



Laborers Together Newsletter

Memphis School of Preaching Alumni Association

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

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THE MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING: Several Wonderful Opportunities To Serve The Lord And His Cause!

Lee Davis

I am grateful to address the alumni and friends of the Memphis School of Preaching. From time to time, brethren will ask, “what can I do to support the furthering of the Work of Christ?” There are several great works among the brethren that are worthy of support. However, there is none better than the Memphis School of Preaching!

What a blessing it is to come to the school and be trained to preach the pure gospel of Christ! The faculty of the school is sound and greatly experienced in preaching, in local work, and in instructing men in the classroom. The facilities are second to none, and at the heart of the school is the superior N. B. Hardeman Library made possible through the marvelous generosity of his family and many faithful brethren. The student housing enables the students and their families to form life-long ties. The fellowship is the

sweetest this side of Heaven!

It is for these very reasons, fellow alumni, that we should redouble our efforts to find and encourage men of faithfulness to come to the school that we love and appreciate so very much! Do we not owe so much to the school and those that taught us? But most of all, we are debtors to the God of Heaven! (2 Tim. 2:2). Let us recruit students so that they can be trained to do the greatly estimable work of preaching the Word (2 Tim. 4:1-8).

We can also encourage faithful brethren to financially support this excellent work. We need to stress to our home congregations that the investment in training preachers will bring untold benefits that will not be fully known till after the Judgment! I look forward to working with you all as the president of the alumni association of MSOP! Please contact me if I can be of assistance!

ALUMNI NEWS

Moves

Travis Byars (2013) writes, "I am now preaching at the Highway 69 Church of Christ in Columbus, MS. Also, my wife and I are expecting our first child in October."

Stephen Higley (2010) writes, "I will be moving back to the US from doing missionary work in New Zealand at the end of October to preach full-time and will be looking for somewhere to go." His newsletter says, "The Green Card process is progressing very smoothly. I have already been approved in the preliminary stages through the United States Center for Immigration Services (USCIS) for an interview with the Auckland US Consulate. I am currently waiting for contact to be made from them to us about setting up an interview. This is to happen within 30 days. Then, once we are approved to enter the US, I should receive Hannah's Green Card in the mail the following week after the interview. October 31st is the day that my Work Visa expires for living and working in New Zealand. We will be out around this time. Please pray for Hannah. It's not easy leaving family, friends, and especially your country! So far she is doing good with things and is excited to come to the US. If there are any churches looking for a preacher please let me know. Contact e-mail: higster45@yahoo.com".

John Ferguson (1985) is now teaching in the Behavioral Sciences – Sociology and Family Studies at Union University in Jackson, TN and hopes to preach for a congregation in the area.

Jon O'Keefe (1998) writes, "I am moving from Princeton, Indiana as the pulpit preacher. My family and I are moving to Buda, Texas where I am taking the position of Director of Residential Services for the

Central Texas Children's Home. That means I am leaving full-time local work. Please keep my family and me in your prayers as we make this transition."

Glen Head (2014) writes, "I graduated from MSOP less than a week ago and am working with the Sunny Slope church of Christ in Paducah, Kentucky. We have a lectureship coming up in about a month on the 18, 19 and 20 of July. It is the 2014 West Kentucky Bible Lectures."

Frank Paris (1982) is moving from Portageville, MO to Friendship, TN and says he will be semi-retiring. He may do fill-in preaching as needed.

Academic Achievement

Greg Lowery (2007) who is the minister for the Brilliant Church of Christ in Fayette, AL received his BA in Biblical Studies from Amridge University this Spring.

Missions

Lord willing, Billy Bland, Tim Burroughs, and Tim Hayes will be traveling to Vietnam and Singapore the latter part of November and early December. Please remember these in your prayers.

Randall Evans (2007) writes, "Our family (Randall, Cammie, Marshall, and Arielle Evans) is headed to Tanzania (Africa) for a short-term mission trip this month. We are leaving on June 23rd and will be returning July 11th. We will be staying with my brother (Adam Evans) and his family, assisting with their mission work in Tanzania. I will be preaching and assisting with Bible studies as well as teaching Bible classes. We ask for your prayers for this effort."

Ron Gilbert (1995) writes, "Carolyn and I just returned from another mission trip to Malaysia & Singapore. While on this trip we had the privilege to visit 6 different

