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NEW VIDEO FOR FUND RAISING AND RECRUITMENT

Mike McDaniel

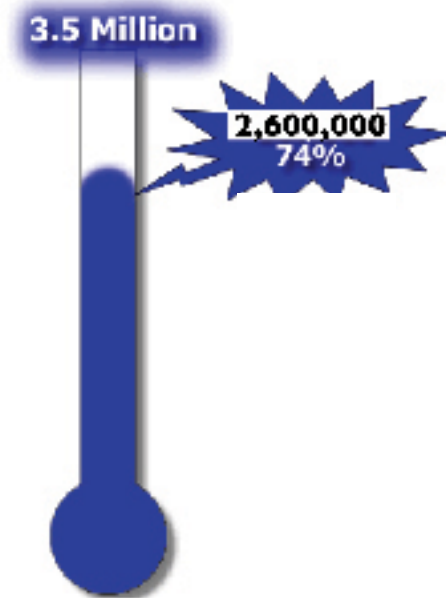
A new video (twelve minutes long), to be utilized in fund-raising for student housing, as well as for student recruitment for the Memphis School of Preaching, has now been completed. Soon, it will be sent to friends of the school, and will be posted on the MSOP web site. We are praying that it will be productive of much good. Thanks to Dustin Forthun and Rick Lawson for their able assistance in the production and editing of the video. Thanks also to brethren Liddell, Cates, Elkins, Clarke, and Martin for their time and efforts in the making of it.

We are excited to announce we need under a million dollars to eliminate indebtedness on the apartments. Brethren, we plan to reach this goal by the end of 2008. We can do it with your help!

One alumnus had a fund-raising campaign within the local congregation. He told the members that he was trying to raise \$1000 for the student apartments at MSOP, and asked if they would help him reach his goal. Each week, he put, in the bulletin, the amount which he had raised. The amount increased gradually until the goal was reached. Perhaps you can do something like this where you attend.

I think it would be helpful for each alumnus to contact congregations, in the area, with whom they have close relations, and ask them to put the fund-raising campaign for the student housing at the Memphis School of Preaching on their prayer list. Let us place this need on the hearts of our brethren who may in turn place this need before the throne of our Heavenly Father.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Brother McDaniel has been a tremendous worker as Alumni Association President. He has much ability, a very creative mind, and a splendid way of accomplishing the task before him. His dedication is a wonderful source of encouragement to all who love the School. Many thanks to brethren McDaniel, Forthun, and Lawson for their excellent work in producing this video. Contact MSOP for a free copy. BL)



INFORMATION ABOUT

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- 54 Courses, 164 Semester Hours, 2,960 Clock Hours In Classes
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THE BEAUTY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Daniel F. Cates

Recently, I came across an unexpected tribute to the beauty of the New Testament. It was in the preface of a translation of a book called **The Campaigns of Alexander**. The translator was Aubrey de Selincourt, an authority on the Greek language. Selincourt had translated works by many "classical" authors including Herodotus, Livy, and Arrian (who wrote the aforementioned book). In the preface, Selincourt lamented that the Greek writers of the period during which the New Testament was being written were "deliberately archaizing, consciously imitating, or trying to imitate, the literary language and style of three or four hundred years [earlier-DFC]."

To put that statement in modern terms, he was basically saying that the writers were making their works look like they belonged to an earlier age of Greek literature in the way that one might "antique" a piece of furniture to make it appear older. In Selincourt's opinion, that did not increase either the value or readability of their works, for "the best literary style is that which best achieves the effect of naturalness."

Selincourt used this recognition as an opportunity to defend the form of Greek used to pen the New Testament. He did this because, "For centuries scholarship...supposed that the Greek of the New Testament was barbarous and debased"; he mentioned that the antagonistic philosopher Nietzsche attacked Scripture claiming that God "had learnt Greek, and...learnt it so badly," Selincourt said,

But today most of us are wiser, and the beauty of New Testament Greek and its power of expressing what its users wanted it to express make us wish that professional literary men, too, of that epoch had taken their language warm from contemporary lips instead of seeking it in the written pages of the past.

