

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Fall 2005

VISION



small
world
big GOD



Photo Illustrations by Jeff Audirsch

A large graphic on the left side of the page features a blue globe. A cartoon character with large eyes and a red mask is positioned at the top left of the globe. Below the globe, a smiling man with dark hair is visible. The globe is partially obscured by the text on the right.

small world big GOD

It's not all that uncommon of an experience: two strangers, hailing from two separate faraway places, meet in yet another faraway location. In the course of conversation they discover that they share an unlikely connection, and one or the other of them utters those familiar words, "It's a small world." Is this true?

The earth's circumference is 24,901.5 miles and its surface area is 196,939,900 square miles. Its highest mountain is five and a half miles above sea level, while the average ocean's depth is two miles below sea level. Temperatures can reach the extremes of 145 degrees Fahrenheit above zero in the world's hottest places and 129 degrees Fahrenheit below zero in its coldest. More than 70 percent of the earth is covered with water, which separates the estimated 6,446,131,400 people living in more than 250 different nations and speaking at least 6,300 different languages.

What oceans and languages once separated, modern travel, technology and language tools have brought together. The world is "shrinking," giving Christians a unique opportunity to "pack their bags" and engage other cultures.

Our BIG GOD – the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver and Ruler of the universe – is moving in a mighty way. The One who formed and who maintains the world has sent Christians into that world to share His Gospel message. He is opening doors and breaking down barriers.

This truth was celebrated by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary alumni, students and professors this summer. The pages that follow bear the stories of individuals and teams from the NOBTS family who went out into the world, thinking it was big. Without exception, they encountered a God who is much bigger.

The sounds of 'Amazing Grace' penetrate a Muslim university

SOUTHEAST ASIA — The *adhan*, or the Muslim call to prayer, echoed through the streets. Starting quietly, the call gained momentum and volume as it stretched on for what seemed like an hour. Five times daily the call beckons Muslims in this country to bow in repetitive prayer at mosques, their homes or wherever they are at the time.

For many members of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary team, the call became a reminder of the importance of their mission. Over the next two weeks, the NOBTS group heard the call to prayer many times, even during the university classes they visited.

A large part of the group's time in the country was spent in English classes at universities throughout the city. Students there are eager to learn English as a second language.

Until now, Sally*, an American serving in the country, had not had access to one particular Muslim campus. But when a Christian instructor at the university arranged for the group to take part in several classes, she knew God was at work.

The call to prayer greatly shaped the group's time there.

"What comes to my mind with that university was when the call to prayer was heard," Hillary said. "I distinctly remember thinking how hard it would be to leave that religion when it is so engrained in the culture and so much a part of one's life there."

In the same class, Jim had the opportunity to talk at length with one of the school's instructors. Her style of dress indicated she was very conservative.

Although she was completely covered – save for her face and hands – the bright colors hinted of her openness to new ideas. The conversation started with a question.

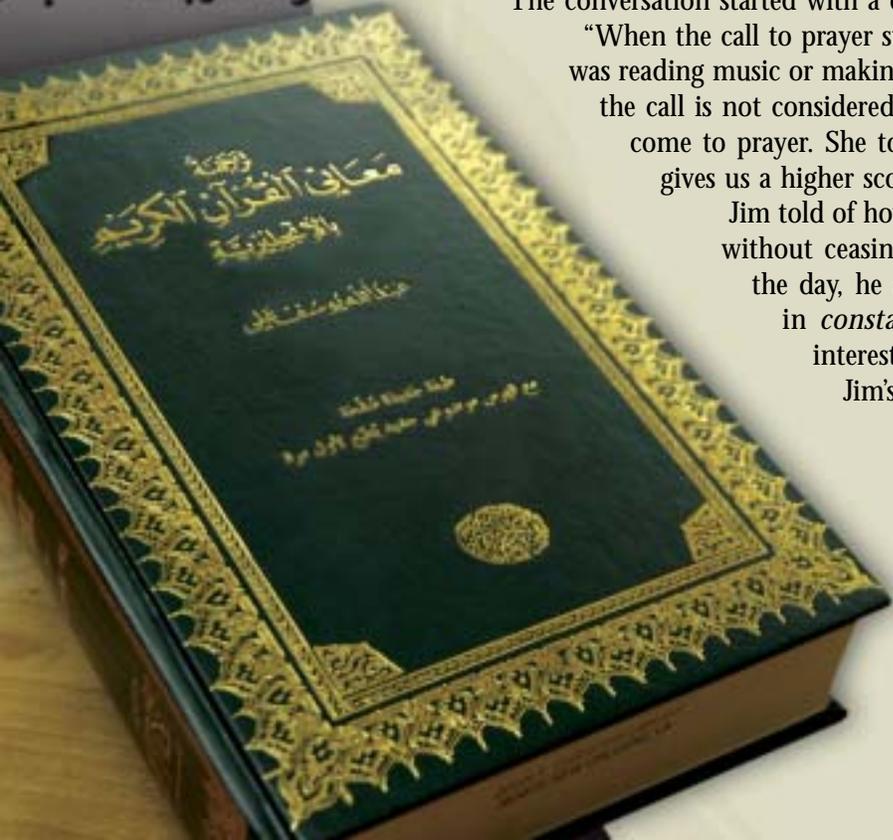
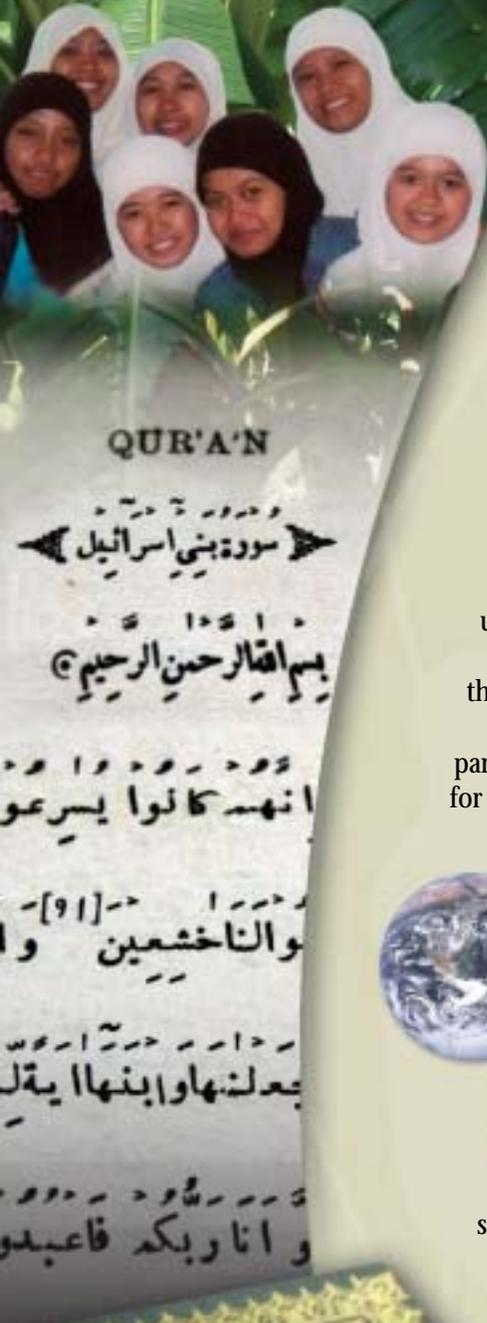
"When the call to prayer started, I asked her if the person voicing the call was reading music or making it up as he went," Jim said. "She told me that the call is not considered to be music. It is literally begging Muslims to come to prayer. She told me 'If Muslims pray five times each day, it gives us a higher score with God.'"

Jim told of how the New Testament teaches Christians to pray without ceasing. Sometimes Christians forget to pray during the day, he admitted, but they are nonetheless called to be in *constant* fellowship with God. The teacher was so interested in sharing her beliefs and learning more about Jim's faith that the two exchanged addresses.

At the same time God was opening doors for another team member, Adam, to share the Gospel in a poetry class.

When an instructor of that class heard of Adam's "expertise" in jazz music, he quickly asked him to teach his upcoming poetry class.

"I told him that I knew nothing about poetry, but he insisted that I look over his list



of songs he had prepared,” Adam said. “As I looked over the list, I saw a heading that said ‘African-American spiritual songs.’”

Included in the list of spirituals were songs like “Go Down Moses” and “Precious Lord,” along with many others about Jesus.

The teacher gave Adam full control of the class time, so he began by recounting the story of slavery in the United States. When families were separated by the slave trade, Adam said, they turned to God for strength and the hope of deliverance.

He then asked if any of the students knew who Moses was.

“I was completely shocked to find out that no one knew,” Adam said. “I began with the years of slavery among the children of Israel. They were amazed as I told them the story of the acts that God performed through Moses.

“About this time the call to prayer began, but not a soul moved. I began to speak about how God brought the children of Israel across on dry ground. It was awesome to tell a story that so often we forget – not only the meaning but also the power in it.”

With that, Adam sang “Go Down Moses.”

After singing “Go Down Moses” and “Precious Lord,” Adam sang the hymn “Amazing Grace.” To his surprise, everyone began to sing along.

“Do you know what that song means?” Adam asked. None of them knew, so he, verse by verse, explained it to them.

I once was lost but now I'm found ...

“I used the illustration of when I came to their country I was lost and in need of a guide to get where I needed to go,” he said. “I told them that the only guide in life and beyond life was Jesus Christ the Messiah. You could hear a pin drop. Some students tuned me out, but others listened and followed my every move.”

Was blind but now I see ...

“I told them that only Jesus the Messiah could remove the blindfold off our eyes,” Adam said. “And when He does that, we only see Him. He is the center of our focus.”

