memory is one of a gratitude and pride that will be with me until my last breath. Ten days after the storm our faculty gathered on the campus of Southwestern Seminary with little more than the clothes on our backs. That first evening I had to walk the faculty through pictures of our flooded campus. Since most of our faculty live on campus, I was confirming to family after family the loss of everything they had. Words cannot express how hard that evening was. We wept. We worshiped. We prayed. The next morning this remarkable group of men and women gathered and spent the entire day creating ways to reinvent every class being taught that semester.

Their personal lives were in tatters. Most would not live in their homes or have access to their offices for a year. Neither they nor their students could even go to the library. No other faculty of an educational institution in New Orleans or in the nation had ever been asked to do what we were asking them to do. And yet they did it. By the time the day ended, the decision was unanimous. We could keep teaching every course we started. We would have graduation in December. We were still in the grip of God. It was the most remarkable performance by a theological faculty in the history of the world. For the good of the Kingdom, for the sake of their students, and for the love

of Jesus, these men and women created a new way of doing seminary and carried their students with them all the way through the Katrina experience. We were not participants in a tragedy. We were participants in a miracle of God.

God is a powerful Redeemer

My fifth memory is the lesson burned into my soul during all that was my Katrina experience. God proved that He is a Redeemer. Out of something ugly, He made something beautiful. The most important lesson I learned is: Do Not Be Afraid! God is able to see you through any storm that life may bring. What God does in response to the worst of times makes a far deeper impression on the believer than the difficulty of those times. Although none of us can know the challenges and trouble life will bring, every child of God can be absolutely certain that God's grace will be sufficient for each day we live. DO NOT BE AFRAID!

For weeks after the storm, there was absolutely no light in New Orleans outside of the downtown area. When the sun went down, most of the city went completely dark, with not even a traffic light glowing in the dark. Not long after the storm, however, our amazing contractor was able to get a little power up and running. He used it to turn spotlights on our steeple when the sun went down. Night after night that steeple was the only light visible in much of New Orleans.

The sight of that steeple shining brightly touched people all over the city in the darkness of those days. It was a reminder that the darkness would not win. It was an affirmation that hope was alive. It was a statement that God still reigned. It was a call to come in out of the dark. This is my witness to you when your world goes dark and a grief you never anticipated settles into your soul. Some of us have been to that place. We rise to tell you the light cannot be quenched. Do not be afraid. Jesus is a Redeemer. He will see you all the way home.

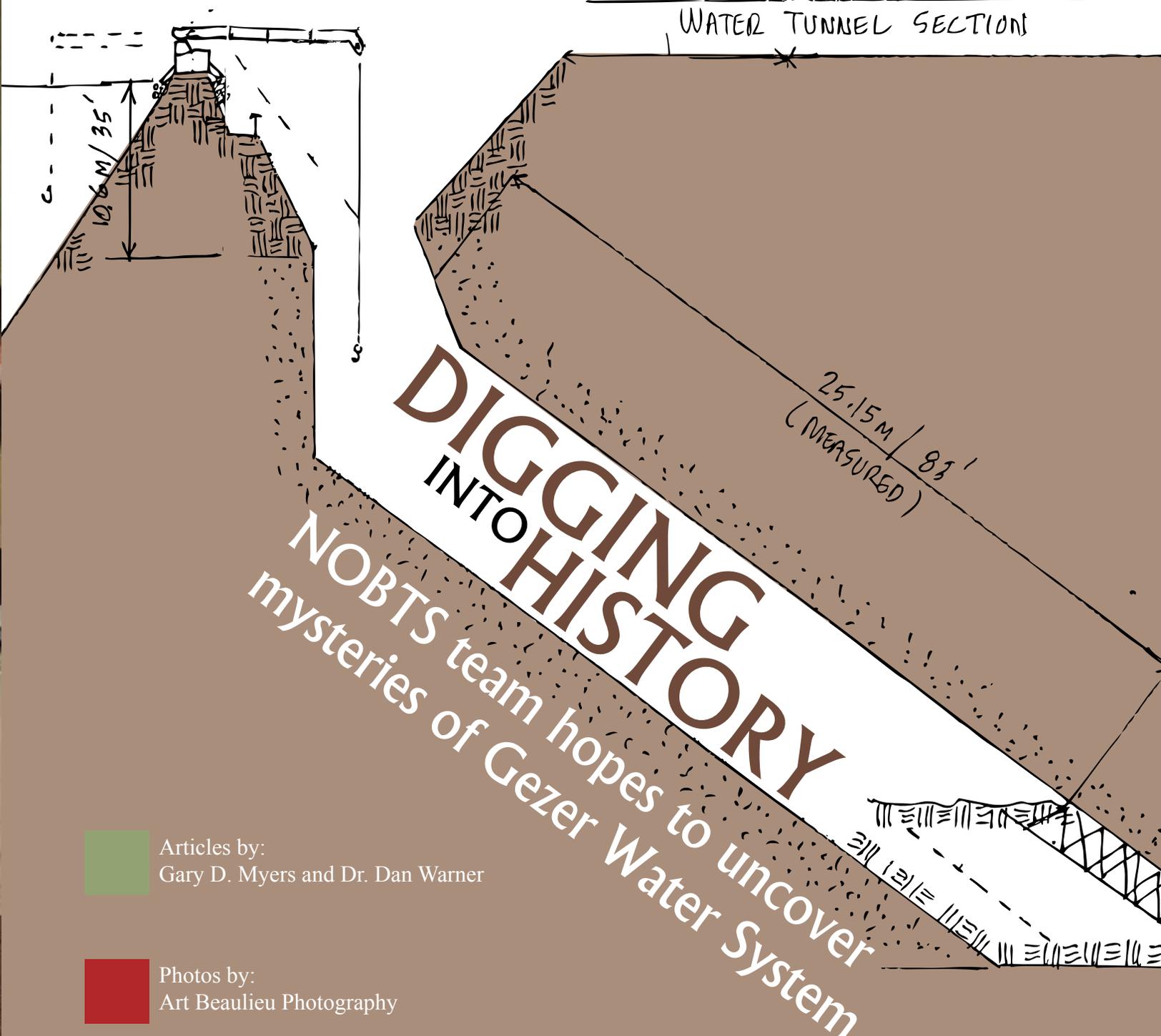
Please continue to pray for us. The recovery is well underway, but the city still has a long way to go in many of its neighborhoods. Two major projects remain on our campus. We lost three tennis courts the students and faculty used on a daily basis. It will take about \$300,000 to replace them. We are still short 72 two-bedroom apartments the storm destroyed. With \$5 million we could replace 32 of them and ease the housing crunch at least a bit. We would celebrate any help toward these two projects. They are the last Katrina miracle we are seeking.

I close with a profound expression of gratitude. Every person who reads these words has been a part of our Katrina story. You made a difference. You gave us both help and hope. Thank you for being there in a time of desperate need. Thank you for punching a hole in the darkness and reminding us that the light could not and would not be quenched. We will never forget.

Charles S. Kelley, Jr.



PROPOSED REMOVAL OF MATERIAL
WATER TUNNEL SECTIONS



Articles by:
Gary D. Myers and Dr. Dan Warner

Photos by:
Art Beaulieu Photography

FACING PAGE: Dr. Dennis Cole clears dirt and debris from the Gezer Water System.
THIS PAGE: Drawing by Dr. Jim Parker.



Dr. Jim Parker, left, records tunnel measurements taken by Dr. Harold Mosley and Dr. Dan Warner.

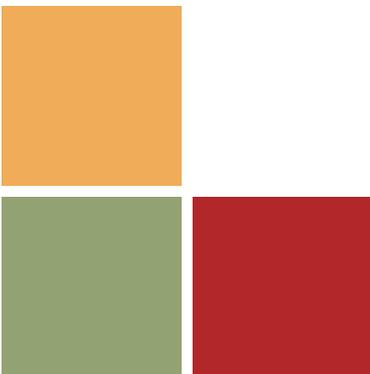
PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE ARE IMPORTANT FOR ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG, BUT THE WATER SYSTEM EXPEDITION AT GEZER IN ISRAEL DEMANDS AN EXTRA MEASURE OF LONG-SUFFERING ENDURANCE.

Hundreds of tons of debris must be removed to get to the water source and that's when the real work begins.

Dr. Dan Warner, Associate Professor of Old Testament and Archaeology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Dr. Tsvika Tsuk, Chief Archaeologist for the Israel Parks and Nature Authority, are directing the excavation of the large, rock-hewn water tunnel. It is believed that the Canaanites cut the tunnel between 1800 and 1500 B.C. – around the time of Abraham.

“The Gezer Water System Expedition bore out of the major expedition of which we are a consortium member,” said Warner, director of the Center for Archaeological Research at NOBTS. “It is a secondary project in connection with the Gezer Project. Steven Ortiz offered this project to NOBTS in 2007.”

The Gezer Project, a major excavation of ancient Tel Gezer, was launched by Ortiz while he served on the NOBTS faculty. When



Numerous finely cut niches, like the one shown here, carved into the tunnel wall lead some to believe that the water system was used as a center for cultic activity.



Ortiz moved to Southwestern Seminary, the dig license went with him. However, NOBTS has remained in the Gezer dig consortium and has been active in the dig.

Joining Warner on the dig last summer were several other NOBTS professors: Dr Dennis Cole, Professor of Old Testament and Archaeology and chairman of the Division of Biblical Studies; Dr. Harold Mosley, Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew; and Dr. Jim Parker, Associate Professor of Biblical interpretation and Associate Vice President of Facilities.

“The significance for this project is to help us answer several key questions,” Warner said. “Questions like how did the ancient Canaanites know where to sink their tunnel to gain access to the water below? How did they know the tunnel would lead to a cavern containing the water? Where does the water come from and exactly how did the system function, just to name a few.”

Many rock-hewn water systems have been discovered in Israel. The water system in Gezer shares characteristics with the other water systems in the Holy Land. These tunnels were built to provide water for the inhabitants of a city during a siege. Even with the similarities, the Gezer system is unique.

“At Hazor, there is a system that is very similar to this. The great difference is the size,” Parker said. “The one at Hazor was probably dug in the Iron Age. [The Gezer water system] is from almost a thousand years earlier.”

