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Co-Editor's Column
WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED
 Garland Elkins



MSOP—CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE

The numeral forty has been used both in the Bible and in our culture in a way that creates excitement and anticipation. That is especially true of its usage in the Bible. In the days of Noah, it rained upon the earth forty days and forty nights (Gen. 7:4, 12, 17; 8:6). Isaac was forty years old "when he took Rebekah to wife" (Gen. 25:20). The children of Israel ate manna forty years (Exo. 16:35). "Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights" (Exo. 24:18). "The spies searched out the land of Canaan forty days" (Num. 13:25; cf. 14:33). Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights (Mat. 4:2). The above passages are but a few that could be cited.

The Memphis School of Preaching began forty years ago at the Getwell Church of Christ. For the last thirty-eight years, it has been at Forest Hill (formerly Knight Arnold).

MY IMPRESSIONS OF MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

I have lived in Memphis for more than thirty years, and the last fifteen of those years, I have been on the faculty of MSOP. However, before I became an instructor, since I lived in Memphis, and the school was very young when I moved to town, I have known almost everyone connected with MSOP. Thus, I was well acquainted with the school. From the very beginning of MSOP until now, I have always recommended it.

The school has always been sound in the faith. Some twenty-four years ago, brother Roy J. Hearn, long time director of the school, called me, and said that his health was failing, and asked me to recommend a man to succeed him. I immediately recommended brother Curtis A. Cates, a faithful and able gospel preacher, and a well-known educator, who was at the time the Dean of Columbia Christian College, and at one time Dean of Alabama Christian School of Religion (now Southern Christian University). In our last conversation before brother Hearn's death, I said to him, "The school was sound in the beginning and has remained sound, and I know that means much to you." He agreed that the school was (and is) as sound now as it has ever been.

A FEW OF THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MSOP

More than 1,000 preachers have been educated at MSOP. Graduates of MSOP have preached throughout the United States. They have started new congregations, preached for establish congregations, started Bible schools, taught in colleges and schools of preaching in numerous states and nations. They have preached in numerous foreign countries, and they have established many new

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From The Director

JOB, WHO WAS TRIED AS GOLD (IV)

HOW DID JOB COME FORTH AS GOLD?

Truly, it seemed to Job that he was suffering grievous pain alone. How does one possibly imagine that he was able to suffer trial in fire patiently?

One, Job had long been a faithful servant of the Lord, evidently from his youth, which is implied from the faithfulness and godliness of his children and from his being widely honored for his godly life. As Abraham after him, Job had long fortified and launched out upon his faith. God had taken care of him in every circumstance and eventuality when Abraham trusted and obeyed God. Likewise, Job had always trusted and obeyed. This fortified him for the vastly greater trials [unfathomable in his mind] which were to come. When great trials come, one cannot magically just reach up and pull "faith" out of the air. That kind of confidence and trust is to be built over a lifetime.

Two, Job had long been a faithful steward of his mind. It is the pure of heart who are blessed (Mat. 5:23; Pro. 4:23). Christ said, "But the things which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries" (Mat. 15:18-20). In his heart, Job feared God and hated evil (1:1;31:27-28;31:1). Job trusted in God, not in his wealth (31:24; Luke 12:15).

Three, Job had long been a faithful steward of his riches. He would not have to face God with his worldly possessions having rusted and that rust be a testimony to his selfish folly and greed (Jam. 5:1-6;Mat. 6:19-20). How had he used his riches? He fed the poor, supported the widow, and nourished the orphan (31:16-21, 31-32).

Four, Job had long been a person of high ethics and generosity in counsel and in dealing with his fellow man, even with his own servants. Knowing that no person can love God and at the same time hate his fellow man and mistreat him, Job maintained spotless integrity. He absolutely refused to deal in carrying falsehood, rumor, and deceit (31:5). He would not be a party to a gossip mill; such lying, wicked, mischievous sowers of discord, who murder people's good names, are guilty of virtually all of the seven sins listed by Solomon, through inspiration, as hated by God (Pro. 6:16-19).

Though Job could have taken advantage of the poor, the widows, the orphans, he rather "delivered the poor;" the fatherless, the widow (29:12-17). When he did not know the details of a case, he searched it out. And, when those who hated Job had problems, he did not rejoice (31:29-30).

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Memphis School of Preaching



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GENERAL INFORMATION

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Attend The Annual
MSOP LECTURES
 Which Begin the Last Sunday of March and Continue Through the Following Thursday.
March 26-30, 2006 ••• Theme: "The Gospel Of Christ"

PREACHING GOD'S WORD IN THE FAR EAST

Billy Bland

On November 16, **Curtis Cates, Lennie Reagan, and Billy Bland** headed to the Far East to teach God's Word at the Four Seas Youth Bible Seminar, participate in the Annual Asian Bible Lectureship in Singapore, preach Gospel Meetings in Malaysia and speak on the Metro Manila School of Preaching Lectureship.