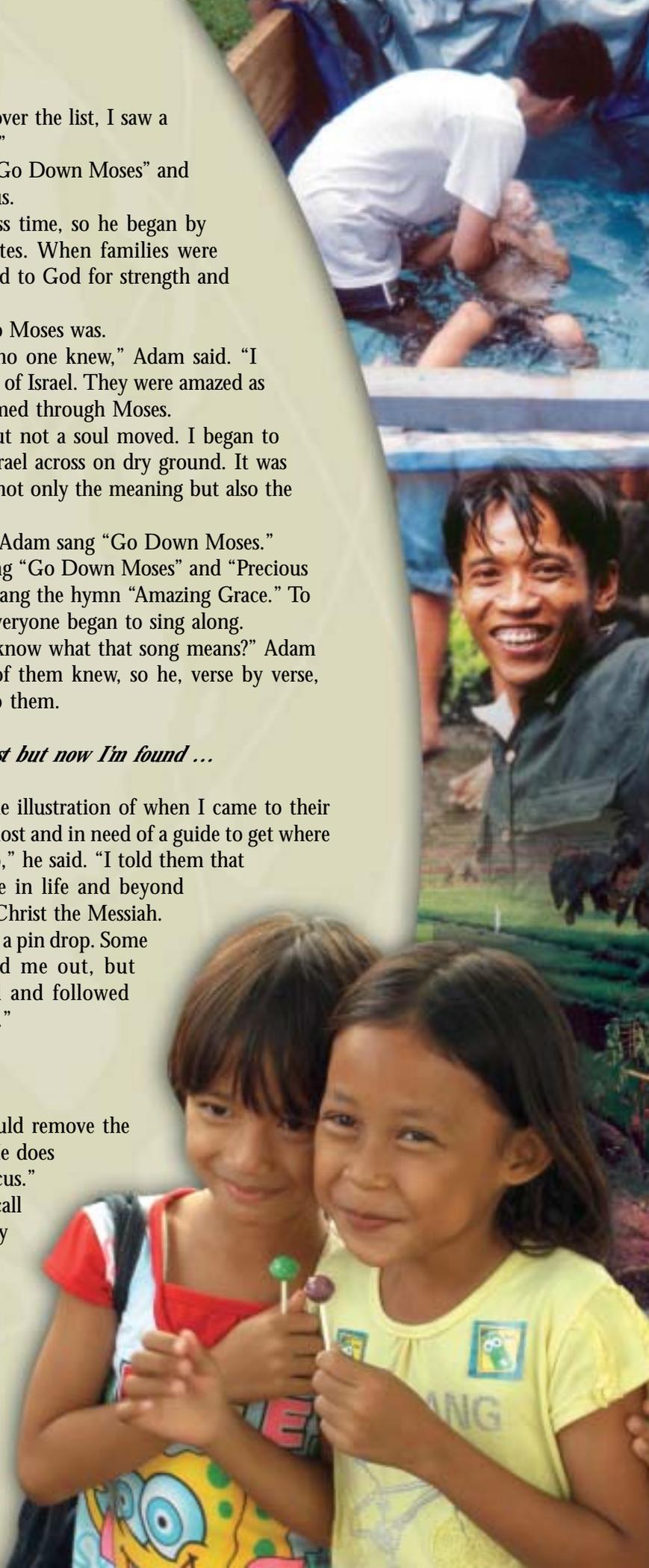
As group members continued to minister, the call to prayer was a frequent reminder for them to pray that the seeds planted at the university campuses would grow into a rich harvest. However, the one calling Christians to prayer is Isa Almasih, Jesus Christ, and His call is one of hope both to Christians who serve there and to the Muslims who are yet to believe.

*Due to security issues, the names in this article have been changed.



small world
factor

This Asian country is not an easy place to serve the Lord. However, a number of NOBTS alumni have answered God's call to go there. During their trip, NOBTS students met two of these former students. And two members of the group will return to serve there after graduation.



Students and faculty share Gospel in hard-to-reach places

EAST ASIA—Few Christians have the chance to share the Gospel with someone who has never heard of Jesus. But in June a group from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary experienced just that.

The team traveled to an East Asian country to make initial contact with a people group who are counted among the close to 6,500 peoples in the world who have not yet been reached with the Gospel. Their ministry to this people, though, could not be openly evangelistic, because their country is closed to the Gospel. For that same reason, the following names of participants have been changed to protect future ministry opportunities in the country.

For the team of 14 from NOBTS, the initial challenge was, simply, to find the villages where this people group lives. The group first endured more than 24 grueling hours of bus and taxi rides.

Literally at the end of the road, the team then divided up into several smaller groups and began the hike toward the different villages. The hike would teach them that some of the people hardest to reach with the Gospel are also the hardest to find.

The hike itself proved to challenge the group. That area was in the midst of a six-month drought, so when the team's water began to run short, they could find little relief. Also, the altitude change – from 8,000 to 13,000 feet – took its toll on the team's stamina. However, there were other challenges facing the group.

“We stuck out like a sore thumb,” Randall said. “Every time just one person from a village would spot us, we'd have a group of people that would just stare at us or walk with us and just smile.”

The crowds posed a problem for the group, whose overall mission was to discreetly distribute literature in the people's language that told them the Gospel message. Group members had to find creative ways to share the Gospel with this people group – less than 2 percent of which are believers.

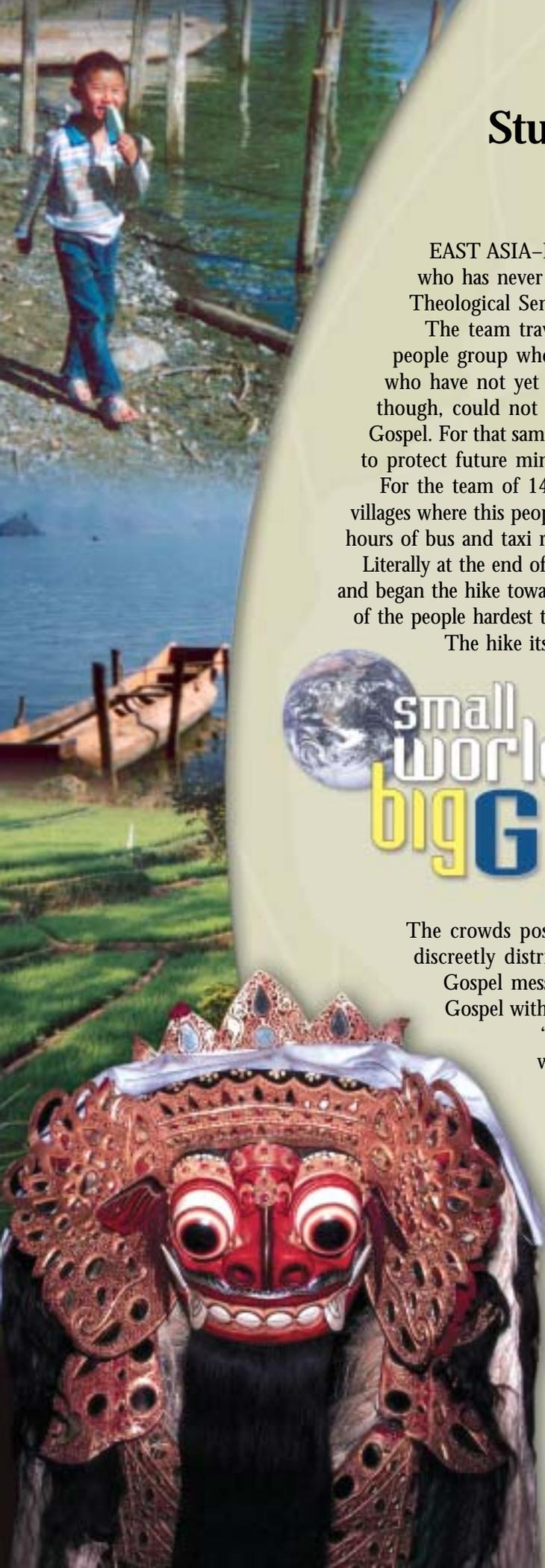
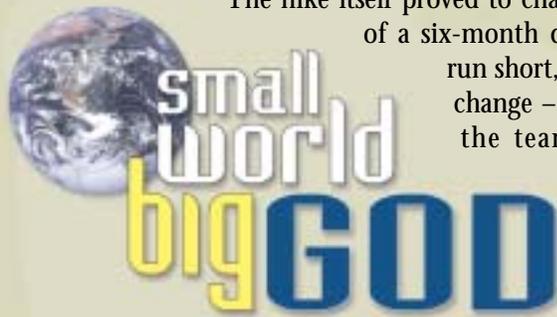
“We'd have to do a lot of distractions. For example, my wife would take my picture and while the people were watching us, someone else from the group would slip away and leave the literature without the people noticing,” Randall said.

If all went as planned, the literature was found a few days later. In time, Christians serving there will again make contact with the people group to continue watering seeds planted by the unnamed hikers who did their best to pass through their villages unnoticed.

“We're holding on to the scripture that says that God's Word never returns void and that it accomplishes the purpose for which it was sent out,” Andrew said. “We're going to hold on to that tightly.”

By Michael McCormack

*Due to security issues, the names in this article have been changed.



Leavell College launches Russian training effort with alumnus

RYAZAN, Russia—Something special happens when New Orleans Seminary alumni partner with their school in expanding God's Kingdom. Just over a year ago the Seminary's Leavell College joined alumnus Kim Hall in an effort to offer theological training to Russian pastors.

The partnership is yielding amazing results. This April, 13 students met in Ryazan, Russia, for the first course – Old Testament Survey – one component of the Leavell College Certificate in Pastoral Ministries. Twelve of the students traveled from Uzbekistan, where believers face severe persecution for their faith. In September the first certificates will be awarded to these dedicated pastors.

Hall (MDIV '85 and DMIN '89), Pastor of Hunter's Glen Baptist Church and Director of the Center for Global Ministries in Plano, Texas, has been involved in mission work in Russia since 1991. During his many trips to Russia, he noticed the need for theological training among many of the pastors.

"I met some great, young Russian pastors who were eager to reach into the pioneer areas of their country and into Central Asia," Hall said. "God grabbed my heart and I couldn't think of a reason why they shouldn't have the same kind of education I have had through New Orleans. I called the Seminary, made a proposal and Dr. Thomas Strong shared my vision."

Strong, Dean of Leavell College, and Hall quickly began working on a way for the Seminary to offer the training program in Ryazan leading to specialized ministry certificates from Leavell College. In April 2004, the Trustees approved the plan.

"God has put this together with amazing ease," Hall said. "We are now looking to expand into other countries where this type of mobile, but quality, training is so needed."

The Center for Global Ministries provides funding for this project that includes a provision for one NOBTS faculty member to teach each summer. Dr. Francis Kimmitt, Associate Dean of Leavell College, taught in Ryazan in July.

"The students are a blessing to teach and to be around," Kimmitt said after the trip. "They love the Lord and love serving Him and His people. Teaching in Ryazan is a good reminder that we are all part of the larger Kingdom and universal Church. Our work there is an important part of the mission focus of NOBTS."

The pastors from Uzbekistan have made a five-year commitment to send new students to Ryazan for training. Next year, a Biblical Teaching Certificate will be offered to those completing this year's training and a new group will be introduced to the Pastoral Ministries curriculum.

The program is not only extending the Seminary's ministry overseas, it is also providing a mission opportunity for many NOBTS alumni.

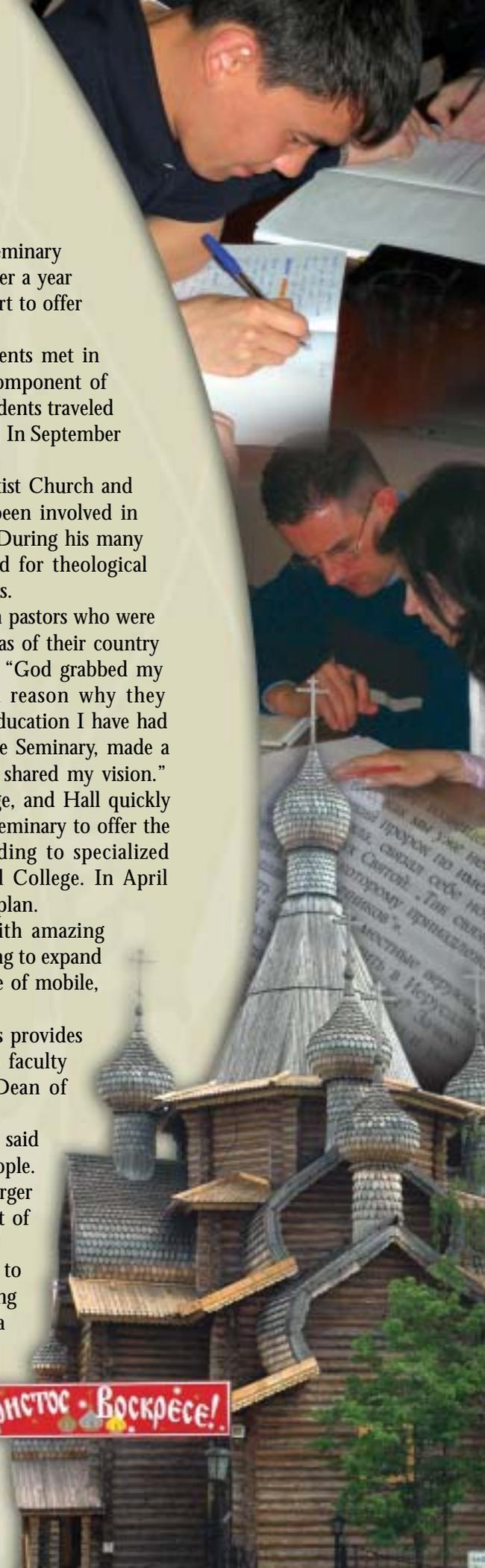
By Kim Hall and Gary D. Myers



small world
factor

Travel to Ryazan, Russia in April, July or September and chances are you'll find an NOBTS grad giving of his time to teach Russian and Uzbeki pastors. This September the alumni list expanded when 12 of these pastors earned Leavell College certificates.