Measuring 12 feet wide by 24 feet tall, the Gezer system is massive. It is believed that the ancient people used donkeys to ferry water from the source to the surface. The width allowed two animals, loaded with jugs, to pass side by side. It is the height of the tunnel that perplexes the expedition team.

“The 12-foot width is expected. What is unusual is the 24-foot height of the tunnel and its exceptionally crafted arch,” Parker said. “Hopefully, going forward this too will be explained.”

Some speculate that the upper part portion of the tunnel was also used for some type of worship center. The team hopes to determine if there was any cultic activity attached to this system. According to Warner and Parker, numerous finely cut niches carved into the tunnel wall lend credence to this idea. The men believe these niches were intended for a greater purpose than holding lamps.

Excavation task is particularly difficult in the Gezer Water System. Team members must stand and work on a steeply-pitched, 38-degree slope.



The NOBTS team is also anxious to learn more about the water source and the cave located behind the source. The cave was identified during two expeditions in the early 1900s. However, reports from expeditions by R.A.S. Macalister in 1908 and P re L. H. Vincent shortly thereafter offer conflicting descriptions and measurement for the cave.

In his drawings and descriptions, Vincent notes an exit at the end of the cave. Vincent’s exit would have been outside of the city. Macalister’s drawings do not show this opening. According to Parker, the NOBTS researchers hope to settle the matter of the possible exit. The team will also provide new measurements, descriptions, drawings and photographs of the cave’s interior.

Last summer the team began the arduous tasks of removing tons of rubble from the tunnel. During the three-week dig, they cleared 72 tons of dirt and rocks. Team members dug out the tunnel and put debris in large sacks which were hoisted out with a crane. Due to the 38-degree slope, Parker compared it to working on a steeply pitched roof.

This year the team made it within about 20 to 30 feet from the water source and the cave entrance. Warner and Parker believe they will reach the water source next summer, if they can assemble a sizable team. Once inside the cave, the men hope to find the trenches dug by Macalister in 1908.

The rubble they have encountered thus far is not from the ancient times, but from some time after Macalister’s excavation. Once they reach the cave the team will carefully analyze every inch of dirt they remove.

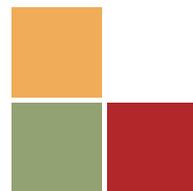
Next summer’s dig will take place May 21 through June 11. In order to reach the water source, Warner hopes to recruit 10 to 15 people to help with the project. The trip is open to students and alumni. The cost is \$1,500 for three weeks of room, board and weekend travel in Israel. Air travel to Israel is extra and each participant is responsible for arranging his or her flight.

Graduate students can also earn six hours of academic credit for participating in the expedition. Additional tuition charges will apply.

For additional information about the dig, contact **Dr. Dan Warner**, dwarner@nobts.edu, or **Dr. Dennis Cole**, rdcole@nobts.edu.

DR. JIM PARKER BRINGS UNIQUE SKILLS TO GEZER WATER SYSTEM EXPEDITION

By Gary D. Myers



EACH BAG OF ROCK AND DIRT, GENTLY LIFTED BY CRANE FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE GEZER WATER SYSTEM, SERVES AS A REMINDER FOR JIM PARKER – A REMINDER THAT GOD HAS A PLAN. AS THE DIG UNEARTHES ANCIENT HISTORY, PARKER IS UNCOVERING THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS OWN HISTORY.



Dr. Dan Warner was a natural choice to lead the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary dig team. A seasoned archaeologist and professor at NOBTS, Warner has participated in other important digs at Gezer, Kabri, Gerar and Megiddo. Dr. Dennis Cole, Chairman of the Division of Biblical Studies and Professor of Old Testament and Archaeology at NOBTS, is also involved in the dig. Cole has participated in other significant excavations at Beth Shean, Gezer, and Timnah.

However, due to the unique excavation task at Gezer, engineering expertise was needed to secure Israeli approval for the project. Once the dig reaches the underground water source, the goal of the expedition, mining experience is required to ensure safety and success.

Parker's education and experience is tailor-made for the task. Trained as an engineer, he is also a skilled draftsman and mine manager. Parker also earned two seminary degrees – a Master of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Old Testament and Hebrew.

Parker, who joined the faculty in 2007, worked for 10 years as a civil engineer with U.S. Steel's American Bridge Division. The job began while Parker was still in college. The company paid his way through college and helped Parker gain a wide range of theoretical and practical training. During a stint at an ore mine near Birmingham, Ala., he learned the ins and outs of mining.

Later, Parker worked for nine years as a project manager for Miner-Dederick, a general contractor in Houston. His work with Miner-Dederick brought him to New Orleans in the late 1980s where he served as project engineer and project manager for the construction of The Galleria, a 22-story office building in Metairie.

"That's when God called me to come to seminary," Parker said. "Over about a three-to-four year period I transitioned into ministry."

After completing his Master of Divinity degree at Southwestern Seminary, Parker was called to pastor a small church in rural Alabama. To help support his family, Parker worked a second job as a teacher.

TOP: Dr. Jim Parker and Dr. Tsvika Tsuk, Chief Archaeologist for the Israel Parks and Nature Authority, review plans at the Gezer Water System dig.

BOTTOM: Israeli authorities were initially reluctant to allow use of a crane near the water tunnel. Parker's expertise and detailed plans were influential in gaining approval for the project.

Eventually, Parker was contacted by a structural steel and mining company. The owner wanted his help with a number of projects. There Parker became heavily involved in underground and surface mining while continuing in his role as a bivocational pastor.

In 2004, Parker and a partner started their own mining operation in Alabama which continues today. As he developed the mine, Parker learned much about rock support. Parker's engineering and drafting skills were put to quick use in the planning stages of the Gezer water system dig. A crane would be needed to remove the large volume of debris filling the tunnel and Israeli authorities were initially reluctant to allow one at the site. The officials worried about instability near the tunnel opening.

To convince the Israeli government to approve the project, Parker put together detailed drawings of their plans. The drawings

illustrated the placement of the crane and showed how it would work. His drawings and engineering experience were influential in gaining approval for the project.

Throughout the planning process and the dig, Parker has carefully assessed the ancient tunnel. He watches for new cracks or shifts in the stone, especially near the exposed tunnel opening.

"My real value will come when we get inside the cave," Parker added.

Once the team digs into the cave, Parker will assess its stability. Adjustable jacks, like the ones used in mine shafts, will be used to support the cave roof if needed. As his wide range of training and experience converge at the Gezer dig site, Parker sees God's providential hand at work.

"Every experience that I've had has been a gift from the Lord. Gezer too is a great gift," Parker said. "I trust that this wonderful opportunity, using all the God-given skills He given us all, will turn out for His glory."

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

By Dr. Dan Warner

BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CRITICAL TOOL FOR THE STUDY AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT IS HAS BEEN OUR FOREMOST SOURCE OF NEW INFORMATION.

For the past 150 years biblical archaeology has continually supplied a rich array of texts and cultural materials that have assisted in the contextualization of the Bible. This is strategic since the teacher of the Bible is responsible to make sure that what they teach is accurate and true to the biblical text. There are rules for interpreting the Bible. One of the strategic rules is context. Basically this requires knowing what the original writers of scriptures meant and what the hearers of that day understood. This is basic. How can we know these things? Good question, glad you asked, primarily by knowing the languages of the Bible (Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic) and its historical, social and political context. This is where biblical archaeology has and continues to contribute greatly. It should be stated up front that it is not the task of archaeology to prove the Bible. The Bible does not need help. Scripture is self-authenticating, it proves itself.

There are four major areas in which biblical archaeology contributes to our understanding of the Bible.

One, archaeology can confirm the historical accuracy of the Bible. Many examples can be cited, but to mention a few. Did you know we have a picture of Jehu (10th king of Israel)? He is detailed in an Assyrian relief known as the "Black Obelisk." The second register from the top portrays the tribute of a prostrate "Jehu, son of Omni," a rare reference to an Israelite king in historical records. Its dates to 841 B.C. during the reign of the Assyrian king Shalmaneser III. Another recent find is known as the "Tel Daniel

Inscription" (because it was found at the site of Dan), where for the first time the name of David is mentioned outside of the Bible dating to the 9th Century B.C. Believe it or not David has been denied as a historical character by many in the scholarly world because there was no reference to him till now.

Second, it illustrates the Bible. For example in Numbers 13:28, one of the reasons given by the spies that it was impossible to take Canaan was "the cities are fortified and very large." We know now exactly what they were talking about. Digging both at Ashkelon and Gezer in the fortifications of the city, we uncovered huge earthen ramparts over 100 feet tall. These ramparts had walls on top of them maybe another 20-30 feet with towers on top of the walls. Can you imagine what it must have felt like? How can we attack these cities without battering rams or even up-to-date weapons of war?



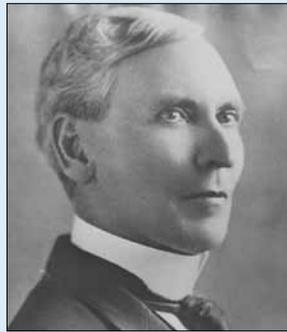
Warner

Third, it illuminates the biblical text. For example, look up the word Philistine. One of its definitions is "somebody who is regarded as being indifferent to artistic achievements and values." Well, archaeology has proven this to be totally false, just the opposite. The Philistines, who probably were Greeks, produced some of the most striking pottery of the ancient world that was coveted by all. They artistically were the Michaelangelos of the ancient world.

Last, archaeology supplements the biblical text. The Bible is not a history book even though it contains it. Many historical events are left out. An interesting Assyrian text from Shalmaneser III (858-824 B.C.) mentions Ahab. Did you know he had a large chariotry? The Bible mentioned he had horses but nothing like this. He supplied 2,000 chariots and 10,000 foot soldiers in a war against Shalmaneser. These are just a few examples of how biblical archaeology has contributed greatly to our understanding of the Bible and its world.

DeMent Society honors special group of NOBTS donors

The DeMent Society was established to honor those people who have included New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in their estate plans. The DeMent Society is named for the seminary's first president, Dr. Byron Hoover DeMent and his family. Dr. DeMent was a part of the first fund-raising effort of the newly formed Baptist Bible Institute in 1917. DeMent, a native Tennessean, described himself as not primarily a financial agent, "but a Gospel preacher, Bible teacher and humble leader of the people to nobler things." As DeMent raised money, he simply told the story of the



enterprise, lifted up its ideals, gave a vision of its needs and possibilities, and let the message work its own way into the hearts of people. What truer story could be told today.