congregations. We were at Klang, Subang Jaya, Ipoh, Meleka, Johor Bahru and Singapore. Malaysia has a population of around 27 million and is made up of about 60% Muslim, 19% Buddhist, 9% “Christian” or those in denominations, 6% Hindu and about 3% Confucianism, Taoism, and other Chinese religions. I was able to speak at 29 sessions with 7 of these sessions lasting from one and a half hours to two hours. Some of these sessions were Gospel meetings, while some were teacher’s workshops. One was a seminar on mission work. Carolyn was able to conduct 5 teacher’s workshops for the ladies. Before we departed on this trip, we shipped about 200 pounds of Bible class materials to Malaysia to distribute between these 6 congregations. We also took another 80 pounds of material with us on this trip. These congregations were very happy to receive this Bible class material . . . Our focus will now turn to our mission trip to Zambia in August. Funds are still coming in, but we are still short of our goal for the needed funds this year. Most of the 100,000 gospel tracts have been shipped and the rest will be sent soon. We will also be sending several hard copies of our BCC lessons to several places in Africa and several books for the preacher schools we are working with. We have ordered 6,000 NKJV New Testaments that should arrive soon . . . If you brethren reading this can help us, please make your checks to Ronald D. Gilbert-Missions and send to Rock Valley church of Christ, Attn: Ronald D. Gilbert, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN 38506 and mark for “NT for Africa”. A detailed financial report will be sent to those who help with this project.”

John Grubb (HA-2013) writes, I had the privilege to speak at the 9th Annual Chinese Asian Bible Lectureship. The lectureship this year was conducted at a resort outside of Port

Dickson, Malaysia. There were nine speakers and about 200 people from Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, China, and the USA who attended the lectureship. The theme this year was: "Trusting God in Times of Adversity." I had the privilege of speaking twice

Denny Landon (1983) writes, “At the time of writing I am in Asuncion, Paraguay teaching Advanced Hermeneutics in the Asuncion Bible Academy. The church here is very small as the missionaries only know of three churches in the area, so the need for trained men is great. Also, please pray for the Lord's people in Ukraine, especially the eastern portion. Armed men recently entered the Bear Valley building on Sunday morning during the worship assembly and declared the building is now there and that the Russian Orthodox Church is the only church in that region. These brethren are not only dealing with civil war but also religious persecution. I was scheduled to teach Jeremiah there in April but had to cancel due to the situation.”

The Andrew Connally School of Preaching, one of the many Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver extension schools, has recently selected a new director. Sean Hochdorf (1996), a veteran preacher and educator, will assume his duties June 1, 2014. When asked about his vision for ACSOP, Hochdorf said “We have a fantastic faculty that I believe can be further developed and sharpened through a focused mentoring effort. All leaders have the responsibility to develop those whom they serve in order to preserve the integrity of what others who have gone before have labored so diligently to build. When we leave a position of leadership, our legacy is really seen in the number of qualified leaders that were prepared to take over where their predecessor concluded. This goal is of paramount importance to me”. The ACSOP is located in Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa. To

date, they have graduated over 150 students who are preaching in 7 East African countries. Of the 10% of graduates surveyed in 2013, it was reported that they held 57 campaigns, baptized 278 souls and established 47 new congregations. For more information about ACSOP, email Cy Stafford at tz2000@gmail.com.

In Sympathy

Russell Kline (1989) writes, "Please let everyone know that my father-in-law, Edward Rose, passed away on April 29. He was a member of the church of Christ in Minksville, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Joan Rose and his daughter, Tracy (Rose) Kline.

Remember In Prayer

Chris O'Dell, wife of Jeff O'Dell (1997) and mother of Bobby (1995) and Barry (1997), has just been diagnosed with a form of cancer.

Teresa Powers, wife of Larry Powers (1988), suffered a heart attack on June 18th. Larry writes, "She had a heart cath, and the doctors placed one stent in an artery. She is resting well and hopefully will be home by Saturday." Currently she is in the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson, TN.

Trent Childers is in the Methodist Hospital in Memphis suffering with a virus. Please remember these and others in your prayers.

Lectureship

Four Seas Bible College will be hosting its 7th Annual Bible Lectureship on November 26 - 29, 2014. The theme of this years' lectureship is "The Spirit And The Sword." Contact <http://www.fourseas.edu.sg> for more information.

MSOP WORLD MISSIONS PROGRAM

The MSOP World Missions Program will begin its Fall Quarter on August 18, 2014.

Classes for the First Quarter are:

- MI511 Biblical History of Missions I
- MI512 Cultural Preparation for Missions
- MI513 Principles of Personal and Professional Ethics
- MI514 Advanced Hermeneutics
- MI515 Effective Communication I
- MI516 Church Planting and Growth

It is not to late to enroll. Contact www.msop.org or call Billy Bland at 901-751-2242 for more information.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

B. J. Clarke

On June 15, 2014, eighteen new graduates of the Memphis School of Preaching were sent forth. Heaven only knows the souls they will help to save, and the good that they will do in the years to come, if the Lord tarries.

However, there is something we do know with absolute certainty – any good these men do in their work for God is possible because of brethren like you! Your giving hearts has made it possible for them to learn how to reach the lost.

Perhaps we do not mention enough our appreciation, not only for your financial contributions but also for taking the time to pray for us and for our students. We certainly solicit your prayers for our graduating students and the work they will do.

We seek your prayers as well for the students who have completed their first year and who will be soon begin their final year at MSOP. We also have a number of new students coming in June and August to begin their time with us in learning both the message of the Book and how to proclaim it effectively.