Христос Воскресе!



NOBTS mission team prepares way for Moscow church starts

MOSCOW—No one smiled as the packed train sped beneath Russia's capital city. It was just another day for commuters on Moscow's bustling subway system.

For the 17-member mission team from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary that arrived in Moscow earlier that day, the subway scene was overwhelming — so many people, so few smiles. The faces in the crowd told stories of hurt, loss and hopelessness. Some of the hopelessness stems from a poor economy and a high rate of alcoholism. About 3 percent of Russians attend church each week, even fewer identify themselves as evangelical Christians.

The mission team soon learned that some of Moscow's 16 million people have hope and a reason to smile. On their second day in the city, the NOBTS team met with a small group of Christians for a Friday night Bible study. The mission team immediately noticed the contrast between these people and those on the train.

The quick smiles and friendly greetings from the Bible study participants revealed that something was different about these people — they were believers. In their testimonies and singing, the hope of Christ shined through.

"You can definitely see the difference between a Muscovite who is a believer and a Muscovite who is not a believer," said Michael Jones, a doctor of educational ministry student at NOBTS. "You can see the difference that Jesus makes in their lives. You can see it in their eyes."

The NOBTS team was in Moscow from May 26 through June 3 to prayer walk, help with church planting activities and dialogue with Russian Baptist pastors and seminary students. Most of all, the visit gave students an introduction to the work

of international missionaries and an experience in cross-cultural ministry. The trip was part of the Seminary's on-going partnership with International Mission Board missionaries in Russia.

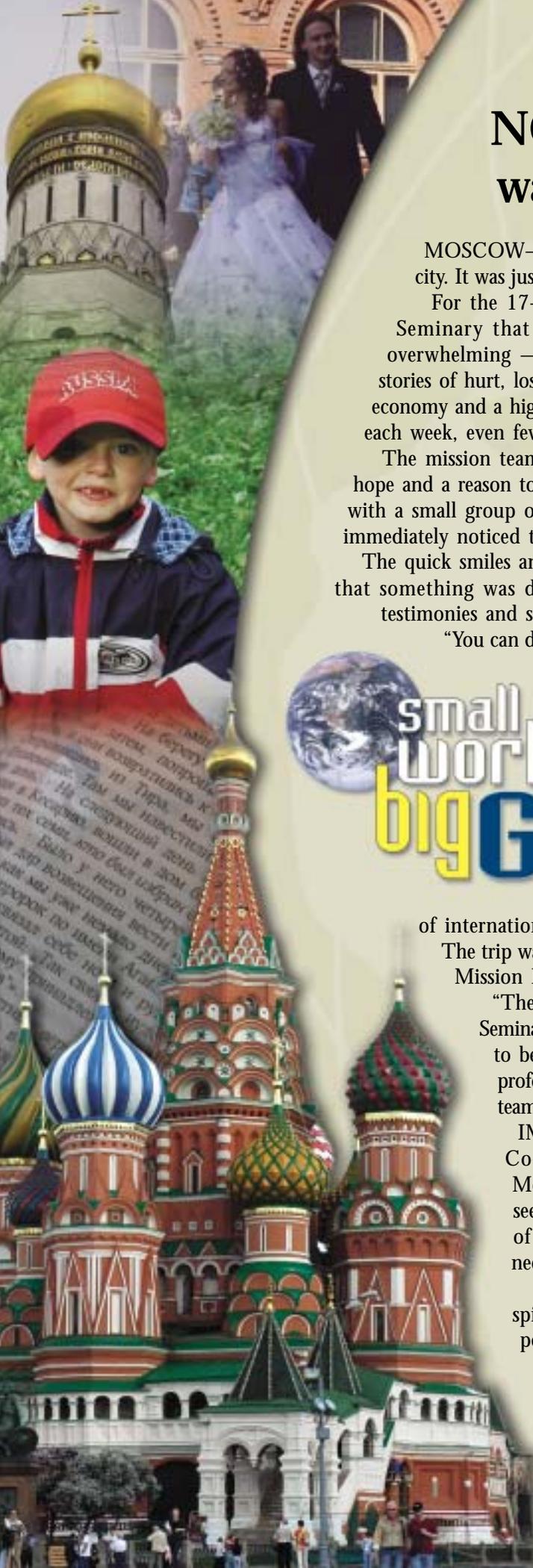
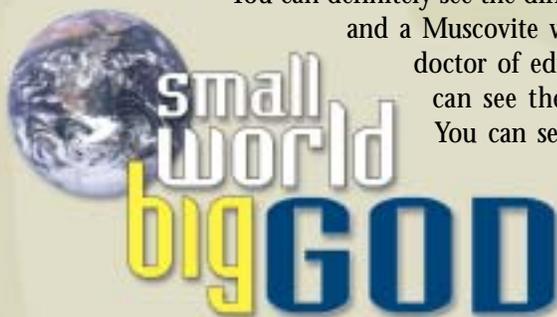
"The real desire of the administration and faculty at New Orleans Seminary is that every student who attends would have the opportunity to be involved in a short-term mission experience," said Joe Sherrer, professor of adult education at NOBTS and co-leader of the mission team. "Our partnership with Russia helps us realize this goal."

IMB missionary Brad Stamey, who hosted the group, leads the Co-Laborers Team in the Northern Administrative District of Moscow. Working hand-in-hand with Russian Baptists, Stamey seeks to start new churches in the district which boasts a population of one million people and only three evangelical churches. The need for new churches is obvious.

Shortly after the fall of communism, Moscow had a time of spiritual awakening. Bible studies sprung up across the city. Many people came to faith in Christ during that time.

In 1992, Misha Chekalin started Good News Church in Moscow. The pastor knows first-hand that new churches are essential for reaching the city's vast population.

Along with other younger pastors, Chekalin is partnering



with IMB missionaries to plant new churches in each of the 16 regions in the Northern District. The task seems daunting, but the pastors pray faithfully for new spiritual awaking in their city.

To help prepare the way for new churches, the NOBTS team participated in sports evangelism in a local park. The Seminary group and a mission team from First Baptist Church Ponchatoula, La., used a softball game, horseshoes and Frisbees to draw a crowd. After the games a Gospel presentation was shared.

The Co-Laborers Team not only partners with Russian churches, but they also partner with American churches to plant new churches in Moscow. Stamey seeks U.S. churches that are willing to adopt the Russian church starts. That is how First Baptist Ponchatoula got involved in Moscow.

Jake Roudkovski, pastor at First Baptist Ponchatoula, was born in the former-Soviet republic of Kazakhstan. He recently graduated from New Orleans Seminary. While Roudkovski serves in America, he has not turned his back on Russia.

Because of his deep burden for the Russian people, Roudkovski asked his congregation to support a church plant in Moscow. The church agreed. Now the church sends mission teams several times a year to help foster a new church in the area.

During their journey, the group spent time prayer walking with a former NOBTS student — Michael Holyfield. Over 500,000 people live in the tiny, 2.5-square-mile area where Michael serves.

Holyfield's call to ministry came while he was working as a car salesman in Mississippi. He and his wife, Patsy, had been active in the ministry of their local church, but they never expected a call to ministry — much less international missions.

Answering "yes" to God's call, Holyfield began attending the Seminary's Jackson Extension Center to gain the hours needed for appointment. In 1999, Michael, Patsy and their four kids moved to Moscow.

"As I was prayer walking with the Holyfields, God impressed upon my heart the need for Christians to come and put a prayer covering over their community," said NOBTS team

member Scott Jones. "I just pray for the Holy Spirit to come and do the work in the lives of people that only He can do."

Measuring the lasting effects the students had on Moscow would be difficult, but the impact on their lives will continue. The students will always remember the faces from the subway — faces with no hope. They realize that only Christ can bring lasting joy in a person's life.

The group saw first-hand the challenges IMB missionaries face on the field and gained a better understanding of how to pray for the Russian people. Many NOBTS team members expressed an interest in returning to Moscow to serve again.

By Gary D. Myers



small world factor

NOBTS students had the privilege of prayer walking in the neighborhoods of Moscow with former NOBTS Extension Center student Michael Holyfield. The Mississippi native is now an IMB missionary starting house churches among the millions in Moscow.





New Orleans Port Ministry: Reaching the world at our doorstep

NEW ORLEANS—Philip Vandercook (MDIV '96) received a different call to missions than most. His was not a call to go out into the world, but to stay in the city of his birth, with the promise that God would bring the world to his doorstep. Philip was “born into” the New Orleans port ministry founded by his father in 1963. As a child, he lived with his parents in an apartment above the seamen’s center, where the line between the ministry center and home was often blurred. Philip noticed nothing strange about his way of life.

“I just thought my parents were really cool. They had lots of parties,” he said.

The center moved to a vacant church building in 1976, long before Philip Vandercook became director. He and his wife, Sandy, a contract teacher in Leavell College, who serves alongside him, are thrilled to be raising their two daughters with a view of the world that is as big as the one Philip knew as a child.

Now the ministry operates two centers, one serving the Port of New Orleans, and another, 40 miles upriver in Reserve, La., serving the Port of South Louisiana. In May of 2000, the ministry stepped out on faith with plans to relocate the New Orleans center closer to the port. God provided a piece of land directly across the street from the port – and a fabulous building is under construction, with a projected completion date sometime in December.

“For the first time since the ministry began, we will be located near the people we serve,” Vandercook said. “People can use our center throughout the day for events such as early morning prayer times and lunch-time Bible studies – instead of just in the evenings.

Everyone in the port will have to pass by the building – they’ll know where we are.”

Knowing where Global Maritime Ministries is could be very important seafarers in the Port of New Orleans – and to longshoremen, agents, security officers, truck drivers, and other port employees, because Vandercook and his staff are there to serve them.

New Orleans is the one of the busiest ports in the world, with 300,000 seafarers passing through in a year and 90,000 people serving in port-related jobs. In any one year, Global Maritime ministers share the Gospel with people from more than 140 different countries, many of which are not open to missionaries.

