



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

January 26, 2017

Dear Executive Committee Member,

Greetings from the campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary! Thank you for your partnership and that of Southern Baptists in our ministry of preparing the rising generation of SBC churches, missions, and ministry leaders. The Cooperative Program plays a huge role in our institution, and we look for every opportunity to make that clear to our students. The required class on the Cooperative Program is taught in a way that both personalizes it to the student's personal circumstances and provides resources the student can use to teach church members more about CP. Operating our seminary truly would be very difficult without this partnership. Thank you again for remaining engaged with us.

As you will see in our report, the last year was a fruitful year for us. We had one of the largest enrollments in our history. Every ten years we go through a very intensive process to reaffirm our accreditation with our regional accreditor (SACS) and our national accreditor (ATS). This was the year for that process. It was indeed a very intense experience, but it has been a positive experience. Our regional accreditor (SACS) has given us formal approval for another decade of accreditation. The formal approval of our national accreditor (ATS) is expected in February.

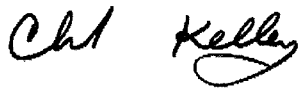
For several years we have been operating a dig site in Israel at the ancient city of Gezer. This summer the team made some extremely significant discoveries, giving new insight into the Bible and the ancient world. We opened a Museum of Archaeology and the Bible on campus, giving our students and guests an opportunity to see a number of artifacts from the ancient world, significant Bible manuscripts, and published editions of Scripture through the centuries. Our programs in apologetics, expository preaching, and counseling continue to be very popular with our students.

We remain intensely focused on access, with a view toward making every program we have accessible for both residential and non-residential programs through multiple delivery systems. We believe strongly in the distinctive value of residential programs, but we also made undergraduate, graduate, and all doctoral programs, including the PhD, available to those students who are called but unable to relocate to New Orleans. These programs are offered through on-campus programs, off-campus programs, mentoring programs, online programs, and hybrid programs combining more than one delivery system. Our goal is to make it possible for anyone God calls to receive some form of theological education, whatever their particular circumstances might be.

One of the most distinctive aspects of NOBTS is our ministry engagement. We offer Christian counseling to our community as we prepare our students to help those who are struggling with their souls and with life. We have a partnership with an addiction recovery program located across the street. In addition to working together on various projects, we do ministry training for both men and women in their program. Watching the progress of the gospel in their lives is amazing. Our work in maximum security prisons continues. We are now in five prisons in four states. In one prison alone our inmate students have started more than 20 congregations on the cell blocks. Conversions, discipleship, and church planting are following the training of inmate ministers in each of the programs we operate. Added to these ongoing ministries are evangelistic visitations in the neighborhoods around us, church planting partnerships with the local association, state convention and the North American Mission Board, and various mission trips at home and abroad.

As we look toward the future we see a horizon bright with opportunity but also filled with challenges. Next year will be the 100th anniversary of NOBTS. As we prepare to celebrate our first century and move into our second century of ministry, we do so with joy, excitement, and gratitude. The biggest opportunities are the many paths available for theological education and the tremendous need for both ministers and lay leaders to be prepared to serve the Lord. The biggest challenges are the need to keep theological education affordable for anyone God calls, the changing culture of the United States and its effects on the church, and the decline that is gripping more and more SBC churches. We must do the best job we have ever done in theological education and ministry preparation, because our churches will need the best leaders we have ever had. Thank you again, Southern Baptists, for your partnership in the gospel. The Cooperative Program is the greatest driver of ministry and missions in the history of our nation. Your support is making a profound impact at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Yours and His,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Kelley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Chuck Kelley
President
NOBTS