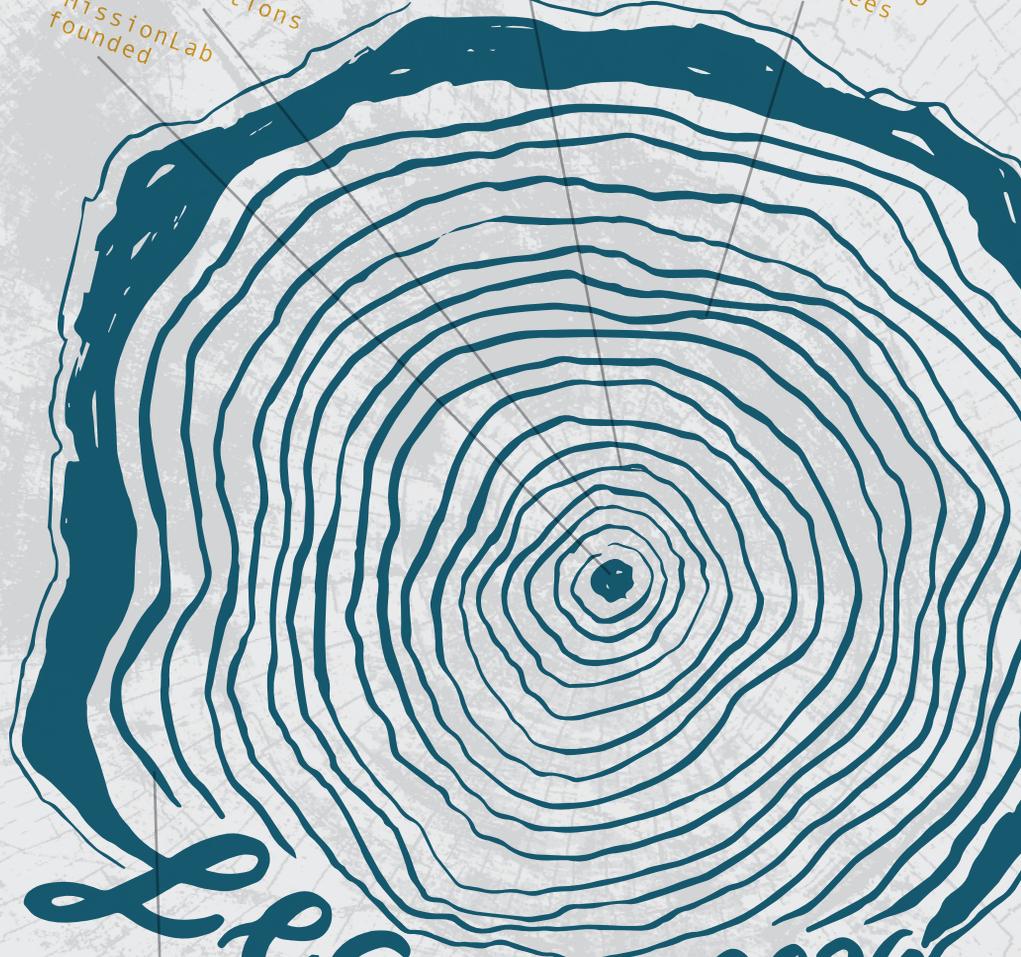


2003-254 salvations  
2000-MissionLab  
founded

2005-Hurricane  
Katrina

2011-Over 3200  
attendees



# Legacy 2020

2019-Over 30,000 Missionlab  
campers cumulative

**NAME:**



**MLAB  
MMXX**

# THEME

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## LEGACY

When you say the word “Legacy” what often comes to mind is something that has been left behind by a person. For example, it could be something handed down from one generation to the next. The thing that is passed down is usually something important to the person who left it. Sometimes it’s money, property, or something else that they might have cared about.

As the MissionLab staff started thinking about 2020, we knew that it was going to be the 20th anniversary of MissionLab. So with the history and vision of MissionLab in mind, we chose the theme Legacy for 2020. With this theme we are hoping to encourage participants to think about what kind of legacy they are going to leave behind.