Lately, Vandercook and his coworkers, NOBTS students Chris Garrett and Jared Walley, have become known as “Port Chaplains.”

Each day, they board the ships in port to lead Bible studies, offer onshore transportation and assist crew members in working through the “red tape” involved in conducting everyday business in a foreign country. They also invite the crew to the center for evenings of recreation, food and fellowship.

The chaplains hold what they call “Chaplain Hours” in the crew area of cruise ships when they are in port, and do “visitation” aboard the ships.

Crew members often use the centers’ telephones to make international calls home



while they are in port. However, since 9/11, many international cargo ship crews are not allowed to come ashore, meaning that they are out of touch with their families for months at a time. Global Maritime ministers now take cell phones on board the ships. The chaplains have plenty of time to share the Gospel with the crew members waiting in line to use the phones.

The Vandercooks delight in putting God's Word into people's hands; they provide Bibles, copies of the *Jesus* video and study resources in hundreds of languages. Sometimes finding a Bible in the appropriate language is a challenge and can take several weeks, allowing repeated contact with the eager seafarers coming by to ask, "Do you have my Bible?"

In one case, a Macedonian waitress from a cruise ship established a special friendship with the Vandercook's daughter, Anna. After receiving the promised Bible in her language, which had to be ordered from London, Zorica trusted the Vandercooks enough to seek their help and to see God at work.

Port ministry naturally does not allow for long-term relationships. Many people who receive God's Word and leave are never seen again. Occasionally, there are

exceptions – such as the time a cruise company went bankrupt, stranding its crew in port for several weeks. Global Maritime Ministries stepped in to offer their usual services and anything else that was needed. The crew members had no money to spend but welcomed any break from the monotony of the ship. Goodies and clothing from area churches, transport for weekly trips to shore, Popeye's fried chicken, a place to play soccer and opportunities to attend church were all greatly appreciated.

One crew member, Andrew, took advantage of everything offered but was resistant to the Gospel. After weeks of ministry, his heart was softened, and he accepted Jesus. Andrew's father was a witch doctor in Ghana, and he was expected to take over the work one day. Becoming a Christian meant certain persecution – in fact, fear of retribution caused some of Andrew's

crewmates to persecute him even though they themselves had professed Christ. Andrew returned home expecting to die for his faith. Instead, he was expelled from his village and became a missionary for the faith he had resisted.

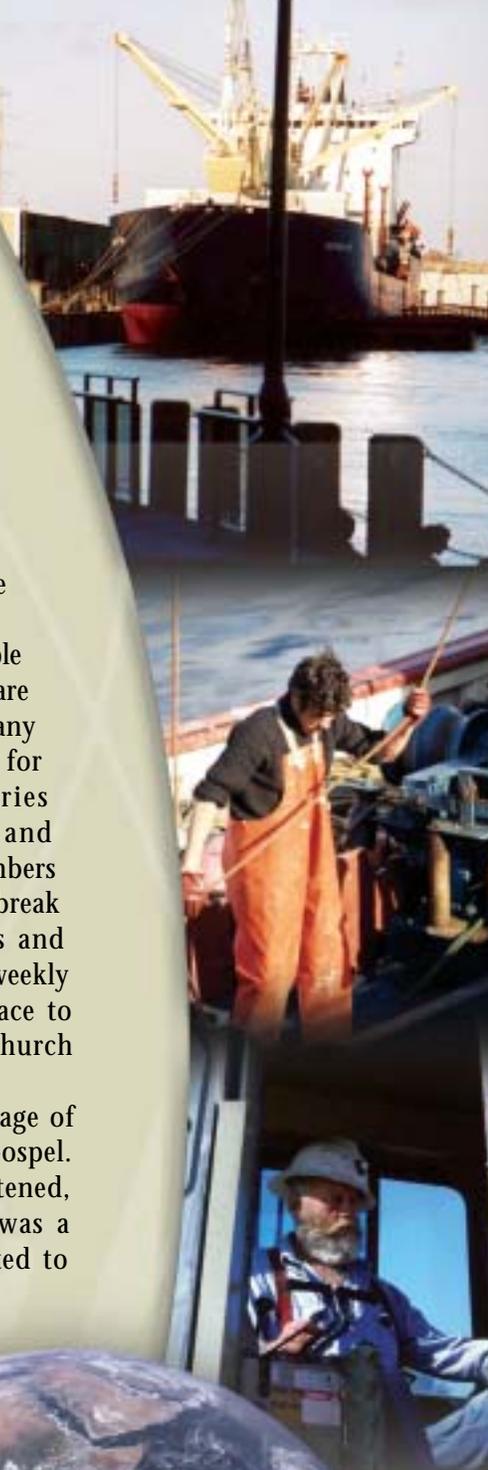
The Vandercooks have many stories like Andrew's, but most of the results of their ministry remain a mystery. Regardless, they are dedicated to reaching out and placing the Word of God into the hearts and the hands of every person they encounter. Philip and Sandy may never travel to many of the world's nations, but they are busy making sure that the Gospel message does.

By Christi Gibson



small world
factor

Global Maritime
Ministries' mission field
is a microcosm of the
world. The chaplains
recently visited a ship
with 1,200 crew
members from 70
countries, speaking 60
different languages



Charitable Bequests Create a Kingdom Legacy

Share New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's vision for our New Horizon Campaign, equipping leaders to change the world, by leaving a legacy through your estate planning. Large or small, bequest is an important part of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's growth. Bequests continue to account for a major portion of our endowment and provide significant funding for many of our major projects.

Everyone needs to have a will or estate plan that indicates how your property is to be used after your lifetime. For many of our friends, the bequest is the most popular form of planned gifts. A gift to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary made through your will or estate plan has advantages.

- Charitable gifts made through your will are deductible for estate purposes.
- You may direct your gift for a specific purpose or for unrestricted use.
- A charitable bequest may place your estate in a lower tax bracket.
- Create a Kingdom legacy gift that works in perpetuity.

When you notify us of your bequest intentions and send a copy of your will or estate plan, you will be enrolled in the DeMent Society.

If you have included the Seminary in your estate plan, please let us know so we may add you to our growing list of members of the DeMent Society. If you have questions or need more information on how to include New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in your estate plan, please contact Jim Lee at 800.662.8701, ext. 3253 or via email at jlee@nobts.edu.



The DeMent Society

Byron Hoover DeMent
Seminary's First President

The DeMent Society, named for our first president Dr. Byron Hoover DeMent, provides the opportunity for our friends to ensure the future of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary through estate gifts.

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. DeMent told the story of the enterprise, lifted up its ideals, gave a vision of its needs and possibilities, and let the message work its way into the hearts of people who wanted to make a difference in Kingdom work.

The DeMent Society

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Touching Tomorrow

Today!

Annual Giving Campaign
2005-2006



Meet Mike Schultz

From Lawrenceville, Ga.

Mike is a student who is touching the next generation today through his work as Children's Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in New Orleans. He and his wife Arenda have two sons: Michael (14) and Austin (10).

"What I learn in the classroom I can almost immediately put into practice in the 'real world' [of ministry]," Mike said. "What I learn in the 'real world' at the church helps me understand things better in the classroom. Working here at the church is very valuable."

Mike's goal is to complete a Master of Divinity degree at NOBTS. He hopes his study will enhance his ministry to children.

Your gifts to the Annual Giving Campaign help students like Mike receive the training they need for ministry. Pray about how you can help in "Touching Tomorrow Today."

How Can You Help Students Like Mike?

- Use the envelope in this Vision to make your gift to the Annual Fund
- Click "Donate Now" online at www.nobtsfoundation.com
- Call the Development Office at (800) 662-8701, ext. 3252



Leading scholars debate Intelligent Design at Greer-Heard Forum Feb. 10-11, 2006

Since the days of Darwin, science and Christianity have often been at odds over the origin of life on earth. Those who believe in a Creator have often endured ridicule and scorn from the scientific community. Intelligent Design theory is challenging the notion that Christian belief and science are incompatible.

Intelligent Design theory, based on scientific research and philosophy, explores the complexities of living organisms. In these intricate details, Intelligent Design theorists see abundant scientific and logical evidence of a Creator. Their on-going research challenges much of the Darwinian dogma of natural selection and unguided evolution.

The debate over Intelligent Design will take center stage at New Orleans Seminary Feb. 10-11, 2006. Leading Intelligent

Design theorist William Dembski will dialog with ID's most outspoken critic, Michael Ruse, during this year's *Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum: Exploring the Tensions of Faith and Culture*.



Dembski

Design theorist William Dembski will dialog with ID's most outspoken critic, Michael Ruse, during this year's *Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum: Exploring the Tensions of Faith and Culture*. Dembski is the Director of the Center for the Study of Christian Theology and Science at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. A prolific writer on the subject, Dembski is the author of *Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science and Theology*. Ruse, Professor of Philosophy at Florida State University, is the author of

Taking Darwin Seriously: A Naturalistic Approach to Philosophy and *Can a Darwinian Be a Christian?*

For more information on the Forum visit www.greer-heard.com or contact Dr. Robert Stewart at rstewart@nobts.edu.

BCTM conference explores rise of Calvinism in SBC

This year's Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry (BCTM) conference will explore the recent rise of Calvinism among some Southern Baptists. The conference, scheduled for Feb. 9 and 10, will take a balanced look at the causes and implications behind this trend.

"This is not going to be a conference where Calvinism is bashed and it is not going to be a conference where Calvinism is promoted," said Dr. Stan

**BCTM
Conference**

**February
9 & 10**

Norman, Director of the Baptist Center. "We are going to look at this issue as objectively as we can."

Norman said that he hopes this objective look at the subject will help defuse what has often been a heated debate. Papers from both sides of the issue will be presented along with a panel discussion. Plans also call for a look at the history of Calvinism in the SBC and how the theological system relates to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

The Thursday and Friday conference is scheduled just before the Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum. Special ticket packages are available for those who want to attend the BCTM conference and the Greer-Heard Forum.

For more information about the Baptist Center conference visit www.baptistcenter.com.

Seminary launches new Master of Divinity specialization in Philosophy & Ethics

With the new Master of Divinity specialization in Philosophy and Ethics, New Orleans Seminary continues to prepare students to meet the challenges of ministry in today's culture.

The school's new 95-hour specialization includes many of the same pastoral and ministerial competency



PHILOSOPHY

components required in the other Master of Divinity degrees. It also includes key philosophical training that is essential for cultural engagement.

The Philosophy and Ethics component makes up 22 hours of the degree. Students must complete 18 hours of core philosophy and ethics

courses as well as four hours of philosophy and ethics electives.

The Philosophy and Ethics specialization is designed for those who will serve as youth ministers, collegiate ministers and pastor-teachers. The degree plan is also well-suited for those who pursue advanced degrees and plan to teach on a college or seminary level.

Study Trips

Students learn from top apologists at Oxford University

Inscribed on the crest of Oxford University in Oxford, England, is the Latin phrase *Dominus Illuminatio Mea* – The Lord Is My Light.

Today, centuries removed from its founding, Oxford University is predominantly secular in its vision and intent. But this summer, students from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary studied at Oxford under scholars for whom the phrase is more than a motto; it is their hallmark.