We are grateful that so many friends share the vision Dr. Byron Hoover DeMent had 84 years ago. The seminary recognizes the importance of deferred gifts no matter the size. When you become a member of the DeMent Society, you ensure the future of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, its faculty and students.

If you have included the seminary in your estate plan, please let us know, so that we can add you to the list of the members of the DeMent Society. If you would like more information about the seminary and the DeMent Society, please contact Wanda Gregg, Director of Donor Relations at 504-816-8424, or outside New Orleans, 1-800-662-8701, ext. 8424. 

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 Mr. Ken Klun
 Dr. & Mrs. George W. Lassett
 Alton L. Lea*
 Mrs. Landrum P. Leavell II
 Dr. Landrum P. Leavell II*
 Dr. & Mrs. Lan Leavell
 Capt. & Mrs. Jim Lee
 Rev. & Mrs. Thurlo W. Lee
 Mrs. Freita L. Lehman
 Jack E. Lehman*
 Eddie S. Lieberman*
 Dr. & Mrs. Tom Lovorn
 Dr & Mrs. Harry L. Lucenay
 Genevieve W. Mahnker*
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Marik Jr.
 Dr. & Mrs. Ron McCaskill
 Dr. Russell M. McIntire
 Thomas S. Messer Sr.*
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Monroe
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. Morrison
 Miss Virginia L. Neely
 Guy D. Newton*

Dr. & Mrs. Harold O'Chester
 Mr. & Mrs. Willie E. Peavey
 Sen. & Mrs. John W. Powell
 Dr. & Mrs. Nelson L. Price
 Mrs. Virginia C. Quarles
 James D. Ramsey *
 Mrs. Rose Ramsey
 Mr. Allan E. Rankin
 Mr. & Mrs. Don Richard
 Dr. & Mrs. Tom Roote
 Dallas G. Roscoe *
 Mrs. Ellen Roscoe
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael L. Rose
 Dr. & Mrs. Ray P. Rust
 Dr. & Mrs. Johnny L. Sanders
 Rev. & Mrs. H. Gordon
 Shamburger
 Frank G. Smith Jr.*
 Dr. & Mrs. Don Stewart
 Mr. & Mrs. James H. Stroud
 Rev. David E. Sutton
 Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Taylor
 Dr. Malcolm O. Tolbert
 Fred J. Vogel*
 Dr. & Mrs. Phil Walton
 Rev. & Mrs. Charles E. Wesley
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Whitehead
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Wilkinson
 Mr. & Mrs. Milton L. Williams
 Edward Wood*
 Mrs. Vinita D. Wood
 Dr. J. Terry Young

*DECEASED

Providence Fund: When you give, lives are changed

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip God-called men and women to transform the world through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In raising up and training our students as pastors, ministers, and missionaries, we are sending life-changing truth to the local churches of New Orleans, our nation, and countries across the globe.

But for many students the cost of a theological education is a hindrance to their calling.

For Blake Newsom, the calling to ministry was not easy. But he found in the generosity of those who believe in the mission of the seminary a hand of providence:

“In late July of 2007, after a long process of attempting to discover God’s will concerning seminary, my wife, Brooke, and I discerned God’s call for us to come to NOBTS. I was serving as an interim pastor at a local church in Cleveland, Miss., and as an intern at the local college BSU that I had attended. My wife had a job working at a bank. Brooke and I knew that it was going to be tough leaving the security of a life where we had three sources of income and very few financial worries. But to be obedient to God’s call, leaving our jobs and responsibilities was necessary. God would have to meet our need.

On the very day that we solidified our calling to NOBTS, my wife got a call from a professor on campus offering an interview for a job, which she got. However, even with the offer of a job for my wife, we knew that we would not have enough money to live on. We moved to New Orleans to begin classes in August with very little money in the bank but with confidence in the providence of God. We left comfortable jobs, ministry positions, and a comfortable apartment to move into the seminary hotel until an opening in campus housing became available. But, we came in obedience.

Financially, we have been through difficult times. There were days we had no money and needed a miracle that day. My wife would tell me, ‘If something doesn’t happen, we won’t make it this week.’ But we knew that God would provide.

Then one day our faith was truly tested. The deadline for paying tuition came, and we did not have it. We also had no way to get it. So we prayed hard all morning. After so much prayer over our perceived calling to seminary, we now faced the possibility that we would not have the money necessary to pursue it. So we prayed knowing that if something happened, it would be a miracle of provision from God. That afternoon we received a call that tuition had been taken care of by an outside source. We did not know who they were, but our tuition was paid, and we were ready to start the semester. We were stunned and profoundly grateful for the generosity that made obedience to our calling possible.

Being a student at NOBTS is preparing us for a lifetime of ministry. We have learned that God will provide for His children. When I stand before a congregation and proclaim the faithfulness of God, I will not be proclaiming theoretical principles learned only in a book or class. I will be proclaiming biblical principles gleaned from life lessons forged in the furnace of preparation. We are living testimonies of God’s providence that has been channeled through our brothers, sisters and co-laborers in Christ.

We praise God for those whom He has used to assist us, and we look forward to the day when we can reciprocate the gifts to those following behind us. We look forward to the day we can be counted among those who can attest to the truth that it is better to give than receive.

To those of you who have supported the seminary, thank you. Not just thank you for helping me or meeting my family’s needs, but thank you for providing the support needed to make the Gospel known to others. Though my family has learned so much about true faith through our experience, the real blessing is that the Kingdom is being advanced by your giving. You are included in the process of what God is doing through His children. Thank you for doing your part. Your obedience in giving allows our obedience in serving.”



Blake Newsom/Photo by Travis Manint

Blake and his family experienced God’s providence through a trying time in their lives. With donations to the Providence Fund, we can keep tuition more affordable for students like Blake and lessen the financial burden on them and their families.

It is stories like this that were the inspiration for changing our name from the NOBTS Annual Fund to the Providence Fund. Your support is not ultimately to an institution but to a mission. It is a hand of providence to help God’s children be faithful to their callings.

Paul says to “Share with God’s people who are in need” (Romans 12:13). But also that “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

So if this mission of grace and truth is as important to you as it is to us at NOBTS, and if you desire, like us, to see lives and communities and nations changed through the sending out of pastors and missionaries, would you prayerfully consider partnering with us? 

For more information on the Providence Fund or to find out more about making a gift, please visit us at www.nobts.edu/development/providencefund.html.

giving news *in brief*

Giving at year's end

As you contemplate year-end giving options, please consider New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS).



Although the seminary receives Cooperative Program funding, it is not enough to cover the cost of seminary education for our students.

Your gifts are tax-deductible, whether they come through the mail (NOBTS Office for Institutional Advancement, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126) or the Internet (www.nobts.edu). NOBTS qualifies for most matching gifts programs, too. Supporting theological education truly does make you a friend of the ministry.

For information about end-of-the-year giving, call (504) 282.4455, ext. 3252 or email development@nobts.edu.

Students helping students: Surprise gifts help Ryan Cork pay for books

Ryan Cork, Leavell College student, learned a special lesson about God's provision. When the semester began, he lacked the funds to purchase certain textbooks. Cork asked for prayer at the beginning of one of his classes that God would provide the money for him to buy the books. At the end of class, an anonymous donor managed to drop a self-made envelope onto his desk when Cork wasn't looking. Inside the envelope was \$80, more than enough to purchase the books he still needed.



Cork

Cork says the blessings continued to pour in over the next five days as he received other donations. "Someone actually gave me \$400, and I was so overwhelmed that I almost cried right there in the hallway after class," he said.

Cork hopes his testimony will encourage other students about God's provision.

Did you know? Yearly student costs

Below are average yearly costs for NOBTS students (excluding insurance, transportation, food, childcare, and misc. expenses).

Undergraduate Student		Graduate Student		Ph.D. Student	
Tuition and Fees*	\$4,310	Tuition and Fees*	\$3,200	Tuition and Fees*	\$3,820
Books	\$500	Books	\$500	Books	\$500
Rent**	\$6,540	Rent**	\$6,540	Rent**	\$6,540
Utilities	\$1,800	Utilities	\$1,800	Utilities	\$1,800
TOTAL	\$13,150	TOTAL	\$12,040	TOTAL	\$12,860

*Southern Baptist, taking minimum full-time load per semester (Undergraduate: 12 hrs.; Graduate: 9 hrs.; Ph.D.: 1 seminar and 1 reading colloquium).
 **Married student with one child living in an on-campus, two-bedroom apartment.



New Student Housing Is the Seminary's Greatest Need

NOBTS lost 92 apartments during Hurricane Katrina, making it more difficult for God-called men and women to receive ministry training.

\$15-17 million are needed to replace lost units.

Would you be willing to provide financial assistance in order to build this much needed student housing?

For information about giving to Student Housing at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary call (504) 282.4455, ext. 3252.

From Okinawa to New Orleans: Angela Franklin

BY BRENT TAALUR RAMSEY



Photo by Boyd Guy

Born to missionaries Ray and Ardith Franklin in Okinawa, Japan, Angela Franklin came to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in July 2009 from Arkadelphia, Ark., to fine tune her musical skills and strengthen her foundation for a life in the ministry.

“I had the opportunity to serve in the International Baptist Church of Singapore after graduating from university,” Franklin said. “As I served in their music ministry and helped with the music program of an international school, I realized how God could use music to proclaim the Gospel.”

Franklin describes answering “God’s dynamic calling” as a journey, pairing where God has placed her and how He has made her with what He will enable her to do. She says her experiences with international ministries and her passion for music, along with her love for helping people experience and understand the power of worship, are all parts of God’s plan to provide ways for her to serve His kingdom.

“I cannot remember a time when I did not know who Christ was or about His death on the cross and His resurrection which freed us from sin and gave us new life in Him,” said Franklin, who shared that while growing up with missionary parents Jesus’ love has always been as real as her parents’ love.

At the age of 6, her kindergarten teacher explained that making the decision to follow Christ was the way to accept his love. It had not occurred to Franklin at that age that a decision was needed to go from existing in God’s love to accepting His love and applying His truths to life.

The young Franklin returned home to her parents with questions and made the decision shortly after to accept and follow the love of Christ. She was baptized after her seventh birthday.