To summarize, Selincourt knew Greek! He had not only read, but had translated Greek manuscripts written over a period of more than half a millennium. His wish was that the other writers of Luke's, Peter's, Paul's, John's, and the other New Testament writers' day had written in the beautiful style in which they wrote!

Luke's inspired words seem apropos: "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13).

MSOP STUDENTS CONDUCT FOUR GOSPEL CAMPAIGNS

Billy Bland

In addition to their regular intensive Bible study, students of the Memphis School of Preaching go on Gospel campaigns. In these campaigns, the students (and some members of the congregation where they are working) knock on doors inviting the residents of the community to hear the Gospel preached at the local congregation in a Gospel Meeting conducted in the evening. They also attempt to establish individual home Bible studies and/or Bible correspondence courses. These campaigns are conducted in the Fall and Spring of the year. The week of October 28 through November 1, 2007, the student body and a few of the wives were divided into four groups and went on four different campaigns.

One group went to Saltillo, Mississippi, and worked with the Mayfield church of Christ. The campaign workers knocked 1,964 doors which resulted in 5 home Bible studies (with 12 more follow-ups yet to be established), and 3 Bible correspondence courses. Brother Andy Cates started the Gospel Meeting on the Lord's day with his dad, brother Curtis A. Cates, completing the Gospel Meeting on Monday through Thursday evenings. Brother Adam Miller is the local evangelist for the Mayfield congregation.

In the second campaign, with the Harmony Grove church of Christ located in Commerce, Georgia, students knocked on 972 doors, establishing 15 home Bible studies and 16 Bible correspondence courses. Additionally, they gave out 15 "Searching For Truth" DVDs. Billy Bland preached in the Gospel Meeting. Brother Jeff Coalson (1994 MSOP graduate), is their local preacher. Many of the members also aided in the door knocking. The congregation was well prepared and organized for the campaign.

A third campaign was conducted with the Truman church of Christ in Higginsville, Missouri. 2,100 doors were knocked which resulted in 7 home Bible studies and 10 Bible correspondence courses. There were 2 baptisms during this campaign. Brother Matthew Martin (associate preacher for Forest Hill and MSOP graduate), preached in the Campaign in Higginsville. Brother David Long (1991 MSOP Graduate), is the local preacher.

The fourth Campaign was conducted in Salem, Virginia, with the Westside church of Christ. The campaigners knocked on 3,655 doors which resulted in 4 home Bible studies and 12 Bible correspondence courses being established. They also gave out 15 "Searching For Truth" DVDs. Brother Wayne Rodgers (a student a MSOP), started the Gospel Meeting on the Lord's Day with brother Jerry Martin completing the Gospel Meeting, preaching Monday through Thursday evenings. Brother Eddy Gilpin (1985 MSOP graduate) serves the Westside congregation as its local evangelist, as well as one of its elders.

Total figures of all four campaigns are: 8,691 doors knocked with 31 home Bible studies and 41 Bible correspondence courses being established. The Gospel was preached each day, Sunday through Thursday, and there were two baptisms during the Campaigns.

In the Spring of 2008, campaigns are scheduled for: Richmond, VA, Crossett, AR, New Orleans, LA, and Jessierville, AR.

APPRECIATION, CONFIDENCE, AND A PRAYER

Curtis A. Cates

Dear fellow Christians, a tremendous work of the Lord dear to my heart is the Memphis School of Preaching. I will address this work in three areas: appreciation, confidence, and a prayer.