Believing fervently that the Gospel is relevant and intellectually credible, the Ravi Zacharius International Ministries (RZIM) has teamed with scholars at Oxford for a bold initiative in the very heart of one of the most influential academic and cultural centers of the world.

Leading apologists Ravi Zacharias, Alister McGrath, Michael Green, Michael Ramsden and others challenged students to engage a secular culture with a relevant Gospel. The apologetic approach of world-renowned apologists such as C.S. Lewis, Cornelius Van



Til, Francis Schaeffer and mathematician Blaise Pascal highlighted one lecture series.

Alister McGrath, prolific author, Oxford professor and Director of the Oxford Centre for Evangelism and Apologetics, focused on another theme of the program: the integration of science and faith and the revelation of God in nature.

Dr. Robert Stewart, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Theology and the Greer-Heard Chair of Faith and Culture at NOBTS, was a guest speaker in a lecture series that addressed cult theology and other belief systems.

NOBTS students and alumni were offered expanded options in the 2005 NOBTS Oxford Study Program, with a choice of study and touring packages. Length of stay for students varied from 11 to 21 days and included touring various sites in England and Scotland.

By Marilyn Stewart

For information on the 2006 Oxford Study Program, contact Dr. Robert Stewart by email at rstewart@nobts.edu.

Summer Greek Institute brings Scripture to life for students

The Scripture text came alive for student Bill Hughes on his trip to Greece during the Seminary's Summer Language Institute. For 10 days, Hughes and his classmates in the Greek Exegesis of 1 Corinthians course walked the roads and visited the places where the Apostle Paul wrote and ministered during the First Century.

The trip was the culmination of two months of intensive Greek study during the Summer Language Institute. The Institute, an innovative study program, allows students to earn all 10 hours of Greek required for specific master's degrees in one summer. An optional trip to Greece at the end of the Institute is designed to enhance the learning experience.

"The Institute was extremely intensive. It was unlike any other class I've had," Hughes said. "It gave me the basic skills I need to be able to use the Greek language."

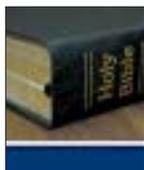
As the pastor of an area church, Hughes immediately began using his new skills in



the Greek language. While the classroom experience prepared Hughes to use the language, the trip helped him understand the Biblical context.

"I could stand in the place where Paul was directing this letter and I began to see how the pieces fit together," Hughes said. Visiting ancient Corinth and learning about the site helped Hughes understand the city's culture and some of the reasons Paul wrote 1 Corinthians.

Hughes began attending Elementary Greek classes early in the summer and immediately moved on to study Intermediate Greek. The first Greek Exegesis course, focusing on 1 Corinthians 1-8, was offered on the NOBTS campus. The second exegesis course, taught in conjunction with the trip, focused on 1 Corinthians 9-12. It was offered on campus as well for those who were unable to travel.



BIBLICAL STUDIES

The Staff Village



Construction Updates



The Oaks

48 new two-bedroom student apartments

The Oaks construction project remains on schedule for completion later this year. Located on Providence Place, the project consists of 48 new two-bedroom student apartments. When these new apartments are complete over half of the Seminary's housing will be less than five years old.



New Staff Village opens August 1

Eleven staff families recently received the keys to the newest apartments on the New Orleans Seminary campus. The new Staff Village, the first campus housing built for staff members, opened Aug. 1.

The two-building Staff Village consists of three, three-bedroom townhouses and eight, two-bedroom apartments. The beautiful new buildings echo the design elements of the nearby Manor and Courtyard Apartments.

"We really like our new apartment. We've never lived in a brand new home. Even though we are renting, it's like having a new home," said Astasha Baker, an NOBTS staff member. "It's so convenient to have a laundry room in our apartment."

Along with the new housing, some much-needed road improvements were completed as well. Street improvements were completed on Seminary Place and Iroquois Street.



Birmingham Extension moves to the Church at Brook Hills

For the first time in 18 years, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Birmingham Extension Center began the fall semester somewhere other than Lakeside Baptist Church. Due to explosive growth the center has moved to the Church at Brook Hills.

"Time has passed quickly," Birmingham Extension Director Bob Hall said. "We were running in the 40s when I started [nine years ago]. The Lord has done a great work here."

The once small Birmingham Extension Center is now approaching an enrollment of 300. Steadily, the center has outgrown the space available at Lakeside.



"Our reason for moving has nothing to do with Lakeside," Jimmy Dukes, Dean of the Extension Center System, said. "They have really been super to us."

Larry Herndon, leadership pastor at Brook Hills, is excited about the partnership his church is beginning with NOBTS. He believes it will benefit both the Seminary and members of his church, who will have a greater opportunity to take classes at the center.

Brook Hills has given the center both office space and ample library space. However, the additional classroom space remains the greatest advantage.

"Being able to have space to expand will be the greatest benefit," Hall said. "And unless things change, we'll continue to grow."

The Birmingham Center offers course work toward undergraduate and graduate degrees. For more information about the Extension Center System visit www.nobts.edu/Extensions.

Dr. Echols named director of N. Georgia Campus

Professor to occupy newly-activated Nelson Price Chair for Leadership

Dr. Steve Echols has been named as the new Director of the Seminary's largest extension center – the North Georgia Campus in Metro Atlanta. The Georgia native began his new duties on Aug. 1, becoming the first full-time director of the center.

"I am really happy to see Dr. Echols going to North Georgia as our Director," said Extension Dean Jimmy Dukes. "With his background and his familiarity with the north Georgia area, I believe he will be able to lead us to the next level in providing theological education for Georgia Baptists."



Echols

Echols, who has over 25 years of pastoral experience, joined the NOBTS faculty in 2001. He also served for 10 years as an adjunct professor at the Seminary's Birmingham Extension.

A leadership specialist, Echols directed the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry specializations in Leadership during his time on the main campus. He served as the Associate Dean of Professional Doctoral Programs.

Echols has been appointed to the newly activated Nelson Price Chair of Leadership named for Dr. Nelson Price – Pastor Emeritus of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., and a faithful Seminary donor.

Seminary rolls out the 'red carpet' for extension students

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary extension center students were the guests of honor during the first Red Carpet Workshop on the school's main campus May 23-27.

Extension students from across the southeast traveled to New Orleans for a week of academic courses and events designed especially for them.

"Extension center students are a very important part of New Orleans Seminary," NOBTS President Chuck Kelley told the students during a special chapel service May 23. "About 45 percent of our students do most of their work at extension centers."

"We want to devote this whole week especially to extension center students," he said. "We want to let you know how important you are to us."



494 students representing extension sites and the main campus enrolled for the special workshop – twice what administrators expected when planning began – making Red Carpet Week the largest academic workshop in NOBTS history.

Students were offered a wide range of courses in a one-week, intensive format. Most of the classes were the core required courses common to most NOBTS and Leavell College degrees. The week also provided extension students the opportunity to earn important on-campus credits. Each student must earn at least 30 on-campus hours to qualify for graduation.

In spite of the long class hours, the seminary planned many recreational and fellowship opportunities for extension students including two free meals and streetcar rides.

Brad Zwetschke - Master of Divinity Student

On a Different Course

Hearing God's call, Brad Zwetschke moves from golf to ministry



Photo by Katherine Albers

If a SportsCenter trivia question read “Which golfer finished high school ranked number two behind Tiger Woods?” most people would scan the PGA Tour roster and let the guessing begin. But they’d be looking in the wrong place.

The answer lies, instead, in the pages of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary’s phone directory. The player’s name is Brad Zwetschke, an NOBTS student who is preparing to graduate in December.

Zwetschke, originally from Chicago, was introduced to golf at age three, began playing the course at four and competed in his first tournament at 6. He was traveling to tournaments at eight and touring the country at 13.

That intense play at such a young age allowed him to grow up competing against many of the golfers presently on the PGA Tour, the most notable being Tiger Woods. In 1991, Zwetschke came within a shot of beating Woods at the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship.

As Woods took the fast track from college golf to the Tour, Zwetschke began tournament play with the hopes of eventually making the PGA Tour. God had much greater plans in store.

In the midst of his first year as a professional golfer, Zwetschke began to see God at work in his life. God surrounded Zwetschke with some Christian men who invited him to Bible studies and to church. God also moved in Zwetschke’s life when his father had a heart attack on the golf course during one of his tournaments. God provided someone in the crowd who was able to perform CPR until help arrived. The experience changed his life, and during that tough time in his life, Zwetschke turned to Christ.

Another change came not too long afterward when Zwetschke met Christina Mauldin, a pastor’s daughter from the south side of Chicago. The couple married about a year and a half later. After their wedding, they moved to Florida where Zwetschke continued his golf career.

“When we first got married, we’d go [to tournaments] together,” Zwetschke said. “Sometimes the hotels were too expensive to stay in for four nights, and we would sleep in the van in the parking lot of the club house. We had to make do with what we had.

“But that’s the typical lifestyle of somebody who’s trying to make it. There’s a lot of eating out and sandwiches on the road and trying to find a place to do laundry. It wasn’t glamorous by any means.”



Photo by Katherine Albers

The Zwetschke Family – Brad and Christine with their two girls – Grace (4) and Mercy (2).

As the young couple traveled together to tournaments across the United States, they attended churches in the cities where they were staying. God used Zwetschke's commitment to attending church while he was away from home to reveal His plans.

"I was at a qualifying in Australia and I was gone from my family for three weeks," Zwetschke said. "I had been there for a week and I decided to go to this little church."

Zwetschke and his wife had been praying for a year about what God wanted them to do with their lives. If he placed high enough in the qualifying, there was a chance that the family would move to Australia for him to play in the tour there. A lot was riding on his performance in the tournament – the pastor of the little church knew that.

"He brought me up in front of the church and the church leaders prayed over me," Zwetschke said. "He ended up preaching this sermon on John 21. I heard God speaking to my heart about how Peter had spent some time with Christ and that it was time for him to give up fishing."

The parallel between Zwetschke and Peter became suddenly clear to him. Zwetschke, like Peter, had spent his life focused on a trade. Peter's trade was fishing, Brad's was golfing.

"He spoke to my heart, saying 'This is all you've done. This is all you've ever known. I need you to take care of my sheep and feed my lambs,' he said. 'I came home and told my wife, 'I don't know what this means. But I know that God is doing something with us.'"

**When God called
Zwetschke to
"feed His sheep,"
he dropped his
clubs and
followed Jesus.**

Not long after that, as he was traveling to a golf qualifier tournament in Canada, he heard the same message from John 21 on the radio. He said that he practically turned the van around – the decision was made.

Almost immediately, Zwetschke began attending the NOBTS extension center in Orlando, Fla. Then, about two and a half years ago, Zwetschke and his family moved to New Orleans to live and study on campus.

When asked about his after-graduation plans, Zwetschke offers an expectant shrug of the shoulders. While he has been in New Orleans, he has volunteered at the Rachel Sims Baptist Center, a ministry to inner city children and families. That kind of ministry, he said, may be on the horizon for his family.

Until the next step is more clear, Zwetschke will hold on to the call he heard in Australia to "feed the sheep" around him.

By Michael McCormack

God continues to accomplish the ‘impossible’ for the Steeles

Drs. Ed and Kathy Steele have lived a life of waiting on the Lord to accomplish the impossible. Their missions call was like that of Isaiah – God asked, “Who will go?” and they volunteered, “Send us.”