“I distinctly remember thinking that being ‘free from sin’ meant that I would automatically know all the right things to do and never do anything wrong again. This led to many small frustrated prayers as I struggled to understand why I was not instantly perfect,” said Franklin. “It was not until middle school when I finally started to grasp God’s grace during a youth group weekend.”

This experience kindled a more vibrant walk with Christ, enlightening Franklin on Christ’s grace and love.

In life after seminary, Franklin hopes to teach and lead music, whether it is directing youth and adult choirs, teaching voice or serving in music worship. The real question, she says, is not asking what will she be doing after seminary, but where she will be.

Franklin is in her second year at NOBTS, pursuing a Master of Music in Church Music and works for the Dean of Students office. Her favorite aspect of life in New Orleans is “the flavor and music of the people.” Franklin says that 2 Corinthians 5:14-19 defines how she can use music for God’s work:

“For Christ’s love compels us, since we have reached this conclusion: if One died for all, then all died. And He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died for them and was raised. From now on, then, we do not know anyone in a purely human way. Even if we have known Christ in a purely human way, yet now we no longer know Him like that. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come. Now everything is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us.” ▼

Persistent Prayers: Korean students meet early for prayer

BY SUZANNE DAVIS

At 5:30 a.m., all is quiet on the NOBTS campus. The sky is a deep purple, and the campus is illuminated only by the soft glow of the old-fashioned, wrought-iron lamp posts. Except for a few lone joggers, it seems nearly everyone within the seminary's gates is still sleeping. At the Sellers Music Building's recital hall, however, there is the sound of music and the quiet murmurs of people praying.

The Korean Student Association (KSA) of NOBTS hosts an early morning prayer meeting each weekday from 5:30 to 6:30. During this time, devoted Korean students slip into the darkened recital room and begin their day in prayer.

"We just follow what Jesus did," said KSA president Jin Kwon. "In the Gospel of Mark, chapter one, He did many things in one day. He healed, and he preached, and he taught. And then, the next day, He woke up early and He prayed alone."

We just follow what Jesus did. In the Gospel of Mark, chapter one, He did many things in one day. He healed, and he preached, and he taught. And then, the next day, He woke up early and He prayed alone.

- Jin Kwon

The students began last year hosting a weeklong early morning prayer meeting to open the semester. "It was a kind of ceremony for the beginning of the semester," Kwon said. "But this year, we will have [the meeting] all semester because many students have requested it."

Kwon contacted the Dean of Students and was given permission to continue meeting in the recital hall of the Sellers Music Building. He points out, however, that these meetings are different from the traditional Korean prayer services. "It's a little bit different because we don't have a hymn or sermon," he said. "Normally, at a Korean prayer service there would be some worship and the pastor would bring a short message."

The student prayer meetings are very informal. Though they gather together, each person prays individually and simultaneously with the others gathered. The meeting is designed to make it easy for students to come and go as needed.

"We turn out the lights and play the music so that everyone can pray personally and leave freely," Kwon said.

For the students from South Korea, early morning prayer is a part of their religious culture. Kwon estimates there are about

30-35 students attending NOBTS. Two-thirds of these students live on campus. They are primarily Baptist and Presbyterian, he says, but all are accustomed to daily prayer services in their home churches.

Shin Deok Ra, seminary student and worship leader at Korean Agape Baptist Church in New Orleans, says that many of the Korean churches in New Orleans also hold early morning services. "At my church we do every weekend, Saturday and Sunday morning at five-thirty," he said. "We

have a service with the pastor and myself as worship leader. There is about a 10-minute message, and then everyone prays freely, and then they go home."

Kwon adds that the call to prayer is not unique to Korean Baptists. "A prayer service like this is one of the common features in the South Korean church; it doesn't matter the denomination. The Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians – they all stress the prayer meeting."

Ra describes early morning prayer as a spiritual discipline that is rooted in South Korea's history and culture. "Fifty years ago, one of the major industries was agriculture," he said. "Everyone had to wake up before sunrise. But the church emphasized prayer, so the people would come to the church before work. They opened the day with prayer."

Ra adds that for many Korean students, early morning prayer time is not just a matter of self-discipline, but of spiritual need as well. "This isn't a mandatory meeting," he said. "Year by year, I have realized that I needed prayer, so it's self-discipline. We want to be faithful pastors. It's not just discipline for us, it's a very important time."

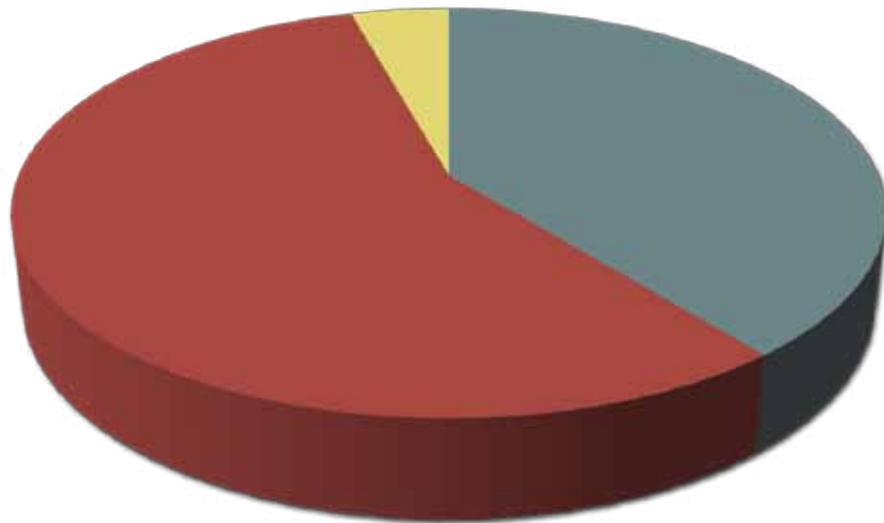
He tells of one student's wife who felt moved after their beginning semester prayer, to attend daily prayer meeting for 100 consecutive days. "During the week, she can come here, and on the weekends, she can go to church. So she never stops," Ra said. "She's a pastor's wife, and she said, 'I need to pray.' This is a very good opportunity for her."

Korean students aren't the only ones who have felt the need to commit to early morning prayer. Ra notes that when he moved on campus three years ago, he served a church that had a daily prayer service. Each morning he would leave Hamilton Hall in the predawn hours to attend his church's service before going to class.

His faithfulness had an impact on his roommate. "At the time, my roommate was very surprised in the beginning when I started to attend the early morning service," Ra said. "but he was very challenged and eventually he made a small group for early morning service, not at five o'clock, but at six o'clock. He talked to some of the guys in Hamilton Hall, and about five people would gather at a friend's room and they would have a prayer meeting. They continued meeting for one semester." 

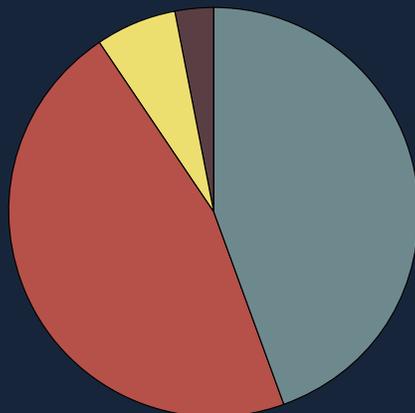
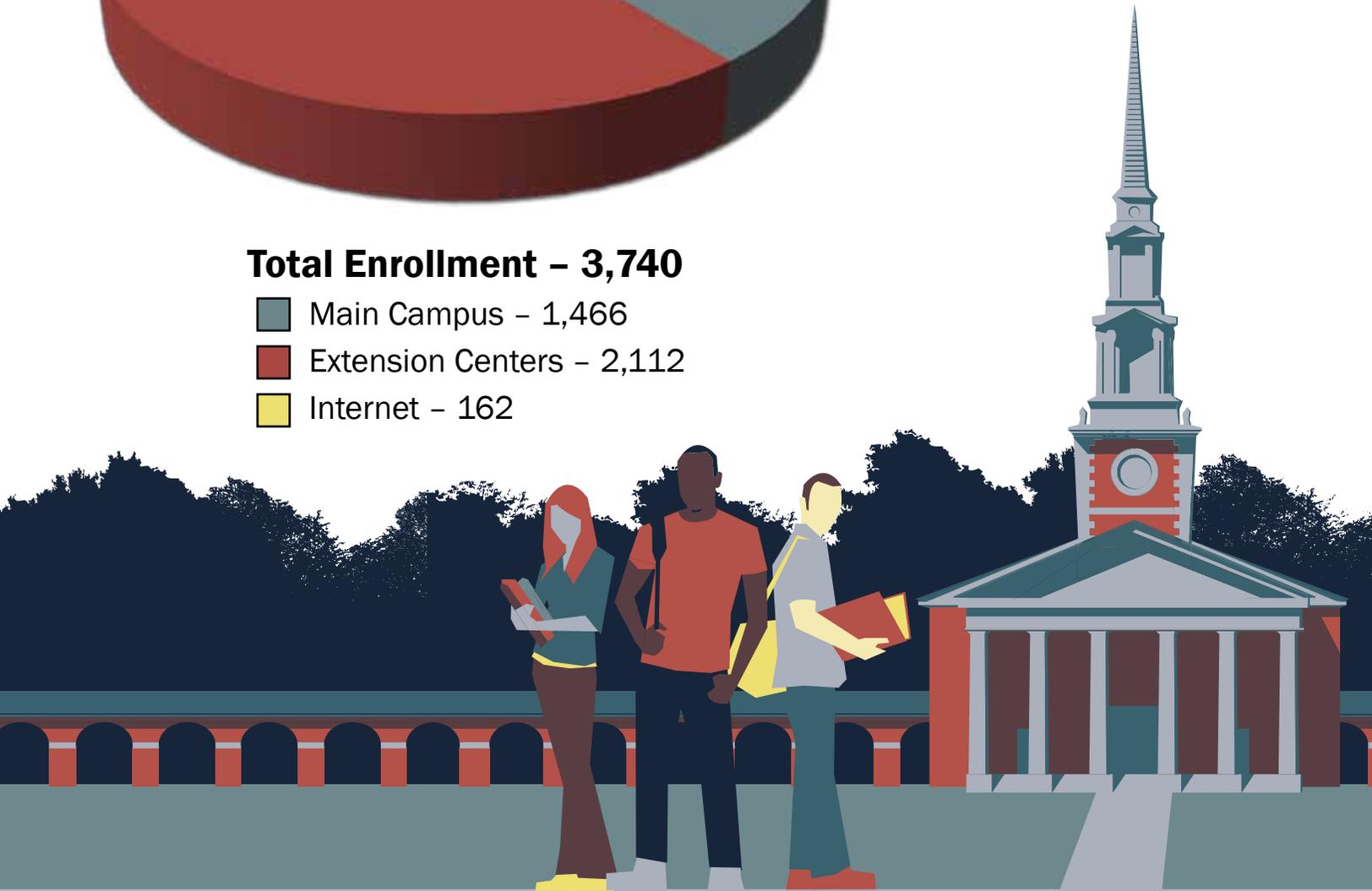


Seminary Enrollment Snapshot



Total Enrollment – 3,740

- Main Campus – 1,466
- Extension Centers – 2,112
- Internet – 162



Enrollment by Program

- Undergraduate – 1,643
- Graduate – 1,695
- D.Min. & D.Ed.Min. – 234
- Ph.D. – 108

Gender



Marital Status*



*NOBTS does not collect this data for online students and students in prison programs.

