



## Laborers Together Newsletter

### Memphis School of Preaching Alumni Association

“For we are laborers together with God. . .”  
(1 Cor. 3:9)

**Mike McDaniel, President**  
**Larry Powers, Recording Secretary**  
*Volume 2, No. 2*

**Skip Andrews, Vice President**  
**Keith A. Mosher Sr., Treasurer**  
*March-May 2007*

## THE PASSING OF THE MANTLE

*Mike McDaniel*

According to Homer’s *Odyssey*, when King Odysseus went off to fight the Trojan war, he left his son Telemachus in the hands of a wise old man named Mentor. Mentor was charged with the task of teaching the young man wisdom. More than 2000 years after Homer, a French scholar adapted the story of Telemachus into a novel, and in it, he enlarged the character of Mentor. The word *mentor* soon came to mean a wise and responsible tutor – an experienced person who advises, guides, teaches, inspires, challenges, corrects, and serves as a model. Timothy had one in Paul. Mark had one in Barnabas. Joshua had one in Moses. Elisha had one in Elijah. And, Bobby Liddell has one in Curtis Cates.

Just as Elijah cast his mantle or outer garment upon Elijah signifying his successor, so the mantle was passed on March 27, 2007 to a faithful servant named Bobby Liddell. For some time, until the Lord called him home, Elijah and

Elisha shouldered the ministry of God together. We are thankful that brother Cates will stay on and work as Director Emeritus and as an instructor in the school.



*The Time of Transition*

When the time comes, God calls others to take our place and equips them for the task. What was it about Elisha that impressed God so? I believe it was the qualities of devotion, determination and desire. Elisha desired the mantle. God entrusted it to him. It is exciting to read further in the book of Second Kings to see what God did in Elisha’s life and for the school of the prophets.

At MSOP, it is exciting to see and to hear and to know what God has wrought. However, we cannot live in the past, on the past, and for the past. We must accept the wonderful heritage of the past and trust the living God for strength today as the work of preacher training continues. We solicit your prayers on brother Liddell’s behalf.

# FROM THE NEW DIRECTOR BOBBY LIDDELL

Dear fellow alumni:

Sharing with you the blessing of being an alumnus of Memphis School of Preaching is a joyous privilege and cherished honor. I greatly value my diploma from MSOP because of what was required of me to obtain it, and because it represents an education made possible by the faithful labors and loving sacrifices of so many others, but also in that it signifies a special relationship, and a unique bond, with some of the finest preaching brethren anywhere.

Although no verbal statement of gratitude, on my part, could ever adequately express the depth of appreciation I feel for what the School has given to me and made possible for me, I have pledged myself to showing my gratitude by faithfully serving the Lord, especially through my work at MSOP, as well and as wisely as I possibly can.

As in the past, the vital work of Memphis School of Preaching is far greater than any one church or individual, and requires the joint participation of all of us. The selfless dedication, generous support, and fervent prayers of alumni have been exemplary in working to bring MSOP to where it is today. Now, perhaps more than ever, there is a pressing need for all of us to work together in the accomplishment of educating men to preach, faithfully and fearlessly, the gospel to the multiplied billions of souls in this world.

Will you join with me, dear brethren

beloved, in fulfilling the purpose and work of the School? Will you help MSOP to continue faithfully training men to go forth to preach the saving Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world? Will you pray for this vital work, encourage men to preach, and encourage faithful brethren to support MSOP? I trust you will – I know you will – and I look forward to working with you to accomplish all the good we can in the service of our King.

In Christ,  
Bobby Liddell



P.S. My deepest, heartfelt gratitude goes to all who have been so very kind and gracious to encourage me in the undertaking of directing the School. Thank you so very much!

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

At the annual alumni-friends dinner, the following announcement was made. In honor of brother and sister Curtis and Annette Cates, the graduating class of 2007 in conjunction with the alumni association, have established the Curtis A. and Annette Cates Scholarship Fund. This is a scholarship open for contributions and checks can be made out to the Memphis School of Preaching and earmarked "Curtis A. and Annette Cates Scholarship Fund." Any donations in honor of them would be greatly appreciated.

# OUR ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

The selection criteria for MSOP Alumnus of the Year are as follows:

1. *Is exemplary in Christian living (Rom. 1,2; 1 Thess. 2:10).*
2. *Faithfully proclaims the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27; 2 Tim. 4:1-4).*
3. *Has continued to demonstrate primary devotion to preaching for a period of at least 10 years (Acts 4:20; Jer. 20:9).*
4. *Is a fitting example of humble service (Eph.4:1-3; 2 Cor. 10:18).*
5. *Has manifested fruitful labors whereby men may glorify God (Matt. 5:16).*
6. *Has demonstrated his willingness to make personal sacrifices for the cause of Christ [health, financial deprivation, etc.] (Phil. 3:4-*



*11; 2 Cor. 11:23-28).*

7. *If he is married, he has been supported in his work by a wife "faithful in all things" (1 Tim. 3:11).*

8. *If he has children, they must respect their parents, and revere God (Titus 1:6).*

9. *Has lent moral support to MSOP (attended lectureships, etc.)*

The honoree is selected by a vote of the Awards and Recognition Committee.

Our winner this year was brother **Jeff**

**O'Dell** of the class of 1996. Brother O'Dell labors for the church in Ridgely, TN. His son, Bobby O'Dell, introduced him much to Jeff's surprise. Our congratulations to him!