As they moved from Oklahoma and Texas to the mission field in Nicaragua, Panama and El Paso, and finally to New Orleans, they each cherished a dream in their hearts – dreams they set aside as they followed God’s lead.

Kathy’s dream was of student ministry. When she decided to marry, she released that dream, but God continued to nurture it. While Ed was in seminary and serving as a music/youth minister in Sherman, Texas, a woman helped pay Kathy’s tuition for a few counseling courses at Southwestern. On the mission field with the International Mission Board in Nicaragua, Kathy was busy raising two small children, but when the Steeles moved to Panama, she found herself doing premarital counseling and helping victims of sexual abuse.

She sought help in books, but still longed to complete her education and have better tools. In El Paso, God provided for two counseling courses – but when the money was gone, the dream went with it. Kathy did not waste this time in the desert. In her often tedious work at the Baptist Publishing House, she prayed over every cassette tape she boxed for shipping. She got involved in *Moms in Touch*, *International* and helped Ed translate that ministry’s handbook into Spanish.

When the Steeles resigned from the IMB for Ed to pursue his Doctor of Musical Arts at NOBTS, God provided again, and Kathy was able to go to school as well. She earned a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling degree, and as she completed her doctoral work, she began to think God might open the door for her to teach. To Kathy, Ed’s acceptance of a faculty position with Leavell College seemed like the end to that dream. Once again, God accomplished what seemed impossible, and Kathy herself was called as an Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling in 2005.

“A few weeks ago I realized that God had brought my 31-year-old dream full circle,” Kathy said. God even used the time in the “desert” – Kathy’s dissertation topic was “The Impact of Scripture-Based Prayer by Mothers on the Emotional Adjustment of Children.”

Ed’s dreams have also come full circle. As a missionary in Nicaragua and Panama, he taught Cuban pastors who were allowed to come into Nicaragua for education. God soon planted the impossible dream of going into Cuba to teach. Ed had to leave Latin America behind when the IMB needed music editors at the Baptist Publishing House in El Paso, and that dream was put aside.

In the midst of this “desert” time, the Steeles began memorizing Scripture. Ed developed a love for Philippians,



Photo by Kathrine Albers

Drs. Ed and Kathy Steele

dreaming of setting it to music. Both this and his dream of going to Cuba would come to fruition when Ed left the IMB to come to New Orleans. His composition, “Paul to the Church at Philippi,” became his dissertation, and when the Cuban government wanted “real seminary teachers” to teach their teachers, Ed’s credentials as an Assistant Professor of Music in Leavell College qualified him to go. He and two other NOBTS faculty members with Latin American mission experience have made the trip several times in the last few years, and Kathy has gone with him twice. Steele’s proficiency with *Finale*, a music notation computer program, allowed him to partner with the Cubans to publish their own hymnal.

“We delight in sharing our work, and God has always provided that opportunity,” Kathy said. Here in New Orleans, the Steeles are enjoying each other in their ministries at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and at Parkview Church. Most of all, they are living out the fulfillment of long-cherished dreams, with the expectation that God will continue to surprise them by doing the impossible.

Their ministry has included a number of “small world” moments. While serving in Nicaragua, Ed Steele discovered that Cuban music ministers had difficulty getting materials. He began sending them hymnals, 16 at a time; stamping a special seal inside each cover. Years later, while leading music in a Cuban church a pastor’s wife showed him her well-loved hymnal. Steele opened the cover and found his seal. God had fulfilled his dream of ministering in Cuba long before Ed went there himself.

By Christi Gibson

Dr. Jackson trains Asian youth leaders in the Philippines during summer trip

The Filipino people have a saying to describe their crowded and somewhat frightening highways, "If there is a space, you fill it." Dr. Allen Jackson, Professor of Youth Education at NOBTS, has found his space in the Philippines and is filling it on a regular basis.

Every other year for the last eight years, Jackson has traveled to Manila to teach *Adolescent Development* at the Alliance Graduate School (AGS). The modules (10 days to two weeks) are not unlike the seminary classes he teaches every day – except that the students are international adults who work with teenagers and college students. Many of the students come from countries that are closed to missionaries, but there is more freedom in education than religion. Through teachers like Jackson, the Word of God is getting through the barriers.

AGS offers the only youth ministry master's degree in Asia. The school is staffed completely by volunteer professors. An endowment pays for the transportation of professors to Manila, but there is no compensation for teaching. Jackson and other youth ministry experts give their time because of their passion for youth and the people who work with them.

Jackson tells of two miracles he has seen take place over the last eight years.



Jackson

One involves textbooks, which are difficult to obtain unless they are printed in the Philippines. He specified a text for the first class he taught, only to arrive and find only one copy for all of his students to share. Then, in 2000, LifeWay unexpectedly commissioned Jackson and Dwayne Ulmer for an e-book called *Introducing the 21st Century Teenager*. The Internet is readily available in the Philippines, and students can easily download a textbook.

The second miracle is that the AGS graduates are beginning to take on some of the teaching load. In time the full responsibility of training youth ministry leaders at AGS will be passed on to these graduates.

In the meantime, he will continue to make the journey as often as possible – filling his suitcase with 65 pounds of books for the seminary's library and taking advantage of every opportunity to preach and minister in the churches of his students. He is grateful for his call to seminary education – at home and wherever else it might take him.

By Christi Gibson

***Introducing the 21st Century Teenager* is a free download at www.lifeway.com/understandingyouth/index.asp.**

Olive Baptist Church donates faculty mission grant

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley believes mission involvement will heighten and enrich the teaching ministry of every seminary professor. A new grant from Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla. will help send more faculty members on international mission trips.

The Jeff Rousseau Faculty Mission Grant, named for a former Olive pastor, will provide funds for one NOBTS



MISSIONS

faculty member and spouse to participate in an international mission trip each year. The church started a missionary offering at the church several years ago and the mission committee voted to use a portion of the funds to start the annual grant.

Olive Baptist Church has been an important partner with NOBTS for years. The church also hosts the Seminary's Pensacola Extension Center.

NOBTS professors receive Lilly Grants

Dr. Steven Ortiz, Dr. Ken Keathley and Dr. Stan Norman, New Orleans Seminary faculty members, have each received a Lilly Theological Research Grant from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). ATS is an accrediting body with 251 member schools in the United States and Canada. Lilly Grants are only available for faculty members of these ATS-accredited institutions. Only 25 Lilly Theological Research Grants were awarded this year.

Dr. Steven Ortiz

Dr. Steven Ortiz, Associate Professor of Biblical Archaeology and Director of the Center for Archaeological Research, received the Theological Research Grant. With the grant, Ortiz traveled to Israel and studied unpublished material on Gezer



Ortiz

Hebrew Union College. He plans to publish a paper, *Israelite Palaces at Tel Gezer: Analysis and Publication of Palaces 8000 and 10000*, detailing his research.

Dr. Ken Keathley and Dr. Stan Norman



Keathley



Norman

Dr. Ken Keathley, Associate Professor of Theology and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, and Dr. Stan Norman, Associate Professor of Theology and Director of the Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry, received a Research Expense Grant for a joint project. The two will work on a research and writing project, *Salvation and the Sovereignty of God: Exploring the Incarnational Approach*.

Faculty Elections and Appointments

NEW TRUSTEE-ELECTED FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. David Platt

**Assistant Professor
of Expository Preaching
and Apologetics**

Trustees elected David Platt, who completed a Doctor of Philosophy degree at NOBTS in December 2004, to serve as Assistant Professor of Expository Preaching and Apologetics.

In addition to his teaching duties, Platt will serve a two-year appointment as Dean of the Chapel. During the 2004-2005 school year, he served as Instructor in Evangelism and Associate Director of Supervised Ministry at NOBTS.

Active in church ministry, Platt serves as Staff Evangelist of Edgewater Baptist Church in New Orleans – a position he has held since 2002. He regularly preaches and teaches at churches and conferences throughout the United States.

Platt's passion for missions and evangelism is illustrated through the frequent international mission trips he leads for his church and for NOBTS.



Platt

Dr. Kristyn Carver

**Assistant Professor of
Psychology and Counseling
in Leavell College**

Trustees elected Kristyn Carver, who has served as a full-time adjunct faculty member at Leavell College since 2002, to serve as Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling in Leavell College.

Carver is an active member of First Baptist Church in New Orleans. She has served the church as a youth Sunday School teacher and nominating committee member. Currently she serves on the women's enrichment ministry council at FBC.

Carver earned a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling degree and a Doctor of Philosophy degree at NOBTS.

A licensed professional counselor, Carver has served in private practice since 2004.



Carver

NEW MINISTRY-BASED FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. David Lema - Miami Extension Director Associate Professor of Christian Ministry

David Lema was appointed to serve as Associate Professor of Christian Ministry/Ministry-based Faculty. Lema, a third-generation, Cuban-born minister, serves as the extension director of the Seminary's Center for the Americas in Miami. His ability to fluently speak both Spanish and English is a must at the Seminary's most diverse extension center.

Lema earned the Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of New Orleans and Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees at NOBTS.

Dr. John Robson - Angola Extension Director Associate Professor of Christian Ministry

John Robson was appointed to serve as Associate Professor of Christian Ministry/Ministry-based Faculty. He also serves as a Chaplain and Director of the Seminary's undergraduate program at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, La.

Robson, who has 34 years of Christian ministry experience, earned a Master of Divinity degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from NOBTS.

Dr. Johnny Bley - Parchman Program Director Associate Professor of Christian Ministry

Johnny Bley, a former adjunct professor with the Angola Prison education program, was appointed to serve as Associate Professor of Christian Ministry/Ministry-based Faculty. Bley, pastor at Cherry Street Baptist Church in Clarksdale, Miss., directs the undergraduate program at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman.

Bley, who earned Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from NOBTS, has 16 years of pastoral experience serving churches in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Dr. Reggie Ogea to lead Professional Doctoral Programs

Dr. Reggie Ogea has been appointed to serve as Associate Dean of Professional Doctoral Programs. He will continue as the Director of the Doctor of Ministry program at NOBTS.



Ogea

Faculty Happenings

Dr. Byargeon witnesses the London bombings

When Dr. Rick Byargeon, Professor of Hebrew and Wisdom Literature at NOBTS, traveled to London this summer he became a witness to history. On July 7, Byargeon awoke to a loud noise. One of the London terrorist bombs exploded in a bus at Tavistock Square near his hotel.

The NOBTS professor was in the city to present a paper, "Echoes of the Ten Commandments in Proverbs 30:7-9," at Tyndale House at Cambridge, an Evangelical "think tank" library. He was not injured in the bombing.

Dr. Lee returns from Iraq

Dr. Endel Lee, Associate Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Ministries in Leavell College, recently returned from active duty service as a military chaplain. He was away for eight months. Traveling with a U.S. Marine division, Lee spent much of that time deployed to Fallujah, Iraq.

The Seminary family welcomed Dr. Lee home with American flags, yellow ribbons and "thank you" signs Aug. 5.