SOURCE: NOBTS Registrar's Office. Based on 2009-10 data.

Drumm book preserves seminary's Hurricane Katrina story

BY CORLEY C. MADDEN

Five years ago, on Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the lives and livelihoods of the people of New Orleans and resulted in some of the darkest days in the history of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Scott Drumm, Associate Professor of Theological and Historical Studies at Leavell College, the undergraduate college at NOBTS, felt that the story of how the seminary weathered Katrina should be preserved. His book, *Providence Through the Storm: The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Hurricane Experience*, is a compilation of the photographs and stories that make up the seminary's own Hurricane Katrina story.

"I realized at some point that the Katrina event was so large that we were living in a truly historical moment. I wanted to be able to capture everyone's stories while they were still fresh on their minds. I did not want this major event to pass us by without capturing some kind of historical record," he said.

Every person who went through Hurricane Katrina has his own personal Katrina story. The stories all have similar themes of grief and loss, yet each differs when it comes to what the storm cost, whether it was possessions, a loved one, or time spent away from home. Recalling those days and weeks is still difficult for many, though there is a triumphant air about those who have persevered in returning and rebuilding.

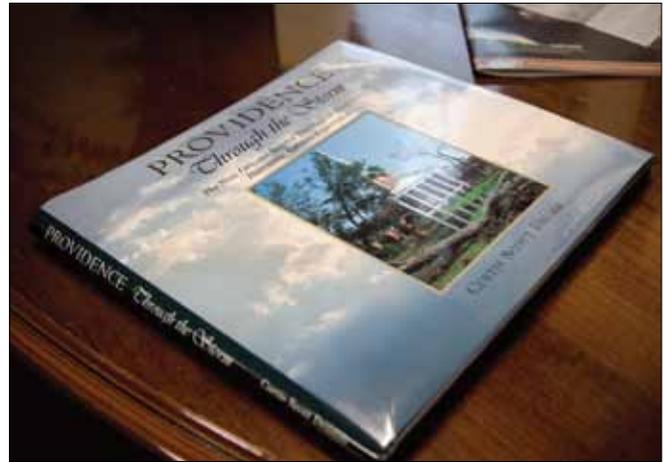


Photo by Boyd Guy

more than 100 people, capture the wide range of emotions experienced by everyone connected to and associated with the seminary. They are told by everyone from the president to the students to the small band of people who actually rode out the storm in a dorm on campus and barely escaped the city.

Together, these stories chronicle the days leading up to Katrina's landfall from the time when everyone in Louisiana thought that Katrina was someone else's problem, to the



I wanted to be able to capture everyone's stories while they were still fresh on their minds. I did not want this major event to pass us by without capturing some kind of historical record. – Dr. Scott Drumm

In the same way, members of the seminary family who were a part of NOBTS during that time, which has become known as the "Katrina Event," also have stories to tell. The stories of NOBTS faculty, staff and students make up the larger story of how the seminary weathered, survived, and triumphed over Hurricane Katrina.

Drumm wants future generations of NOBTS students, faculty and staff to better understand what their forebears went through in order to keep the seminary afloat during the most trying time in its history.

"I knew that the school's present and its future were going to be shaped by what had happened. Essentially, I wanted to give a lasting view of the events for generations who come after, so that 100 years from now, New Orleans faculty, staff and students can look back and better understand what the school experienced by listening to the voices who lived through this life-changing event," Drumm said.

So Drumm began putting together a book of photographs and stories. Using many of the 5,000 pictures he received, Drumm illustrates the story of the seminary campus as it looked before, during and just after the hurricane and flood that ravaged the Gentilly campus. The stories, gleaned from interviews with

moment it seemed that the city had dodged a bullet, to the devastating realization that the worst had happened.

Since that terrible August day, much has been done in and around New Orleans to bring restoration and healing to those affected by the storm. It has been a long and difficult process that is still far from over. For those who went through Hurricane Katrina and her aftermath, life is divided into two periods of time: pre-Katrina and post-Katrina. What was normal before the storm is now a memory and people have had to forge a 'new' normal for themselves and for their families.

When asked about the overall message of the book, Drumm says, "I wanted to communicate that this was a very traumatic event which has both affected the city and the seminary. It wasn't just a storm; it changed things. But God used it and was there in the midst of it. He is continuing to work and he has a plan for the school and the city that the storm was just a part of."

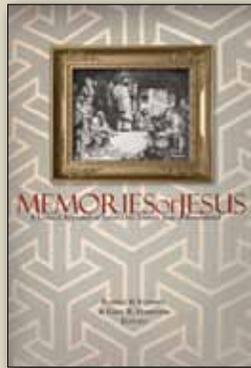
Drumm spent months gathering photos and interviewing those willing to share their stories, compiling them in an archive that is now located in John T. Christian library on the seminary's campus. The book is available at the NOBTS LifeWay Store or at www.amazon.com. 

in print *books by faculty & alumni*

■ **Memories of Jesus: A Critical Appraisal of James D. G. Dunn's Jesus Remembered**

Robert B. Stewart, co-editor
B&H Publishing, 2010

Memories of Jesus gathers essays from a variety of contributors that critically assess the influential book, *Jesus Remembered*, written by James D. G. Dunn, one of today's most significant New Testament theologians.

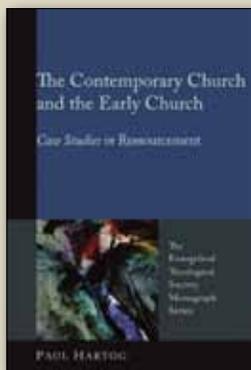


Robert B. Stewart is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Theology occupying the Greer-Heard Chair of Faith and Culture at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **The Contemporary Church and the Early Church: Case Studies in Ressourcement**

Rex Butler, contributor
Pickwick Publications, 2010

Six scholars share diverse insights from the Patristic period, including lessons on evangelism and discipleship, community formation and maintenance, use of the "rule of faith," the preaching of social ethics, responses to cultural opposition, and Christological development.

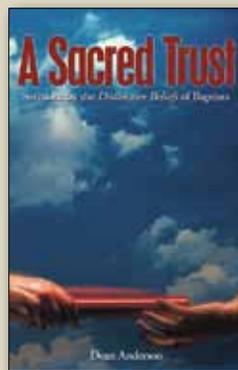


Rex Butler is Associate Professor of Church History and Patristics at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **A Sacred Trust: Sermons On The Distinctive Beliefs Of Baptists**

By Dean Anderson
CrossBooks, 2010

The sermons in this book provide a helpful introduction to the beliefs which distinguish Baptists from other Christian groups and churches, and help readers to consider those beliefs in their proper level of importance.



Dean Anderson is the pastor of Trenton Baptist Church in Trenton, Ky. Anderson earned Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degree at NOBTS.

■ **Personal Holiness: A Biblical Study for Developing a Holy Lifestyle**

■ **True Contentment: A Biblical Study for Achieving Satisfaction in Life**

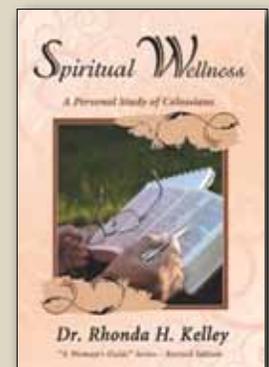
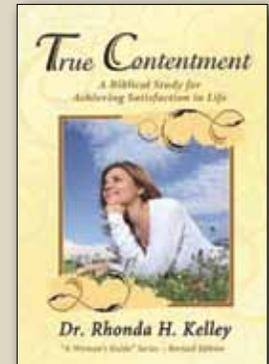
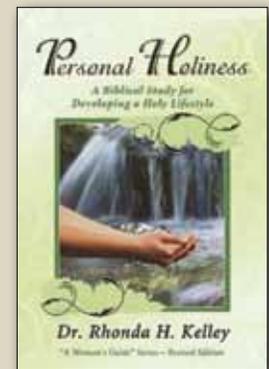
■ **Spiritual Wellness: A Personal Study of Colossians**

By Rhonda H. Kelley
New Hope Publishers, 2010

Personal Holiness: A Biblical Study for Developing a Holy Lifestyle; *True Contentment: A Biblical Study for Achieving Satisfaction in Life*; and *Spiritual Wellness: A Personal Study of Colossians* have been revised and expanded to include 25 percent more content and updated information.

Each of these 12-week study guides focuses on a different aspect and concern of life facing Christian women. From the developing a holy lifestyle to achieving contentment in life, the topic of study within these books will aid any woman's spiritual growth and wellness.

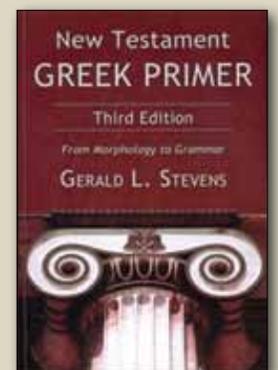
Rhonda H. Kelley is the President's Wife, Professor of Women's Ministry in Leavell College and Director of Women's Ministry Programs at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.



■ **New Testament Greek Primer, Third Edition**

By Gerald L. Stevens
Cascade Books, 2010

New Testament Greek Primer has established itself among Greek instructors as a popular and dependable guide to New Testament Greek, appreciated for its accuracy, coverage, and well-designed exercises. The third edition builds on this solid reputation with enhanced discussion, organization, examples and exercises.