Four Seas College of the Bible hosted The Four Seas Youth Bible Seminar November 21-24. More than fifty young people attended from Malaysia, Australia and Singapore and "camped out" in the building of the Jurong Church of Christ. Each morning, brother **Eddy Ee**, evangelist for Jurong, and Instructor at Four Seas College, spoke on the topic of "Christian Counseling." **Billy Bland** discussed "Christian Evangelism," followed by "Developing Christian Leadership," by **Lennie Reagan**. Each evening, brother **Curtis Cates**, preached on "Christian Dating, Courtship and Marriage." Brother Cates' session was held in the evening so others could also hear this particular topic. Because of the good interest, it has been suggested that this become a yearly event. Four of the young people attending the seminar were baptized into Christ.

The following week, brethren from many countries, including Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, and the U.S., assembled for the Twenty-First Asian Annual Bible Lectureship. "Christ, The Head Of All Things" (from Ephesians) was the theme. **Terry Bland, Jeremy James, Harold and Carol Mangrum, Tim Wilkes, Sr., along with the brethren mentioned above, spoke** on the Lectureship. Terry and Carol, from all reports, did an excellent job teaching ladies' classes.

Following the AABL, Terry, Harold, and Carol returned home. Lennie Reagan returned to in his son's wedding. Brethren Bland, Cates, James, and Wilkes traveled to Malaysia to preach in meetings with the Damansara Utama, Kuala Lumpur, Subang Jaya, and Klang congregations respectively. Brother Wilkes also taught an Evangelism Workshop at Klang. We were well received by the brethren, and the Gospel Meetings were successful in teaching the lost and edifying the saved.

After completing the Gospel Meetings, we participated in the Third Annual Metro Manila School of Preaching Lectureship. The MMSOP is doing a wonderful job training men in the Philippines to "preach the Word" (2 Tim. 4:2). The Director is **Gideon Rodriguez** (overseen by the **Looxahoma Church of Christ, Senatobia, Mississippi**). A well-trained, dedicated faculty consisting of John Dirk Diamante, Edward Manimtim, and George Villanueva assists him. Brethren Rodriguez, Diamante, and Manimtim are graduates of the Memphis School of Preaching. Brother Villanueva graduated from Four Seas. The theme of the Lectureship was "God's Word-Portrayed And Exalted." MMSOP also conducted its **Third Graduating Exercises**, with twelve more faithful men graduating. Brother Cates did a great job addressing the graduating students.

It is edifying to see many good works being accomplished in Southeast Asia. However, there is still **much work to do**. Our Lord expects us to carry His Gospel into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature (Mat. 28:18-20, Mark 16:15). We, according to His mercy, look forward to new opportunities He provides and are thankful to Him for using us in His great Cause. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever. Amen" (Eph. 3:20-21).

(CATES: Continued from Page 1)

What was his attitude toward his own servants when they begged to differ with him. Though he could have had them killed, with no questions asked by society, he heard them out patiently. Why? "What then shall I do when God riseth up? And when he visiteth [in the day of judgment], what shall I answer him? Did not he that made me in the womb [Job believed in the sanctity of human life (cf. 3:11)] make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?" (31:13-15). When we, dear reader, are tempted to rail on other human beings [perhaps even brethren], we had better remember that God shall call us into account; and then, how shall we answer Him?

Though Job was ruthlessly and falsely accused by his three friends, even lied about, he refused to get on their level. Though he defended himself, he showed his great attitude of heart (16:4-5). He had a far better heart than they.

Five, Job had a strong faith in the resurrection of the last day, as well as in the final judgment. He did not see death as a "dead-end street"; his spirit would still be very much alive (Ecc. 12:7, et al.). His ten children were with God. Through the eye of faith, Job saw the time when "Thou wouldst call, and I would answer thee: Thou wouldst have a desire to the work of thy hands" (14:15), the time of the general resurrection when he would be called forth from the grave (John 5:28-29; 1 The. 4:13-18; et al.). Job not only realized he would face God in judgment (31:14; et al.), he warned his friends that God would call them into account at the judgment (19:28-29).

Six, Job had an unwavering, undaunted, dogged determination to maintain his integrity before God. Only one thing mattered; his consolation was "That I have not denied the words of the Holy One" (6:10; 13:16-19). Never did Job claim sinless perfection, but he did claim never to have committed the grievous sin to warrant the great trials he was enduring. On a number of occasions, he asked for forgiveness (7:20-21), but he refused to acknowledge sins of which his friends had [without basis] accused him and of which he was not guilty. Such would have been a lie.

No matter what, he would not turn from God. After many struggles in his own mind and after answering the accusations of his "friends" to the best of his feeble ability under adverse circumstances, Job began to realize that for some reason he was undergoing a test, not punishment or chastisement (23:10-12). Note how Job meditated on every word from God's truth, how he deviated neither to the right nor to the left of His commandments, and how he trusted in his ultimate vindication and deliverance! Has there ever been a mere mortal with greater faith?