Our theme verses this year are Colossians 2:6-7, which state, “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” Our goal is for participants to learn about and how to do missions, come and experience missions here in New Orleans, and then return home and continue to serve. We want to leave a Legacy of faith that points others to Christ through our faith in Him and action in serving Him.

So this year while you are here, we hope to point you to a deeper relationship and faith in Christ so that ultimately you can point others in the same way and leave a Legacy of seeking Christ both while you are here in New Orleans and when you return home.

# HISTORY

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## 20 YEARS

MissionLab is a ministry of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary that has been loving and serving the city of New Orleans in the name of Jesus since 2000, setting up trips for groups from all over North America.

We are not just a spring or summer program but have grown into a year round program for people of all ages. At the end of the day, we're about the Gospel of Jesus Christ changing the lives of real people. In a city where the need is so evident, we can't help but be moved to act.

We have been blessed with the opportunity to minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the people of this great city, and we love sharing that opportunity with all our participants.

Our passion is helping groups of all ages understand that missions is not a week-long trip, but instead it is a lifestyle to which all Christians are called.

Our motto (and prayer) is that each participant would "learn missions, do missions, and be a missionary" in New Orleans so they can be missionaries when they return to their hometown. Simply stated, we want our city and our participants to have an authentic relationship with Jesus.

# STAFF

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**PETE HARBIN**

*Director of MissionLab*



**BOB JACKSON**

*Associate Director - Adult Programs*



**BEN BARBER**

*Administrative Assistant*



**LOREN ALDRIDGE**

*NOBTS Liason*



**RYAN WADE**

*Marketing Assistant*

# DAY 1

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**READ:** Colossians 2:1-5

**THINK:** Paul is currently imprisoned in Rome and he opens up this chapter essentially saying this: *Know this, I have a great agony, struggle, desire, for all of you that I haven't seen.*

---

Here's why:

***"that their hearts  
may be encouraged,"***

Paul was literally meaning that their hearts were strengthened. This isn't a call for cardiac health... like stop eating fried food and walk for thirty minutes a day. The strengthening that Paul is calling for is a strengthening that only comes from being filled with the Holy Spirit. Paul is writing in hopes of salvation of the people in Colossae.

***"being knit together  
in love,"***

Paul is calling the church to be united here. If the church is going to be effective disciple makers they must be united in love. We also see this in 1 Cor. 13:1-3, Eph. 4:16, Col. 2:19.

***"to reach all the riches  
of full assurance of  
understanding and the  
knowledge of God's  
mystery, which is Christ,  
in whom are hidden all the  
treasures of wisdom and  
knowledge."***

"Understanding" here literally means knowing to the point of application, this shapes this section of the passage a little differently. Paul wants them to be able to live like Jesus is the Christ, because in him is all understanding. If Jesus is who he says he is then a lot of things change for us. If Jesus is the Christ then the only appropriate response from us is absolute surrender.

Verse 4 says:

***"I say this in order that no  
one may delude you with  
plausible arguments."***

We will get much deeper into this later on in the week, but for now know it is so important for the church in Colossae and the church today to know exactly who Jesus is. Once again, if Jesus is the Christ everything changes. Not only that, but if someone can say that Jesus wasn't the Messiah then Christianity falls apart. Our entire faith rests on the fact that Jesus was the Son of God, the sinless sacrifice, and the risen Savior. Many other cults and religions will claim that Jesus was simply a great prophet. If Jesus was only a prophet then Christians have no foundation for hope.

# DAY 1

---

***"<sup>15</sup>For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ."***

Paul was imprisoned in Rome at the moment, so he relates the Colossian Church to the Roman army. "Good order" literally meant a line of soldiers and firmness referred to the solidity of the formation. Paul was rejoicing that the church was standing firm against the issues and heresies that it was facing.

---

## **CONSIDER:**

1. Are you united with your church? Are there any problems among your team that you need to work out so that you have unity?
2. Are you living like you understand that Jesus is the Christ and deserves your complete surrender?
3. Are you standing firm in your faith?

## **PRAY:**

- Pray for your church as you get ready to go out this week.
- Pray that your team will have unity among everyone.
- Pray that you will have full assurance of what you believe in Christ.