Gerald L. Stevens is Professor of New Testament and Greek at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

news *in brief*

NOBTS expands social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is officially on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube as of Aug. 16, extending their mission of “equipping the leaders for the 21st century church” from the seminary campus and extension centers to the millions of social media users.



NOBTS has established Facebook as a central location for faculty, donors, prospective and current students and staff to converse and interact among each other and with the seminary. Twitter will be a live stream of news from NOBTS to their targeted audience. The seminary’s YouTube site is now the source for a growing library of NOBTS videos.

The seminary encourages all members of the NOBTS family to join this adventure by following the school on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Join by visiting the following sites:

- Facebook** – www.facebook.com/NOBTS
- Twitter** – www.twitter.com/NOBTS_Live
- YouTube** – www.youtube.com/nobtspublications

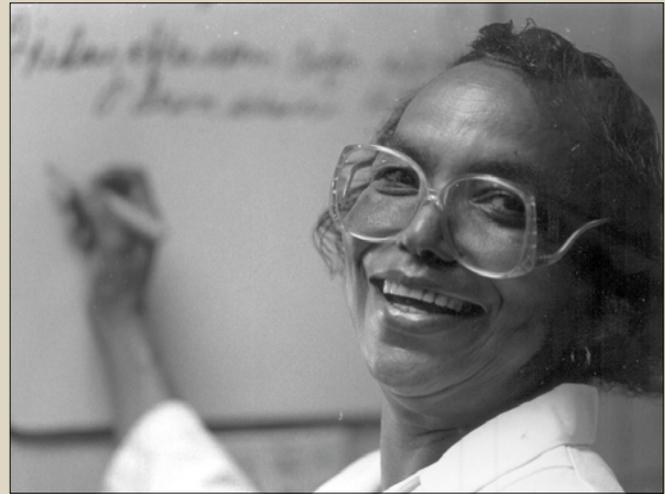
Kelley, NOBTS to emphasize core value of Mission Focus in 2010-2011

In his first chapel address of the 2010-11 academic year, held Tuesday, Aug. 24, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Chuck Kelly challenged students and faculty to embrace what God has in store for this year. Kelley’s challenge stemmed from the seminary’s core value emphasis the year: Mission Focus.

In his opening prayer, Kelley thanked God for the gift of something new. “Whatever this year brings, it will bring a fulfillment

of Your kingdom’s purposes as Your people obey and follow you,” he prayed. Kelley also prayed that the people of NOBTS would be filled with courage and love to carry out God’s purposes in the coming year.

Of the five core values the seminary holds, Mission Focus is the only one that is sometimes questioned, Kelley told the assembly. To those who think that the seminary is only an educational institution, he says, “We’re not here just for students to get an education – for professors to give an education. We are all here to change the world.”



In Memory

NOBTS mourns death of Miss Almetta

Almetta Wilson, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary employee from 1959-2005, passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 1. Miss Almetta was loved by the NOBTS family for many years. During most of her years on the NOBTS staff, she was Director of Janitorial Services but she also ran the cafeteria for a time and worked in the President’s home.

The funeral service was held Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Greater New St. Luke Baptist Church. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Gentilly.

Psychology and Counseling doctoral program offers unique weekend format

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary offers a fully accredited (SACS & ATS) research doctoral degree (Doctor of Philosophy) in Psychology and Counseling to prepare students for teaching or leadership positions.

The degree program is a weekend program designed to be attainable to individuals who need to remain in their current work or living situation. Seminars are held three weekends each semester.

The required eight seminars and four reading colloquiums, plus attainment of LPC licensure or MFT licensure during the course of study provides an opportunity for supervised experience in counseling from a Christian perspective, builds a biblically sound understanding of the needs of individuals and families, and fosters a growing expertise in using evidence-based counseling methods.

Individuals graduating with the Ph.D. with a major in Psychology and Counseling will be prepared to teach on an undergraduate or graduate level in universities and seminaries, to hold administrative positions, to work in the boards, agencies, and commissions of the Southern Baptist Convention, and to provide specialized ministry leadership.

For more information about the Ph.D. program in Psychology and Counseling, call (504) 282.4455 ext. 3729.

NOBTS trustees fill faculty posts

BY GARY D. MYERS

Amid news of enrollment growth at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, two faculty members were elected during the June 1 meeting of the trustee executive committee, while President Chuck Kelley announced the appointment of a third faculty member.

Dr. Angie Bauman and Rhyne Putman were elected to the NOBTS faculty in Christian education and theology, respectively, while Kelley reported the appointment of Dr. Damian Emetuche as Assistant Professor of Church Planting.

Bauman, elected as Assistant Professor of Christian Education, graduated from NOBTS with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Christian Education in May. An experienced youth minister, Bauman's dissertation focused on the distinguishing characteristics of evangelistic youth ministry programs in the SBC.



Bauman

In August 2008, Bauman began serving as Instructor in Christian Education and Director of Student Services for the seminary's North Georgia Hub (NGA).

Bauman remains actively involved in local church ministry at First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga.



Putman

Trustees elected Putman as an Instructor in Theology. A Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry fellow, Putman has worked as a graduate teaching assistant at NOBTS since 2006.

Putman holds two NOBTS degrees, a Master of Divinity with specialization in Biblical Languages and a Master of Theology, and is a current Doctor of Philosophy in Systematic Theology student at NOBTS. He is a frequent presenter at regional and national meetings of the Evangelical Theological Society.



Emetuche

In local church ministry, Putman serves as a seminar teacher and small group

leader at Calvary Baptist Church in New Orleans.

Church planting professor Damian Emetuche comes to NOBTS as part of the ongoing North American Mission Board Nehemiah Project. The church planting initiative places a NAMB-approved professor at each of the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Though born in Nigeria, Emetuche has served as a NAMB church planter in Ohio and Washington. Before coming to the United States, he served as a pastor in Nigeria and a missionary/church planter in Ivory Coast. He speaks English, French and Igbo.

The first African professor at NOBTS, Emetuche is part of a faculty that is becoming more and more international. Kelley said the international professors are bringing a "global voice" to the seminary's faculty and provide a richer learning experience for students. 

Faculty Updates

Bauman receives SBRF award

DR. ANGIE BAUMAN received the Researcher of the Year award at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship held in Richmond, Va., this September. The award recognized her dissertation on evangelistic youth ministry programs.

Faculty Anniversaries

The following professors were recognized for their years of service during Convocation, Sept. 7:

20 Years

DR. BILL WARREN

Professor of New Testament and Greek, occupying the Landrum P. Leavell II Chair of New Testament and Greek; Director of the H. Milton Haggard Center for New Testament Textual Studies
See related article on page 21.

10 Years



DR. SCOTT DRUMM

Associate Professor of Theological and Historical Studies in Leavell College; Associate Dean of Leavell College; Director of Institutional Effectiveness



Dr. NORRIS GRUBBS

Associate Professor of New Testament and Greek in Leavell College; Senior Associate Dean, Extension Center System



Dr. LLOYD HARSCH

Associate Professor of Church History



DR. LAURIE WATTS

Associate Professor of Educational Technology in Leavell College; Associate Vice President of Information Technology

Mission trip enriches Riley family, provides research data

BY MARILYN STEWART

A nearby mosque sounded a call to prayer as Laura Riley, wife of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary ethics professor Jeff Riley, prepared to speak to the Ugandan women.

At the Uganda Baptist Seminary, Jeff Riley surveyed the eager faces in his mid-morning class. Some had malaria. Most had traveled a dangerous public transportation system to attend. Many left families at home without income until the student-husband's return.

In a journey that forged new friendships with believers deeply committed to Christ, the couple and sons Jennings, 13, and Rhett, 10, served on mission together recently in equatorial Africa.

I saw first-hand the dedication of national pastors, their passion for the Kingdom of God, and their hunger to be equipped for ministry.

- Dr. Jeff Riley

"I saw first-hand the dedication of national pastors, their passion for the Kingdom of God, and their hunger to be equipped for ministry," Jeff Riley said.

The trip to Jinja, Uganda, placed the family close to Lake Victoria and the source of the Nile River. Near the equator, the city sits on a plateau 3,000 feet above sea level.

Riley served as a guest professor at the Uganda Baptist Seminary for a one-month academic term during a sabbatical from NOBTS classes.

Riley is researching what it means to embrace a "Christian ethic" and its implications for cross-cultural settings.

While the trip contributed to the research, Riley said the family's "number one goal [during the sabbatical] was to do a mission project together." Months of planning, a series of health shots and other preparations went into the trip.

Once in Uganda, the family soon learned to deal with power outages, ants in the kitchen, and a currency exchange where 20,000 shillings equaled \$10. Friendships developed easily with students and International Mission Board missionaries serving on faculty.

The nearly 300 students who attend the seminary come from Uganda and the neighboring nations of Rwanda, Tanzania,

Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Sudan. All leave active ministries to attend three times a year.

Students reported more than 24,000 decisions for Christ last year through their ministries. The low number of corresponding baptisms – 3,300 – is attributed to converts living far from Baptist churches and far from watering holes.

"It was a blessing to get to know the body of Christ in Uganda," Laura Riley said. "What a privilege to worship with them and see how they love each other and our Lord."

While the boys made friends at the compound and sat in on classes, Laura Riley visited local orphanages and spoke to women's groups at local Baptist churches. She met with a social worker who teaches Ugandan women to make and sell beads in order to feed their children. Without revenue, many women resort to brewing alcohol, digging through trash or prostitution.

A prayer retreat with missionary families serving in the region deepened the family's new friendships and provided insight into the people and culture.

"I learned some of the challenges our missionaries face and how important it is to supply them resources for daily living so they can be free to do ministry," Jeff Riley said.

Riley said the missionaries told him bribery and polygamy – struggles facing African believers – continue to impact the local church. The Ugandan believers' experiences relate to Riley's research.

Different cultures face different ethical dilemmas, but a sound biblical understanding of core ethical issues such as marriage, can resonate in any culture, Riley said. He hopes to publish his findings when complete.