## ALUMNI MOVES

After 16 1/2 yrs at the Shaddy Chapel Church Of Christ in Missouri, Bill and Mary Noblin have moved to the Hazen Church Of Christ in Arkansas. Mary wrote, "We are going home to Arkansas to live near our mothers who are getting up in years, and we want to be with them."

Wayne Jones (1996) was recently named pulpit preacher of the University Church of Christ in San Marcos, Texas.

## NEW ADDITIONS

Congratulations to Derrick (2004) and Mindy Coble on the birth of a son, Haden, born December 28, 2006. Derrick preaches for the Sparta, Tennessee Church of Christ.

Congratulations to Jeremy (2002) and Katie Pierce on the birth of a son, Aymish, born April 16, 2007.

## HONORARY ALUMNI

Brother Charles Miller of Jacksonville, Florida was chosen as one of our honorary alumni. It was very touching at the alumni-friends dinner when brother Donald Rhodes called him and told him.

Brad and Lynn Bradshaw of Norcross, Georgia were our other selections this year. They were unable to be present so sister Joanne Bradshaw accepted the award on their behalf.

# POSSIBLE BOOK PROJECTS

*Mike McDaniel*

## *Brother Hearn's Autobiography*

We have in hand the autobiography of brother Roy J. Hearn. The MSOP Alumni Association Board of Directors is very enthusiastic about publishing it. Our feeling is this. If we do not do it, who will? Obviously, brother Hearn did not take the time to write it just so the manuscript could gather dust on a shelf.

Brother Bob Knox has graciously agreed to do the typesetting of the book. A committee has been appointed to work on this project. The Committee members are: Bob Knox, Keith Mosher Sr, Denny Landon, Russell Kline, and Tim Wilkes II.

Brother Mosher informed me on April 11, 2007 that we now have \$5677.20 in the alumni fund. This is an \$1100.00 increase from the beginning of the lectures in March.

Brethren, I very much would like to see this book published. However, it is imperative that: (1) we have the funds needed in the alumni fund to publish it and (2) that we are willing to take it upon ourselves to help distribute it when it is published.

As the work continues on this project, let me reiterate to each of our alumni that it is crucial that you pay your alumni dues each year so that we will have the wherewithal to accomplish endeavors such as this. Those alumni dues are \$25 for each calendar year. If you have been so blessed that you are able to give more, then by all means feel free to do so. Your check should be made out to the MSOP Alumni Association and sent to brother Mosher at MSOP. Brother Mosher serves as our treasurer, and we are grateful to him for this service which he renders on behalf of all of us.

## *Short Devotions*

From Danny Butler: "Our effort to publish a book of short devotions for use in instances where preachers are called upon to speak needs your help. Please take time to send a brief outline that would be appropriate for such things as nursing home devotions, civic organizations (Lions club etc.). Remember these are usually about 15-20 minutes at the most. The proceeds are needed by our alumni fund to carry on its good work. Send your outline to: Danny Butler, Carbon Hill Church of Christ, P.O. Box 50, Carbon Hill Al. 35549 OR E-mail [dan2006@bellsouth.net](mailto:dan2006@bellsouth.net)

## *Illustrations*

From Russell Kline: "The Alumni Association has decided to pursue the publication of a book of sermon illustrations, as a future fund-raising project. To aid in this, we are asking every alumnus of the school to submit one or more personal illustrations that may be used to illustrate a Biblical principle. The stories may be short or long, funny or sad, or inspirational. They may be about something that has happened to you or your family, or maybe even something you witnessed that someone else said or did. The important thing is that the story is original with you, and not just another 'preacher's story', which might already be copyrighted. Please write down your submissions, and send them to Russell Kline, 1810 Dundee Dr., Madisonville, Kentucky, 42431. You may e-mail brother Kline at: [msop1989@yahoo.com](mailto:msop1989@yahoo.com)."

## PODCASTS OF THIS YEAR'S LECTURESHIP NOW AVAILABLE

For those of you who are on the cutting edge of technology and know what a podcast is – this announcement is for you. *No, this is not a new fishing technique.*

Brother Joey Davis, our webmaster, has just informed me that he has created a podcast on Itunes that will eventually contain all of the audio sermons from the lectureship back to 2003. He tells us that the 2007 lectureship on the Epistles of Corinth is now available. If you have Itunes, you can go to the Itunes store and search for MSOP or Memphis School of Preaching, and it will come up as an available podcast. This allows anyone in the world access to these great and valuable

sermons.

This direct link is also available: <http://www.msop.org/podcast.shtml>. Our webmaster intends to put a link that says "Podcast" on the left menu of the main page of [www.msop.org](http://www.msop.org). He may also run an advertisement in the flash banner for a while on the main page.

This will no doubt make our "mac" alumni very happy. Keep in mind, however, that videos of the lectures remain on the web for viewing through Windows Media Player at [www.oabs.org](http://www.oabs.org) which can be accessed through the MSOP web-site.

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## STUDENT HOUSING PROGRESSING NICELY



Pictures  
Taken On  
March 27,  
2007



**Many Alumni Have Already Helped**

**Yet, \$1.5 Million Is Still Needed**

**What Can You Do To Help Us In Meeting This Need?**