# DAY 2

---

**READ:** Colossians 2:6-7

**THINK:** *Just as you received...*

---

***"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."***

Paul starts this passage off with "Therefore"; take a moment to look back at what we learned yesterday before you move forward. This is important because he is building on the idea that he established in the last five verses.

***"As you received Christ Jesus the Lord"***

We know that Paul is writing to believers. The following verses are only going to be applicable to those who have "received Christ Jesus the Lord." It is important to note the language here, Paul emphasized that you received Christ Jesus THE LORD, not Christ Jesus the healer, or Christ Jesus the money giver, or Christ Jesus the relationship fixer...Christ Jesus **THE LORD**. What does this mean? This means that as a Christian you put your faith in the risen savior who lived a perfect life and was murdered for your sins. See the emphasis is that he is Lord, many of us have been given this lie that we just need to say a prayer and everything will be okay, regardless if we continue to live in sin or not. You see Paul is writing to those who have completely surrendered to Christ's authority in every little detail of their life.

***"So walk in Him,"***

Paul is painting a picture of active faith. Paul tells the church **WALK** in **HIM**. He doesn't say sit in your favorite pew in Him, or on Easter and Christmas participate in Him, or when it's cool tip-toe in Him but make sure no one sees you...he says walk in him.

Look at 1 John 2:6:

***"whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."***

As Christians who have put their faith in Jesus as Lord we should be walking it out in everything we do.

***"rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."***

*Rooted* - firmly planted

*Built up* - growing

*Established* - solid

# DAY 2

---

***"When Jesus saves our soul we become firmly planted in him, meaning that there is nothing that will ever take our salvation away!"***

As we are being disciplined we are being built up, we are growing in our knowledge of scripture, we are growing in the ways that we practice the spiritual disciplines, and we are ultimately growing in our relationship with Christ. Through this we are becoming established. Anything that is labeled established means that it is real, it is unshakeable, it is solid. As we grow in our faith we become established like the heroes in the faith who we have learned from. When we are rooted, built up, and established we are going to overflow and abound in thanksgiving. If you aren't overflowing are you missing something?

---

## **CONSIDER:**

1. Have you received Christ as Lord?
  - a. If no, why not?
  - b. If yes, write down your testimony and use it to share the gospel today.
2. How are you walking out your faith daily?
3. Are you overflowing?
  - a. Are you rooted?
  - b. Who is building you up?
  - c. Who are you building up?

## **PRAY:**

Pray for anyone on your team that might not know Christ, that they would come to know him as Lord and Savior today.

Pray for boldness to walk out your faith today and share Christ with someone.

# DAY 3

---

**READ:** Colossians 2:8-10

**THINK:** Yesterday, we looked a lot at what it means to be grounded in our faith. We looked at what it means to be rooted and built up in the faith. Today is a step deeper into the water. In verses 8-10 Paul tells us exactly why we must be rooted.

---

***“See to it that no one takes you captive”***

The language here is not casual. Paul uses language that was similar to wars or battle. Paul's phrase literally meant spoils of war. See to it that no one takes you as a spoil of war. This is interestingly in line with some of the other “war-like” language that Paul uses. Think of the armor of God passage. Paul is calling Christians to wage war against the following:

***“By philosophy and empty deceit”***

The church in Colossae was similar to the American church in this way. Paul said they were lovers of wisdom. Often we feel that we need to figure out everything on our own. Knowledge is not inherently bad...but when we take God out of our pursuit of knowledge it becomes empty deceit. Take evolution for example, we chased the knowledge of how we began in a godless way and are left with a godless, deceitful way of looking at creation.

This attitude of loving wisdom and chasing after it stems from two sources:

***“according to human tradition,”***

Also see Mark 7:5-9 and 1 Peter 1:18  
Tradition is simply things passed down from generation to generation, this is not a problem until we accept things that are against what scripture commands. Many believe things just because, “That’s what everyone believes,” or, “That’s what I have always been told.” This leads to blind belief in falsehood. I am not saying that you should be extremely cynical...but I am saying that “why?” is not a bad question. Scripture is God's word and what we should run everything through.