Tenure

During the Spring NOBTS Board of Trustees meeting, tenure was granted to the following professors:

- **Dr. Eddie Campbell**, Assistant Professor of English in Leavell College
- **Dr. Scott Drumm**, Associate Professor of Theological and Historical Studies in Leavell College
- **Dr. Steve Echols**, Associate Professor of Leadership
- **Dr. Norris Grubbs**, Assistant Professor of New Testament and Greek in Leavell College
- **Dr. Lloyd Harsch**, Associate Professor of Church History
- **Dr. Ken Keathley**, Associate Professor of Theology
- **Dr. Steve Ortiz**, Associate Professor of Biblical Archaeology
- **Dr. Laurie Watts**, Assistant Professor of Education Technology.

Noted composer, Benjamin Harlan, returns to NOBTS music faculty

Dr. Benjamin Harlan, a noted composer and musician, returned to the NOBTS faculty this fall after serving 10 years on the faculty of Southwestern Seminary.

"Adding Dr. Harlan enhances what we believe is one of the best church music programs in the country," NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke said. "He is a respected musician under whom students from all over the nation will want to come and study."

Adding Harlan to the faculty is a significant step in expanding the Seminary's focus on church music, Lemke said. He noted that the Seminary's Church-Minister Relations office – a resumé referral service for students and alumni – already has more church music position requests than it can fill.



MUSIC

"We are praying that the Lord will call out people to study music ministry at NOBTS to meet the needs of local churches," Lemke said.

Harlan, who served on the NOBTS faculty from 1989 to 1995, was appointed to serve as Professor of Church Music.

Since 1995, Harlan has taught church music at SWBTS. For a time, he served as the Dean of the School of Church Music at Southwestern. Before Harlan began his teaching career at NOBTS in 1989, he spent six years as a church music minister – serving two Louisiana churches including Emmanuel Baptist Church in Shreveport.

Harlan is a widely-published composer, arranger and musician. His choral, keyboard and handbell works have been released by several major music publishers.



Harlan

Photo by Katherine Albers

Promotions

During the Spring NOBTS Board of Trustees meeting, rank promotions were granted to the following faculty members:

- **Dr. Rick Byargeon**, from Associate Professor to Professor in Hebrew and Wisdom Literature
- **Dr. Scott Drumm**, from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Theological and Historical Studies in Leavell College
- **Dr. Darryl Ferrington**, from Associate Professor to Professor of Music Education
- **Dr. Lloyd Harsch**, from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Church History
- **Dr. Allen Jackson**, from Associate Professor to Professor of Youth Education
- **Dr. Endel Lee**, from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Ministry in Leavell College
- **Dr. Harold Mosley**, from Associate Professor to Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew
- **Dr. Steve Ortiz**, from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Biblical Archaeology

2005 Distinguished Alumni Recipients



■ Jim Gibson

Director, Music Publishing & Recording, LifeWay (Retired)

- Earned MCM degree at NOBTS
- 23 years in Music Publishing, 12 years at LifeWay/BSSB
- Executive Project Manager, *Celebration Hymnal* (2 million sold)
- Music Minister at churches in La., Okla. and Texas for eight years



■ Dean Register

Pastor, Temple Baptist Church Hattiesburg, Miss.

- Earned MDIV and PHD degrees at New Orleans Seminary
- Pastors one of the fastest growing churches in Mississippi. Temple BC has over 5,000 members who attend two church campuses.
- Served two terms as President of the Mississippi Baptist Conv.



■ Jim Richards

Executive Director, Southern Baptists of Texas Conv.

- Earned MDIV at NOBTS
- Pastored over 20 years in the state of Louisiana.
- Served as director of missions in an Arkansas association
- Led SBCT churches to raise \$150,000 gift for NOBTS

NOBTS graduate Junior Hill marks fiftieth year in ministry

It started as a simple invitation to church. Zula Montgomery saw Junior Hill, only 12 years old at the time, playing in a field near Hartselle, Ala. She invited him to come to church with her and God used the invitation in a mighty way.

Hill, whose parents were not believers, began attending church. A few years later, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and in 1955 God called Hill to preach.

Now in his fiftieth year of ministry, Hill has preached over 1,500 revivals throughout the United States and across the world. Through the years, thousands of people have responded to his preaching by receiving Christ.

At age 68, Hill still keeps a busy preaching schedule - in fact he has more invitations to speak than ever. Counting all his conferences, seminary appearances and revivals, Hill preaches about 100 different places each year.

When asked to identify one instance when God used him in a special way, Hill told a story of one of his early revivals. The



■ Junior Hill

- Called to the ministry in 1955
- Graduated from NOBTS in 1962
- First VP of the SBC in 1989
- 1995 NOBTS Distinguished Alumnus

setting was a small church with about 80 members. A few people were saved during the event, but Hill did not think about that revival for many years.

Twenty years later Hill returned to the same church which had grown to over 500 members. The young pastor greeted him by saying how much he loved and appreciated Hill.

"He said, 'About 20 years ago you came to this church and had a special children's night. I was a little boy that somebody had invited to church and I was saved and now I'm the pastor of this church,'" Hill said recalling what the pastor said.

Hill related the story with tears in his eyes. Just as someone reached out to him when he was a child, Hill has been able to reach out to others.

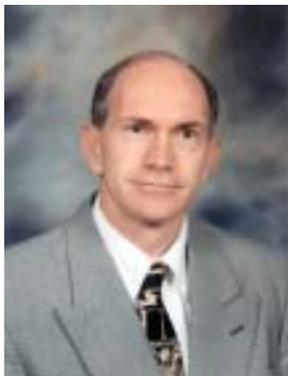
That is what his ministry has been about for 50 years. Reaching the lost with the Gospel and encouraging believers to be all God wants them to be.

By Gary D. Myers

A Word from Alumni President Ron McCaskill

Four years ago, I began to pray fervently for my seminary. As I prayed, the thought kept coming to mind, "Ask for 10,000 alumni to donate \$100.00 each year to the school." So, I inquired of the Seminary and discovered that we have approximately 23,000 alumni! I was pleasantly surprised that the Lord had asked me to pray for a very achievable goal. Most everyone can afford to give \$100.00 annually.

As unique as it may seem, the Lord revealed an insight concerning the alumni's role in the Seminary's ministry through a football coach who was bemoaning



McCaskill

the painful fact of a "thin bench" for this year. He said, "Our bench was the key to our success last year. Without a deep bench, I don't know how successful we will be this year."

Then it dawned on me. In the spiritual dimension, our seminary family is a team where our alumni are our supporting cast. The depth of our bench will influence the level of our Seminary's long-term success in growing and training effective leaders for tomorrow.

My wife and I experienced an immeasurable, spiritual transformation at NOBTS through the sacrificial investment of my professors and their supporting cast. I invite you join us in praying for God to deepen the bench.

Luke 6:38

Ron McCaskill

New Orleans Seminary National Alumni President

Eye on Alumni

1950s

Robert Christian (BDIV '54) retired from the US Air Force as a Lt. Colonel. He taught for McMurry University and Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. He married Ann DeMoss on October 24, 2004.

Donald Corley (ThM '51 & ThD '54) has written *The Christian Pastor's Work*, his eighth self-published book. Visit his website at www.donaldcorley.com

Carroll Hamilton (MDIV '58) has written a book entitled *The Believer's Spiritual Wealth in Christ*.

Tom Harper (BDIV '55, MRE '70, & EdD '72) in retirement is serving as Coordinator of Mission Projects for Jax Baptist Association's church, school and orphanage in Haiti and has been doing this for seven years. He and his wife Annette traveled to East Asia in July for the fifth summer to teach English and evangelism with Edge Institute.

Thomas Hill (BDIV '52 & ThD '56) is working with the International Baptist Church Ministries as Liaison for Latin America. He and his wife will visit International Baptist Churches in Brazil and Argentina in an effort to bring them together in fellowship. He was also elected as a member of the nominations committee of the SBC.

Bill Ichter (MSM '55) was chosen as Minden (La.) Man of the Year for 2004.

James Pelham (MRE '54) serves as Pastor of Coolidge Memorial Baptist Church in Coolidge, Ga.

Connie Ward (MDIV '59 & DMIN '74) pastored churches for forty-three years and served as a DOM with the Louisiana Baptist Convention. He retired from his DOM post in December and on January 1, 2005 he became Pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church near Farmerville, La.

1960s

Charles Anderson (MRE '69) retired from First Baptist Church of Sultan, Wash. on October 17, 2004. He served the church for thirteen years with his wife, Jan.

Jerome Malek (MCM '62) is Minister of Music at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church in San Antonio, Texas. He has composed a setting of "The Seven Last Words" for choir, organ, and orchestra published by Malek Music of San Antonio.

Ray Newcomb (MRE '67) has been pastor of First Baptist Millington for 30 years.

1970s

David Brown (MRE '72) became the Missions Coordinator for Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association in October of 2004.

Woodrow Busch (ThM '71) retired from First Baptist Church of Murphy, NC on May 31, 2005 after 18 ½ years.

Keith Fordham (MDIV '75) has served thirty-one years in full-time evangelism. He was President of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists June 2004-June 2005.

Israel Galindo's (MRE '79, MDIV '83, & EdD '87) book, *The Hidden Lives of Congregations*, has been recognized as one of the "Ten Best Books of 2005" by the Academy of Parish Clergy.

Eddie Graves (MDIV '78) became Senior Pastor of Patterson Park Baptist Church in Baltimore, Md. on April 15, 2005.

James Lochridge Jr. (MCM '76) serves as Pastor of International Baptist Church in Naples, Italy. The congregation is made up primarily of American military families with a few Ghanans, Nigerians, Filipinos, Brits, and Italians.

Austin "Butch" Reviere (MRE '77) is the Associate Pastor of Worship and Discipleship at First Baptist Church in Kentwood, La.

Boyce Snipes (MRE '82) celebrated his 20th anniversary as Minister of Music at the Westminster Baptist Church in Westminster, S.C.

Daby Snipes (MRE '82) is an elementary school teacher in Seneca, South Carolina. She was Teacher of the Year at her school for the 2004-2005 school year.

Clayton Turner (MCM '76) became the Ministry Resource Consultant for the Georgia Baptist Convention in the NE Region on July 1, 2005. He moves to this position after serving fourteen years as Associational Missionary in Morganton/Mountaintown Associations in Blue Ridge, Ga.

1980s

Evelyn Andrews (MRE '80) is the Director of "Book-Link of Alabama". This organization sends Bibles, Christian books, and materials to other countries where these items are not easily available.

Roy Davis (MDIV '87) is the Vice President of Louisiana Baptist Pastor's Conference for 2004-2005.

Cindy Coggins (MRE '82) is a therapist for ReDiscover in Lee's Summit, Mo. She provides counseling for children and families.

Pat Andrews (MDIV '81) is the DOM for Escambia Baptist Association in Flomaton, Ala. The 35 churches in his association continue to repair and rebuild after Hurricane Ivan. He has coordinated the many mission teams that have come to the area for disaster relief.

Leroy Cole (ADPM '82) after pastoring for 20 years, has joined the staff of the Covington Baptist Association as Church and Community Ministries Director in October of 2003.

John Connell (MDIV '82 & ThD '87) has recently published a book entitled *Halos of Fire: Enjoying a Life Filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit*.

David Coram (MDIV '88) retired from US Army Chaplaincy in 2004 with 31 years of military service. He serves as Pastor/Church Planter at Living Waters in Oak Grove, Ky.