In the first place, I wish to express my deepest **appreciation** to you and to the other faithful brethren who for more than four decades have supported the School in its invaluable work of educating capable, dedicated "men of the Book." The approximately twelve hundred men, with their dedicated families, have preached the gospel in countless foreign countries and throughout the United States. In addition, graduates are also involved in teaching, writing, directing, and/or otherwise working and serving in numerous schools, major periodicals, radio-television media, and lectureship series in the U. S. and abroad. Our Savior Himself stated, "Therefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Mat. 7:21). I believe the Memphis School of Preaching, under the capable oversight of the faithful Forest Hill eldership, has brought forth good fruit and that the church universally has benefitted.

In the second place, I wish to express my deepest **confidence** in the School's unswerving, determined dedication to the old primitive gospel. Absolute loyalty to the pristine, pure Word has been its "polar star," under the directorship of Roy J. Hearn and Curtis A. Cates, and now under the capable directorship of Bobby Liddell. Her graduates have always known "the Book," and that powerful purpose and result continues—and shall continue! Thus, I feel very privileged and excited to continue with the MSOP and have every confidence in the elders, the director, and the faculty.

Consequently, in the third place, I wish to express my deep **prayer**. God is good. His Word teaches us that He hears fervent prayers of His precious children when those prayers are to His glory. Brethren, the Lord has blessed the School with a beautiful campus and great facilities, including the stately N. B. Hardeman Library. Now, through His marvelous grace and the vision and faith of so many, thirty-two wonderful three-bedroom apartments have been erected on campus, which are now housing over forty splendid future preachers [students] and their wives and children. How delightful to see them walk hand-in-hand to the church services, or to the Hardeman Library to do research, or to classes in the School! How delightful to see the closeness the students are building with one another, to see their children playing together! I wish you folks could be here to witness these tremendous blessings.

What is my prayer? That the remaining \$900,000 indebtedness [of the total cost of \$3,500,000] can be soon paid off. Brethren, I thank you for all you have done and continue to do. You can have every confidence in our continuing, unswerving loyalty to truth. Please allow me, then, to ask you. Will you join me in my prayer for this special need? **Can you help financially by specifically placing the apartments in your budget for 2008, or give a one-time contribution toward this \$900,000 goal?** What a tremendous help to the cause of Christ—not to owe anything for student housing! What a great saving this would be as we educate these students to preach thirty, forty, fifty, or more years! What a boost it would be to sending faithful laborers into the ripe harvest! I pray that you can help. God bless you all.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Ever since the Memphis School of Preaching began in 1966, **contributions made at the close of the calendar year have been vital** to its work. MSOP receives no federal or state grants, or other governmental support, and charges no tuition or fees of its students. Instead, the School is supported by the Forest Hill congregation, and by other faithful brothers and sisters, individually and congregationally, who are convinced of the continuing need to train men to preach the Gospel of Christ.

The many hundreds of graduates preaching throughout the world tell us their training at MSOP was the hardest work they ever did—and loved! Equal to more than four years of college in two years (164 semester hours), the course demands that students learn discipline and diligence as they learn the Scriptures and the practical aspects of preaching.

These end-of-year gifts are very helpful because of the needs of students who have not raised all of their living expenses (some are doing without, but are continuing in their studies), January enrollment of new students, anticipated lectureship expenses in March, and catching up with unanticipated expenses involved in the day-to-day operation of the School.

More than four decades of faithful service to the Lord, and to the Cause of Christ, have shown the School is worthy of the support of brethren. **These donations are needed, are fully tax deductible, of course, and they are a Godsend to the work of MSOP.**

Please help if you can.

THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF THE
MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING
WISH FOR YOU AND YOURS
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND A PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR!**

WANT AN ADMISSIONS PACKET?

Are you interested in preparing yourself to preach the Gospel? Or, do you know some faithful man who is? We will be happy to send an information packet containing all one needs to get started.

Next Enrollment Is: JAN. 21, 2008

Already, we have accepted a good number of quality students, and we hope you will be among the graduating class of 2009! There is still room and time to complete the admission process—but hurry. Contact us today!

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