God knew Job's faith, else He would not have allowed him to be so tried! The friends accused God falsely as not trusting even His righteous angels. BUT, the very fact that He asked Satan about His "servant Job" [the greatest appellation possible] showed implicit trust in Job. The honor of both God and Job was at stake; Job would not fail. Job spoke rashly out of great pain and sorrow and out of ignorance, but he never cursed God, as Satan charged would happen. (The conclusion of this study of Job will be in the April issue.)

(ELKINS: Continued from Page 1)

congregations in those nations. I also could name several alumni who are Directors of Schools of Preaching, both in America and in foreign countries.

Space does not permit me to mention many MSOP alumni, but two or three good works will suffice. The fact that one is well known does not necessarily mean that the Lord is more pleased with him, than one who is not well known, but faithful (cf. Mark 12:43).

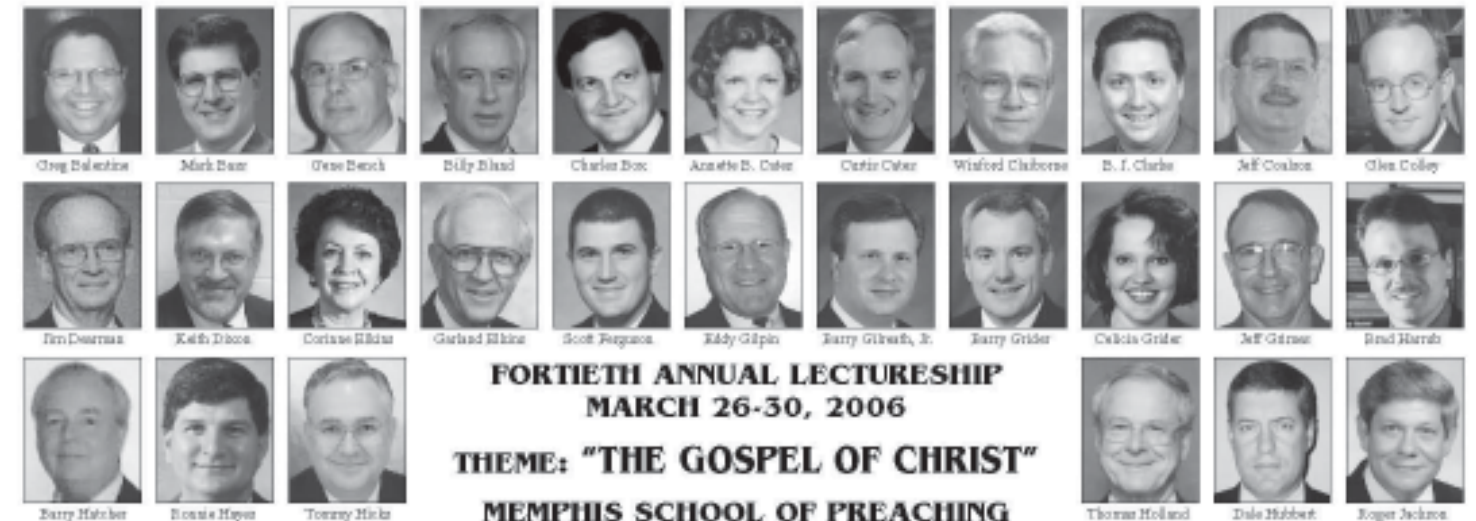
Brother Jim Dearman directs **Gospel Broadcasting Network** (which has tremendous potential). Brother Allen Webster edits the **House to House/Heart to Heart** publication (more widely distributed than the **New York Times**). Brother Barry Grider, great gospel preacher, and part-time instructor at MSOP, is Co-Editor of **The Gospel Journal**. I wish I could mention numerous other MSOP graduates and their great works.

MSOP HAS STAYED WHERE WE WERE

At the Memphis School of Preaching the Bible is believed, respected, honored, and practiced. The Director of the School and all of the instructors are faithful and able, and we are blessed with a wonderful student body. The Forest Hill Church of Christ is a faithful congregation. Her elders love the Lord and His Bible. Brother Barry Grider is both faithful and able, and brother Matthew Martin, a sound man, assists him. We are blessed to have a truly great Bible Lectureship each year, with more than a thousand in attendance.

AN APPRECIATION DINNER FOR MSOP

Each year during our annual Lectureship, we honor a worthy person with an appreciation dinner. This year **Curtis A. Cates, Director of the school, and Bobby Liddell, Associate Director, and Lectureship Director, have decided that we will have a dinner celebrating forty years of the Memphis School of Preaching. Among the speakers will be alumni of MSOP. Why not attend the Lectureship and be present for this great occasion? The time of the Lectureship is March 26-30, 2006. The time of the dinner is Monday, at 4:15 p.m.**



FORTIETH ANNUAL LECTURESHIP MARCH 26-30, 2006

THEME: "THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST"

MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

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Table with 3 columns: Day/Time, Topic, and Speaker. Includes sections for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with various classes and intermissions.