***“according to the elemental spirits of the world,”***

Galatians 4:3  
This basically just meant elementary thought and belief... the danger is that we resort back to the original ways we think. That we return to a works based salvation, instead of salvation by grace and grace alone.

# DAY 3

---

**BUT...**

***“and not according to Christ.”***

This is the turning point. All of the things listed are against scripture, and not according to Christ. But from here on out he is changing the focus.

***“<sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,”***

One in three. C.S. Lewis said that Christ is either the messiah or a madman. This changes everything. What does it mean if Christ is truly God? How does that change your life?

***“<sup>10</sup>and you have been filled in him,”***

As Christians we believe that we have been filled with the Holy Spirit. On top of that we know that Christ is fulfilling. Apart from Jesus we have nothing, but with him we are completely full. This is interesting when you look at the rest of the passage...remember that the Colossians were chasing wisdom. Paul told them that they are filled in Christ.

***“who is the head of all rule and authority.”***

He is not lesser than anyone. We shouldn't treat him as less than anyone or anything in our lives. Jesus is second to none.

Here's the deal. We must wage war with what the world tells us. We have to look to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in everything; we do this by looking at scripture. This is not easy, but it's necessary and worth it.

---

## **CONSIDER:**

1. What do you believe (and live by) that is against scripture?
2. How are you waging war against the culture?
3. Is Christ at the center of all your beliefs?
4. Is Jesus the ultimate authority in your life? If so, how do you show that in your daily life?

## **PRAY:**

Pray that you will continue to grow in your faith and have assurance in what you believe.  
Pray that you will make Christ the center of all aspects of your life and will live that out daily.

# DAY 4

---

**READ:** Colossians 2:11-15

**THINK:** Yesterday we looked at what it means to value Christ over everything. We talked about how we have to center our lives on things of the Lord, not things of the world. Today, once again, we take a step deeper. We saw that we have to be rooted in Christ, yesterday we saw how this is lived out, and today we see exactly why we should live this out.

---

***“In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.”***

There is a lot here. First, it is necessary to look at what circumcision is, and what it was used for. In the Old Testament, before the crucifixion, the first step to becoming a righteous man was circumcision. The Colossian church was guilty of living in this legalistic mindset post-crucifixion. Instead of putting their faith in Jesus, they were putting their faith in their own works. Students, as Christians we are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands. We have been saved by grace through faith. We put off the body of the flesh... Galatians 2:20 says that it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me...Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3 that he must be born again...Romans 6:5-11 says that we have died to our old self and put on a new self. All of this points to the fact that we are a new creation that is completely not of our own. We cannot circumcise ourselves into the Kingdom...Jesus did that for us.

***“<sup>12</sup>having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.”***

First things first: Baptism does not save you. You being baptized does not earn your ticket into heaven. Baptism is only symbolic, and is a proclamation to the church that you have been saved. When we go under the water it is like we are being buried, and when we come up out of the water it is showing us cleansed by the powerful working of God. Much like God raised Jesus from the dead, in salvation Jesus raises us from the dead. Eph. 2 says we were DEAD in our trespasses, but Jesus reaches in and gives us life. In baptism we are showing people exactly what happens in salvation; we die to ourselves and Jesus raises us again in Him.

# DAY 4

---

***“<sup>13</sup>And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities[b] and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”***

I have already talked some on this in the last point, but Paul is stressing it here because it is **SO** important. We were so far gone into sin we were dead...all of us. Thankfully, God saved us and made us alive. God did not have to save us, but he did, because he loved us, he forgave us of all of our sins. It gets better though. God didn't just forgive us, he cancelled the debt that we owed. He did this by nailing it to the cross. In this he showed his ultimate authority over sin and death, along with everything else in the world.

---

## CONSIDER:

1. Are you trying to earn your salvation, instead of putting your faith in Jesus?
2. Are you putting your faith in anything other than Jesus, including religious practices such as baptism, communion, or even mission trips?
3. If you have not accepted the free payment for your sins, by placing your faith in Jesus, what is holding you back?
4. How can you share this information today? Who will you share it with?
5. What kind of Legacy will people remember of you? Will they remember you as someone who stood firm in their faith and shared Christ with others?