Laura Riley gave teaching supplies and Louisiana gumbo and jambalaya seasoning to the missionaries at the retreat. The boys

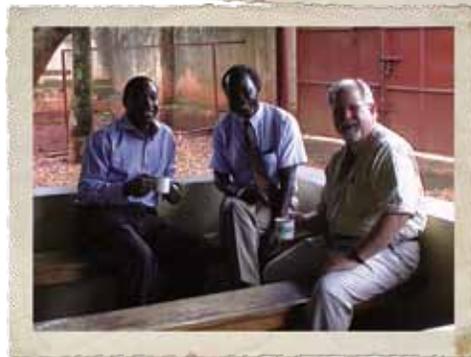
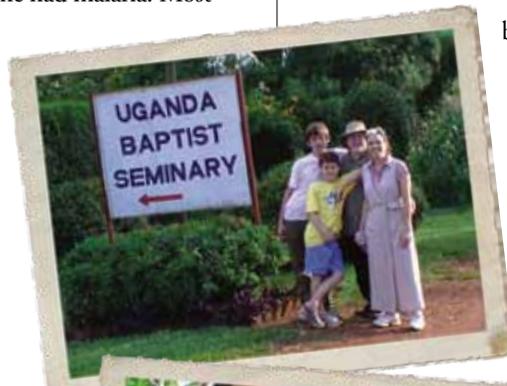
prayed with and encouraged a missionary family member.

"Spending time with the missionaries was one of my favorite things to do," Jennings Riley said.

Through new friendships with students, Jennings and Rhett Riley learned phrases in Lugandan and Swahili and the handshake typical among Ugandan men.

The high-walled seminary compound, protected by a guard carrying a World War I rifle and filled with mango and avocado trees, was fun to explore until the boys' allergies to mango oil were discovered.

For Jeff Riley, seeing the gratitude of the Ugandan people and how God had used his wife and sons to minister to the Ugandans and the missionaries were the highlights of the trip. 



Seminary honors Dr. Bill Warren for 20 years of service

BY SUZANNE DAVIS

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Chuck Kelley recently honored Dr. Bill Warren for 20 years of service at the seminary's annual convocation service. Warren is Professor of New Testament and Greek at NOBTS and Director of the H. Milton Haggard Center for New Testament Textual Studies.

In acknowledging Warren's contribution to the school, Kelley said, "During the Jesus movement, one of the greatest awakenings of the modern history of our nation, Jesus got a hold of Bill Warren, changed his heart, changed his life and put him on a path that has been rather amazing."

That path has included serving as a missionary to Colombia prior to serving as a New Testament and Greek professor at NOBTS. At the seminary, he has founded and continues to develop a New Testament textual studies center. Kelley said Warren first asked him for just a computer, a desk and a chair as a minimum to get the center started and has since built a center which contains the second largest collection of New Testament manuscripts in the United States. His work in textual studies is known nationally and internationally.

"We are known all over the world by New Testament scholars because of the work that our students and faculty have done in collating the ancient manuscripts of the Greek New Testament and have just recognized a terrific milestone in releasing a software module that contains the largest ever digital and searchable collection of New Testament Greek manuscript data in the entire world available for scholars to use," Kelley said.

Warren's other teaching experience includes instruction at Seminario Teológico Bautista Internacional, Cali, Colombia; Seminario Teológico Bautista de Venezuela, Los Teques, Venezuela; Xavier University, New Orleans (adjunct); and visiting professor at Seminario Teológico Bautista de Cuba

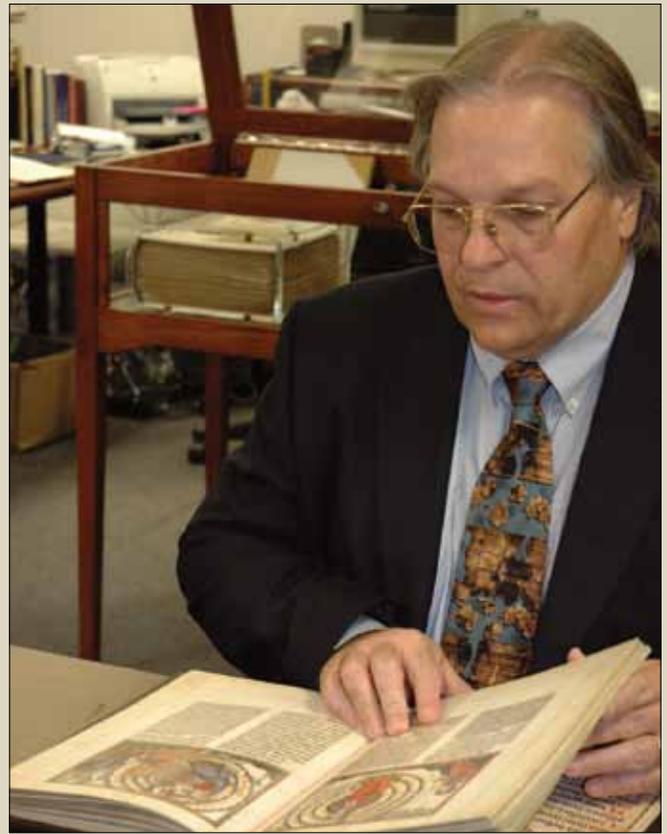


Photo by Boyd Guy

Dr. Bill Warren examines a manuscript facsimile at the H. Milton Haggard Center for New Testament Textual Studies.

Oriental, Santiago, Cuba. He has authored dozens of journal articles, and currently serves on the International Greek New Testament Project Steering Committee. 

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Oakwood baptizes 367 over three-week period

BY GARY D. MYERS

Pastor Darrell Henry (M.Div. '91) has never seen a movement of God quite like the one happening at Oakwood Baptist Church in Chickamauga, Ga. During a three-week period in August the church baptized 367 people.

“The enthusiasm and sense of revival it’s brought to our church has just been amazing,” said Henry, who recently completed a term as NOBTS National Alumni President. “It’s better than any revival we’ve ever had.”

Henry planned a baptismal emphasis in August that included what some call “spontaneous baptism.” In a spontaneous baptism service, those who respond to the invitation are baptized the same day. This includes Christians who have not had believer’s baptism and those who have just accepted Christ that day. He had heard of similar events at other churches – including Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga. – and after several months of prayer, felt inspired to do it at Oakwood.

Without describing what was planned, Henry announced in advance that “Oakwood would have a day like no other.” Only the church leadership and staff knew what he was planning. No one knew what to expect.

Church leaders then prepared for excuses people might have. Some could object because they did not have a change of clothes, so the church purchased shorts, t-shirts and even underwear for baptism candidates. Some might object because family members were not in attendance that day. To counter this objection, Henry arranged for a professional photographer to photograph each baptism.

On Aug. 15, Henry preached on baptism – what baptism means and the importance of believer’s baptism – at both of Oakwood’s main campus services. That day 177 people responded and were baptized. Both invitations included a clear Gospel presentation. Henry wanted to be clear that baptism was an act of obedience, not the means of salvation. Many of the people who came forward that day prayed to receive Christ. The others, already saved, came to receive believer’s baptism.

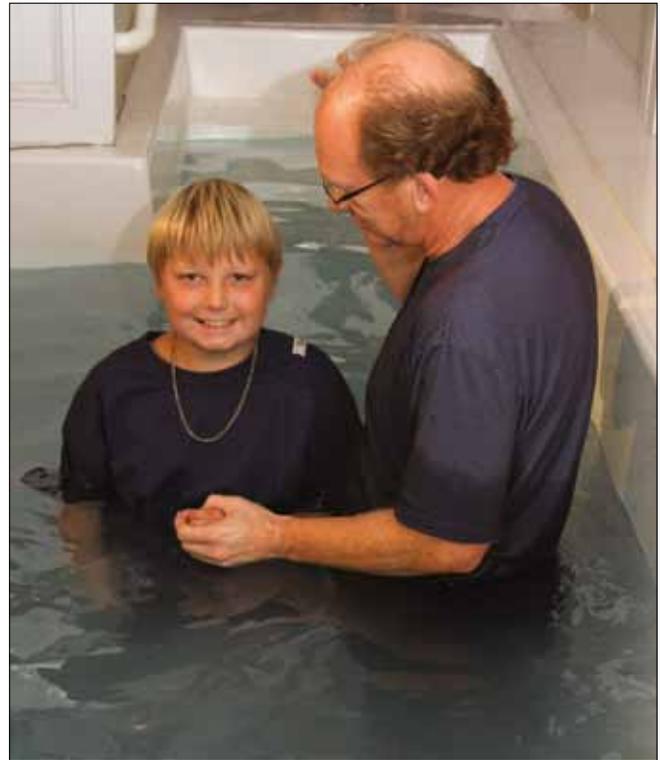


Photo by Oakwood Baptist Church
Darrell Henry, right, baptizes a 12-year-old boy at Oakwood.

The next two weekends, Henry preached on baptism at the church’s other campuses – Gateway and Germantown. The church baptized 95 at each of the other campuses.

“We are still seeing God do some great things as a result,” Henry said. **▼**

Fant named VP for Academic Administration and Chief Academic Officer at Union Univ.

Gene Fant Jr. (M.Div. '91) has been named Vice President for Academic Administration and Chief Academic Officer for Union University in Jackson, Tenn. Fant will continue in his role as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Fant, and his wife, Lisa, have 12-year-old twins, Ethan and Emily.

With more than 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students, Union University is a private, four-year, coeducational liberal arts-based university offering bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees.

Founded in 1823, the school is the oldest institution affiliated with Southern Baptist life. **▼**

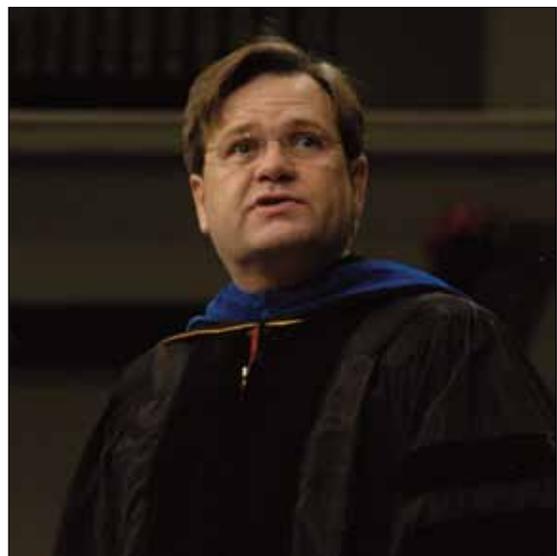


Photo by Sarah Palmer, Union University

alumni updates

1950s

Addleton, Hubert (BDiv '54) retired after 14 years as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Butler, Ga. He and his wife, Bettie (attended '53-'54), retired from the International Mission Board in 1994 after serving 34 years in Pakistan.

