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President of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary & Leavell College

Never in my imagination would I have considered that I would be president of one of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, but here I am serving as the President of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

In my teen years I spent entirely too much time involved in drug abuse, which meant I spent many days sleeping through class and barely scraping through school. In my junior year I was arrested twice. That second arrest got my attention in ways that can only be described as the intervention of God in my life.

I was seventeen when I gave my life to Christ at a Christian youth camp. Within just a few weeks, God turned my life completely upside down, giving me the hope of Christ, a clear sense of calling, and the girl that would walk beside me through life and ministry.

Before becoming the president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College, I served as the vice president for undergraduate studies and distance learning at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Before my appointment as Dean of the College at Southeastern, I earned an MDiv and PhD in theological studies.

The month after I was elected as the ninth president of NOBTS, I hopped on a plane to receive a second PhD – this one in philosophy of mind and philosophy of religion – from the University of Birmingham in the UK.

God has used the churches I have served and my educational opportunities to shape me. As I thought and prayed about the vision God has for NOBTS and Leavell College, He put a burden on my heart.

Our broken world awaits a people who will rise up and be about the redeeming work of Jesus Christ our King. If we are anything, we are His servants. We are a people defined by the towel and the basin.

We must be a people who are servants, taking up the towel and the basin and ministering to the broken of this world.

We must be a people who are servants, deeply devoted to Christ with the Gospel on our lips and His mission on our hearts. We must be a people who walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

While academic goals are important, the success of NOBTS and Leavell College will not be measure in enrollment numbers, but on how many men and women we send out with the Gospel to a broken world.

In a city as unique as New Orleans, the opportunities to carry out the Great Commission are plentiful. The future of NOBTS and Leavell College are bright and the road ahead leads to a place where God is already at work.