## PRAY:

- Pray that you will put your full assurance and faith in Christ in everything you do.
- Pray that you will be able to share Christ with someone today.
- Pray for an opportunity to share what Christ has done for you.





# PRAYER NEEDS

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You've spent a week in New Orleans seeing our city up close, meeting the people who live here, and sharing in what God's doing. Just because you're heading home doesn't mean that you lose the connection you now have to New Orleans. Here's how you can keep praying for this city:

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## The People of NOLA

Pray for people in New Orleans, whether they live here or are just visiting, that are looking in the wrong areas for satisfaction. Pray that they would see that the only way to know true satisfaction is through Christ.

## The Senior Adults

Pray for the senior adults in New Orleans to receive the companionship and support they need to continue to know and share God's love.

## The Kids

Pray for the kids living in neighborhoods throughout the city to be safe and grow up knowing the security of God's love. Pray for their parents to feel the peace that passes understanding that can come only from a relationship with God.

## The Teachers

Pray for the teachers in our schools to know how to guide and educate our young people.

## The Other Groups

Pray for the MissionLab groups who will be coming after you. Pray that they find ways to serve and minister in this community and learn from that experience to minister back home.

## The MLab Staff

Pray for the MissionLab staff as we continue to work with groups in New Orleans. Pray that we will know where to place them and how to help them take part in what God's doing here.

# COME SEE US NEXT YEAR

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March 7-12  
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March 21-26

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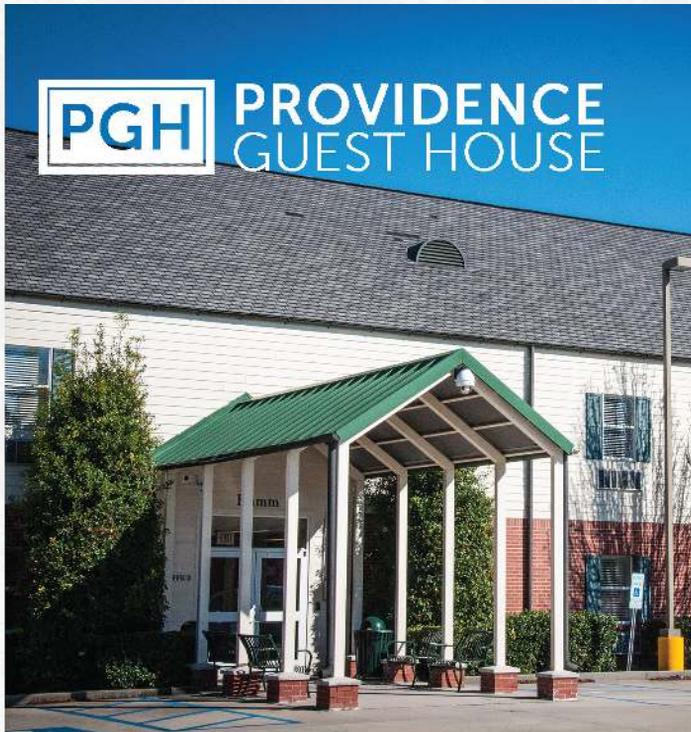
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# THANKS FOR SERVING WITH MISSION LAB!

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Material written by the MissionLab staff.

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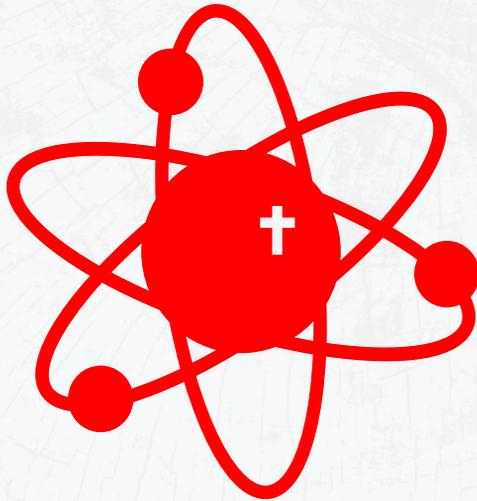
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