Duck, Dr. Carl (MDiv '52) recently received a Master of Divinity diploma from NOBTS. His original Bachelor of Divinity degree, earned in 1952, was converted to a Master of Divinity degree. Duck, honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1989 and is a member of the NOBTS DeMent Society. Two scholarships will be funded from proceeds of his estate proceeds. He is pictured with his wife, Bonnie.



1960s

Eskew, Harry (MSM '60) has announced his new hymnology website, www.SingwithUnderstanding.com, which includes an introduction to the field of hymnology with basic definitions and an overview of hymn history.

Malek, Jerome (MCM '62): The San Antonio Choral Society and orchestra presented the world premier of *Seven Last Words*, written by Jerome Malek, on May 16. Malek retired this year after 54 years in the music ministry.

Simmons, O. Errol (MCM '66) retired from the Mississippi State Guard in ceremonies conducted in April at Camp McCain, Miss. He served as Command Chaplain of the State Guard for the past three years. He also received the Mississippi Magnolia Cross, the state's highest non-combat military honor.

1970s

Puckett, Tommy (ThM '70) retired from the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions after 20 years of ministry in this position. He is currently residing in Wetumpka, Ala.

Turner, R. Chip (MRE '73) recently became Director of Communication and Training for P.R.A.Y Publishing (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth). Turner is in his second year of service as National Chairman of Religious Relationships for the Boy Scouts of America and is also Vice Chairman of Chaplaincy for the 100th Anniversary National Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill, Va.

1980s

Beckett, John K. (MDiv '81) recently celebrated his 21st year as pastor of First Baptist Church in Lancaster, Ohio. John and his wife, Donna, celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary in December and have served in the ministry for 40 years.

1990s

Boland, Allen (MDiv '92) and Martha (MDiv '91; PhD '97) have been called to serve as house parents with the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Brentwood, Tenn. They began their ministry at the children's home on Oct. 30, 2009.

Michael, Jay (MDiv '97) has accepted the call as Associate Pastor of Bay Springs Baptist Church in Abbeville, Miss. He continues service as Chaplain in the Mississippi Army National Guard.

2000s

Skipper, Levi (MDiv '04) has completed his first book, *Marriage In The Red*, published by Westbow Press, a division of Thomas Nelson. For additional information on this work visit amazon.com.

Deaths

Andrews, William "Nat" (MDiv '97) died June 28 in Lubbock, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Mary Beth Adamson Andrews, four sons, two stepsons and other family members.

Atkinson, Ralph C. (BDiv. '59) died March 29 in Jackson, Miss. He is survived by Joan, his wife of 55 years, two sons and their families.

Averett, Clyde W. (BDiv '54; MG '56; ThD '67) died March 3 in Baton Rouge, La. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Freida, and two daughters.

Allison, John "Philip" (Dr. Phil) (BDiv '56; ThD '60) died Jan. 30 in Memphis, Tenn. He is survived by wife of 59 years, Alta and their children.

Baxter, Roger (BDiv '53) died Aug. 22 in Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and family.

Bowers, John P. (MSM '56; MRE '57) died Dec. 3, 2009, in Jacksonville, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Daisy, their son and his family.

Brigman, Johnnie L. (ThM '55; ThD '62) died April 27 in Birmingham, Ala. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Martha, and their children.

Brister, Howard (BDiv '58) passed away March 8 in McComb, Miss. He is survived by Betty, his wife of 56 years, and their children.

Brookins, Gregory M. (attended '75) died Aug. 14, 2009, in Panama City, Fla. He is survived by his parents, a brother and other family members.

Bruffey, Ruth, widow of Clifford Bruffey (BDiv '62), died Aug. 20 in Brentwood, Tenn. She is survived by their three children and other family and friends.

Chumley, William E. (BDiv. '62) died March 12 in Boaz, Ala. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Georgia Ann, their children and other family.

Dooley, William Douglas (BDiv '57; MRE '58) died July 7 in Kenner, La. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, his children and other family members.

Driggers, Randy (MACE '98) died April 26 in Atlanta, Ga. He is survived by Carolyn, his wife, of 53 years.

Estes, Clarence Nealy Jr. (ThM '72) died April 23 in Nichols, S.C. He is survived by his wife, Betty Jane Austin Estes, and their sons.

Griffin, Edward "Ed" (BDiv '61) died July 25 in Hammond, La. He is survived by Gloria, his wife of 55 years, their three children and other family members.

Hargrave, Marshall E. (attended '52 and '58) died Aug. 28 in Jefferson City, Tenn. He is survived by Roberta, his wife of 68 years, their children and other family members.

Hawkins, Frances (BRE '54) died Sept. 2 in Macon, Ga. She was predeceased by her husband, James W. (BDIV '56), who passed away on Dec. 4, 2006. They are survived by their children, grandchildren and other family members.

Hazel, Edward Donald "Don" (BDiv '62) died April 15 in Lagrange, Ga. He is survived by his wife, Margaret and their children.

Hunt, Donald R. (attended '69) died June 11 in Alexandria, La. He is survived by Doris, his wife of 40 years, four daughters and grandchildren.

Jordan, George Garland "Jug" (MX '79) died March 14 in Eufaula, Ala. He is survived by his wife, Darlene, step-children and other family members.

Jordan, Samuel B. Jr. (DMin '75) died July 29 in Marietta, Ga. He is survived by Drucella Weddle Jordan, his wife of 54 years, their two daughters and other family members.

Lawyer, Guy (BDiv '60) died March 30 in Springfield, Mo. He is survived by his wife, Geneva Mann Lawyer, and their children.

Makamson, Durell (BDiv '56) died June 6 in Jackson, Miss. He was preceded in death by his first and second wives, Marie Bufor

Makamson and Vera Stodghill Makamson. He is survived by his daughter, Sheryl, two stepdaughters and grandchildren.

Martin, Laura P. (MRE '88) died Feb. 15 in Shreveport, La. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Joseph E. Martin who died Dec. 11, 1992.

McElrath, Hiram Lloyd (BDiv '61) died May 10 in Hemingway, S.C. He is survived by his wife, Jean Gwinn McElrath and their children.

Moffett, John (ThM '67) died Aug. 3 in Sulphur, La. He is survived by his wife, Arline Porter Moffett, their children and other family members.

Moser, Gus (BDiv '60) died March 29 in Humble, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy.

Murphy, John Charles (BDiv '66) passed away May 26 in Shreveport, La. He is survived by his wife, Madeline, their four children and other family members.

Patten, Buel (DPM '80) died March 11 in Tyro, Miss. He is survived by his wife, Linda, their children and other family members.

Phillips, Buford Lawrence (BDiv '56) died April 12 in Rainbow City, Ala. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, and their children.

Phillips, Timothy (ADPM '92; BA '93; MDiv '96) passed away March 23 in Vero Beach, Fla. (aged 51). Tim is survived by his wife, Suzanne, and other family members.

Purvis, Charles R. Sr. (DSM '58) died Aug. 25 in Bogalusa, La. He is survived by his wife, Jo, to whom he was married 63 years, a son, a grandson and other family members and friends.

Reeves, Mabel Goodwin, wife of Devon Reeves (BSM, MCM '61), passed away June 9 in Gainesville, Ga. They were married for more than 62 years.

Riggs, Gerald K. Sr. (attended '54) died July 17 in Raleigh, N.C. He is survived by Doris, his wife of 56 years, their children and grandchildren.

Roscoe, Dallas G. (BDiv '55) died April 12 in Hixson, Texas. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ruth "Ellen."

Scruggs, Horace (BRE '59) died Sept. 1 in Inman, S.C. He is survived by two sons and other family members.

Simmons, Kevin R. (MDiv '80) passed away June 9 in Berwick, La. He is survived by his wife, Alice, two sons and other family members.

Smith, Thomas J. Sr. (TJ) (MDiv '79) passed away June 30 in New Orleans. He is survived by his wife, Gwen, seven children and other family members.

Smith, William P. III (BDiv '63) died June 10 in Tupelo, Miss. He is survived by Mary Ellis Perkins Smith, his wife of 51 years, two children and several grandchildren.

Soesbe, Michael (MDiv '92) died April 28 in Irvington, Ala. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Jane, and their children.

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looking back

The NOBTS choir sings before the New Orleans Saints-Los Angeles Rams football game Dec. 31, 1990 in the Louisiana Superdome. The Saints won 20-17.

Stevens, Norma Y. (MRE '56) died July 3 in Nashville, Tenn. She is survived by three daughters, other family members and many friends.

Stewart, William L. (ThB '61) died July 31, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, their children and grandchildren.

Stockett, Charles W. Jr. (ThM '74) died June 11 in Truth or Consequences, N.M. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary, and their two sons.

Strickland, John Howard (BDiv '64) died April 27 in Hamilton, Miss. He is survived by his wife, Betty, and her children.

Swimmer, Gerald "Jerry" (DCM '67) of Red Bay, Ala., died July 24. He is survived by his son, Charles, a granddaughter, other family members and friends.

Weatherford, John G. (BDiv '51) passed away July 16 in Bryan, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Nell, their children and other family members.

Whisenhunt, Mollie Lee (attended '58) died June 9 in Orangeburg, S.C. She is survived by two children and her grandchildren.

Williams, David John (MRE '60) died June 23 in Bossier City, La. He is survived by Jeanne, his wife of 60 years, their children, grandchildren and other family.

Willis, Jimmie (BDiv '61) died May 9 in Lagrange, Ga. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, and their children.

Woodruff, Franklin E. Sr. (ThM '71) died Aug. 23 in Dothan, Ala. He is survived by his wife, Norma Dianne Woodruff, their children and grandchildren.

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1. From www.nobts.edu/alumni click on the link for the online community and directory. Select the "first time visitors" link. **Click enter.**
2. In the boxes requesting information, enter your first and last name only. Leave the box for your class year blank. **Click enter.**
3. Select your name from the list of alumni who share your last name.
4. Enter your date of birth in this format: m/dd/yyyy
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