Lyndon (MDIV '88) and **Penny** (CWM '99 & BGS '01) **Glaesman** have recently moved to Picayune, Miss. where they have restored a 100 year old home and have turned it into a Bed and Breakfast. They are both working as Chaplains for Hospice of the Delta. Lyndon is also a department head for Herzing College.

Mike Harland (MCM '87) has been named Director of LifeWay's Worship Music Group.

James Harrison (MDIV '89) received his DMin from Southern Seminary in December of 2004.

David Henderson (MRE '81) and his wife Denise started a church in Port Richey, Fla. in June of 2000. The six has grown from only six to a membership of over 200. They have baptized 116 new believers.

Glenn Jackson (MRE '80 & MAMF '99) serves as Minister of Education and Administration at Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church in Meridian, Miss. He and Wanda are in their 25th year of full-time ministry and 28th year of marriage.

Franklin Kirksey (MDIV '86) is the author of *Sound Biblical Preaching: Giving the Bible a Voice*.

Gary McLellan (MRE '82) has served 10 years as Senior Pastor of Gloster Baptist Church.

Joseph Miller (MDIV '80) is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Kentwood, La.

Robert Patty (MDIV '80) is the Pastor of Covenant Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Jack Platt (MDIV '80) serves as Minister of Education & Outreach at Glynwood Baptist Church in Prattville, Ala. He had served there bi-vocationally for fifteen years. He and his wife Deborah are the parents of two sons Russell and Tucker.

Bruce Rowell (MDIV '84) is serving as the first-term President of the Alaska Baptist Convention.

David Smelser (MDIV '84) graduated with the Masters of Arts in Teaching degree from the University of West Alabama in Livingston in 2003. He now serves as Religious Services Coordinator with Church World Service with responsibilities at the Port Isabel Detention Center in Los Fresnos, Texas.

James Waters (MDIV '82) has spent twenty-two years specializing in ministry related software. He is the owner of Waters Ministry Tools.

1990s

Terry Barksdale (MCM '90) was called as the Minister of Music and Senior Adults at First Baptist Church of Talladega, Ala. in October of 2004. Barksdale and his wife, Melissa, have two sons – Andy (13) and Evan (12).

David Bishop (MDIV '89) is pastor of Slayden Baptist Church in Lamar, Miss.

Marlene Booth (MACE '97) left preschool ministry in the local church to work for the IMB. She teaches preschool missionary children while their parents are in orientation, preparing to leave for the field. About every two months, she gets a new group of children and helps them as they are transitioning to live in another country.

Joe Brooks (MDIV '96) had Sunday School lessons published in the *LifeWay Leader Guide* for the Spring '05 edition of the *Family Bible Series*.

Billy Edwards (MDIV '92) serves as Pastor at First Baptist Church of Bunkie, La. He spent the past eight years as Director of Missions for Delta, LaSalle, and Ouachita Associations in Louisiana.

David Gill (MDIV '95) serves as Pastor of East Tallasse Baptist Church. He is also owner of Tallasse Family Therapy where he works as a Marriage and Family Therapist. He and his wife Joann have been married eighteen years and have seven children.

Lavon Gray (MCM '93) serves as Minister of Music and Worship at First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss.

Kevin Hurt (MACE '93) serves as the Minister of Education & Administration at First Baptist Church of Vicksburg, Miss.

Ted Knach (MDIV '97) is a Navy Reserve Chaplain serving on active duty with the Coast Guard as the Air Station Borinquen, Aguadilla, and Puerto Rico. He married Mary Darling in October 2004.

Gregory McBride (MDIV '90 & PhD '96) is the Administrative Director of the Pensacola extension of the Baptist College of Florida. He also serves as pastor of Bellview Baptist Church in Pensacola. He has three sons - Joseph (11), Jordan (9), and Jonathan (5).

David Rhoades (MDIV '95) received his DMIN degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Alan Shoumaker (MCM '94) has completed 11 years as Music Minister of Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La. The choir has been invited to sing Verdis Requiem at Carnegie Hall in New York on June 5th of 2005.

Scott Thompson (MDIV '97) traveled to Ryazan, Russia April 15-23 to teach Homiletics for Leavell College/New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in partnership with the Global Center for Ministry in Plano, Texas.

2000

Alan (MDIV '00) and **Misty** (MACE '98) **Day** have one son, Calvin Alan Day who turned three in August 2005.

Kristie Kirk (MACE '00) is the Director of Children's Ministry at Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Fla.

2001

Jason Holmes (MACE '01) is the Youth Minister at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, Miss.

Tim Rice (MDIV '01) is the Pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodbine. He has three sons and also serves on several associational committees.

2002

Kyle Cannon (MDIV '02) serves as Pastor of Willow Grove Baptist Church in Collins, Miss.

Glenn Canup (MDIV '02) received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary on May 13, 2005.

Bonni Skipworth (BA '02 & CWM '00) serves as the Woman's Ministry Director for the Nashville Baptist Association. They join with the seminary extension in offering Biblical/Theological studies for women.

2003

Daniel Ausbun (MDIV '03) serves as Pastor of First Baptist Church of Moreland, Ga.

John Walton (MDIV '03) returned in March from a one-year tour in Iraq.

2004

Eric Sexton (MDIV '04) serves as Student Pastor of First Baptist Church in Gadsden, Ala.

Births

Daniel (MDIV '03 & ThM '05) and **Sherri Ausbun** welcomed Daniel Glenn Ausbun, Jr. into the world on June 3, 2005. He weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz.

Michael (MA '03) and **Jeannie Barber** have adopted a baby girl, Michaela. She was placed with them on January 31, 2005.

Ben (MMCM '98 & DMA '05) and **Rebecca** (MMCM '01) **Caston** welcomed a son, Bennie Clayton "Clay" Caston III, into the world on July 1, 2005. He weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19 inches long. Ben has a new position as Assistant Professor of Music at Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Ga.

Jason (MDIV '04) and **Melissa Gardner** welcomed Leah Noelle into the world on January 25, 2005. She was 8 lbs. 14 oz and 21 ¾ inches long. Jason is the Pastor of Pisgah Baptist Church in Forest Hill, La.

Mark (MACE '96) and **Joanna Greene** welcomed Eli Jackson into the world on January 29, 2004. He joins his sister Madeline who is five. Mark is currently serving as the Minister of Pastoral Care, College Students, Single Adults, and Membership at Westside Baptist Church in Ft. Pierce, Fla.

Jason (MACE '01) and **Sunday Holmes** had their second child, Sarah Sunday, on December 29, 2004. Their first child, Jason Michael Holmes II, was born in August 2003.

Wade (MDIV '04) and **Emily Howell** welcomed Moriah Ann into the world on April 18, 2005. She was 7 lbs. 13 oz and was 21 inches long.

Matt (MDIV '00) and **Myra** (attended '98) **Jackson** welcomed Rebekah Jackson into the world in March of 2005. She joins brothers Johnathan, Josiah and James, May 2000. Matt serves as Minister of Youth and Worship at Northside Baptist Church in McMinnville, Tenn.

Bruce (MDIV '98) and **Christianne** (MDIV '98) **Knight** welcomed Landon Leigh Knight into the world on February 23, 2005 in Minot, N.D. Bruce serves as pastor of Cross Roads Baptist Church (one of only two SBC churches in a town of 40,000) and Christianne works part-time for a secular non-profit agency as a Christian counselor.

Leslye (BA '04) and **Jeremy Simoneaux** welcomed Elianna into the world on March 24, 2005. She weighed 8 lbs. and was 19 inches long. Jeremy, a National Guard sergeant stationed in Baghdad, was granted emergency leave for two weeks to come home for Elianna's birth.

Robbie (MDIV '01 and ThM '05) **Jennifer Speights** welcomed Catherine into the world in August 2005. She joins brother, Jacob. Robbie is the Pastor of First Baptist Church in Benton, Tenn.

William (MDIV '01) and **Christy Wall** welcomed William Jackson into world on February 9, 2005. He was 8lbs. 15 oz.

Jason (current student) and **Ginny** (MA '04) **Young** welcomed Mercy Reese into the world on July 6, 2005. She weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. and was 19 ½ inches long. Grandparents are Gary (faculty) and Sherrill Hallquist.

Marriages

Gary Bazer (MACE '97) married Ashley Hodges on March 19, 2005.

With the Lord

Susan Arnold (MDIV '78) passed away on March 21, 2005.

Warren Bouit (attended '86) passed away on April 5, 2005.

Eva Cain (ADRE '87) passed away on April 10, 2005. She is survived by her husband, Henry (ADPM '87 & BG '93).

Charles Cantrell (MDIV '49) passed away on June 20, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Beatrice.

Warren Clapp (ThD '50 & MDIV '48) passed away on March 30, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Geneva.

Betty Cope (attended '48) passed away on June 5, 2005. She is survived by his wife, Padgett.

Gerry Covington (BRE '58) passed away on May 20, 2005. She is survived by her husband, Robert (ThD '56).

Larry Daniel (EdD '76, MRE '71, & ThM '70) passed away on July 31, 2003. He is survived by his wife, Patsy.

Annie Dwyer (MRE '54) passed away on March 3, 2005.

Mildred Fortner (attended '83) passed away on March 10, 2005.

James Griffin (BRE '56) passed away on April 9, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Bootsie.

Gordon Harris (BDIV '58) passed away on June 4, 2005. He is survived by his wife Ellena.

David Hayes (MDIV '89) passed away in March of 2005. He is survived by his wife, Connie.

Charles Heltman (MRE '55 & BDIV '54) passed away on February 16, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn.

Charles Holfield (BDIV '54) passed away on March 28, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Janice.

Houston Inman (BDIV '61) passed away on May 25, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Sherlene.

John Jones (DPRE '61) passed away on January 30, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Doris.

Michael Lee (MDIV '76) passed away on June 23, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Dena.

Byron Malone (BDIV '64 & DMIN '79) passed away on March 6, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Barbara.

Claire Meador (MRE '32) passed away on February 27, 2005.

Ray Melton (DMIN '78) passed away on May 16, 2005.

Hugh Poole (ThM '70) passed away December 29, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Ruby.

Amos Pruett Jr. (MDIV '76) passed away on March 6, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Bettie.

E. Elwood Settle (BDIV '56) passed away on April 12, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Martha.

Ray Slayter (BDIV '62) passed away on March 7, 2005.

Wiley Smith Jr. (ThM '72) passed away on May 30, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Lynda.

John Snell (BDIV '62) passed away on February 27, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Shirley.

James Staples (BDIV '49) passed away on January 3, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Elaine.

Ernest Stoutamire (MCM '62) passed away on May 23, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Carole.

James Travis (BDIV '52 & ThD '60) passed away on February 13, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Lucille Travis.

Damon Vaughn (BDIV '57 & ThD '62) passed away on May 4, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn.

Jerry Wallace (ThD '64 & BDIV '58) passed away on April 23, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Joyce.

James Watkins Sr. (DPCH '66) passed away on July 7, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Ann.

David Whisenant (ThM '73) passed away on April 27, 2005.

Walter Worthy Jr. (BDIV '61) passed away on June 10, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Pat.

James Wynn (BCM '63 & MCM '63) passed away on March 14, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn.

Send your updates
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ext. 3331 or
alumni@nobts.edu



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