We are also excited and prayerful about our annual training camp for young people (ages 13-19), called FOUNDATIONS (June 21-27, 2014). The program started in

2008 with 27 young men as part of the first camp. Since that time, it has grown every year. This year there are nearly 75 young men coming to the camp, and this year, for the first time, we are having a special week of training for teenage girls as well. Over 50 girls are coming to the camp! Please pray for this week to be successful, and thanks for your support of MSOP!

Have You Paid Your Dues For 2014?

Our MSOP Alumni Association dues are \$25 a year and may be sent to MSOP in care of our treasurer Keith Mosher at 3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd., Memphis, TN 38125. Make checks payable to MSOP Alumni Association.

If it is more expedient, just go to the alumni page of the website at www.msop.org and pay using your PayPal account. These funds allow the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association to fund special projects for the school and to send death benefits for deceased members. This is separate and apart from any contribution taken up at our annual alumni and friends dinner for a designated purpose. Please send in your contribution to brother Mosher today!

A FITTING TRIBUTE



Inside the Cates Chapel

This beautiful portrait of Curtis and Annette Cates and accompanying plaque now adorn the wall of the “Cates Chapel.” Brother B. J. Clarke informed sister Cates of this honor being bestowed upon them at the Curtis A. Cates Tribute Dinner. The plaque bears the following inscription: “This Chapel is hereby dedicated in Christian love to the life and work of Curtis and Annette Cates, Their love for God, for one another and for their students, will be remembered and treasured always! March 11, 2014.”

“A PREACHER’S CLASSIC”

When I preach there are some who say
they could listen to me all day.
Others think I preach too long,
and some think I go about it wrong.
Some say my sermon is much too deep.
To others it’s shallow and they go to sleep.

Some report I hold them spell bound,
while others squirm and look around.
Some believe I have no light,
and others think I preach just right.
Some affirm that I’m too bold,
while others wink and say I’m cold.
Some used to say I was much too young,
but others declare my spring has sprung!

Some folks tell I have met success.
Others think my work’s a mess.
Some have said my pay is too low,
when thy discover the pace I go.
Still others say it’s above the peak
“Why, he only works three hours a week!”

From all of this ‘tis plain to see,
that as a preacher, I’m up a tree.
Condemned if I do, condemned if I don’t.
Criticized if I will, criticized if I won’t.
I can’t please men of such discord,
so I’ll just keep trying to please the Lord.

Author Unknown



AN ENJOYABLE TWO DAYS SPENT WITH THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

Mike McDaniel

On June 3rd and 5th, I had the opportunity extended to me by brother Bobby Liddell to substitute for him in his classes on Church History and the book of Acts while he was away conducting a Gospel Meeting. On those two days, I taught all day. The experience reminded me that full-time faculty members are to be commended for the many hours they spend in teaching. I was also reminded of the long days I once spent as a student years ago.

There were twenty-five students in class. I was pleased by their behavior, studiousness, and eagerness to learn and participate.

During one of the breaks, I could hear at least four students speaking in Spanish to one another. Intrigued, I later asked each one to tell me their hometown and wrote it down. I heard the following: Skullbone, TN, Little Rock, AR, Greenfield, TN, Ronoake, VA, Chesapeake, VA, Fayetteville, GA, Memphis, TN, Capetown, South Africa, Valdosta, GA,

Horn Lake, MS, West Point, MS, Southaven, MS, Phenix City, AL, Pensacola, FL, Flint, MI, Monterey, Mexico, Santiago City, Panama, Talledega, AL, Lanville, AL, Hamlet, NC, Vera Cruz, Mexico, Elisabeth City, N.C.

From a personal standpoint, I was delighted to learn that three of the students attended the congregation in Greenfield, TN for which I preached from 1990-1999. Five of the students are from foreign countries. Two of the students in this class are from Monterey, Mexico, one from Vera Cruz, Mexico, one from Santiago City, Panama, and another from Capetown, South Africa. In the second year class which just graduated, there was a student from West Africa, another from India, and yet another from Monterey, Mexico. This speaks well to the world-wide outreach of the Memphis School of Preaching in training preachers of the gospel. I left the campus excited by the potential of these students to do much good for the cause of Christ for years to come.

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

According to our selected criteria, the Alumnus of the Year should be one who:

1. . . . is exemplary in Christian living (Rom. 12:1,2; I Thess. 2:10).
2. . . . faithfully proclaims the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27; II Tim. 4:1-4).
3. . . . has continued to demonstrate primary devotion to preaching for a period of at least ten (10) years (Acts 4:20; Jer. 10:9).
4. . . . is a fitting example of humble service (Eph. 4:1-3; II 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. etc.] (Phil. 3:4-11; II Cor. 11:23-28).
7. . . . if he is married, he has been supported in his work by a wife "faithful in all things" (I Tim. 3:11).
8. . . . if he is married, and has children, those children must respect their parents and revere God (Titus 1:6).
9. . . . has lent his moral support to MSOP (attended lectureships, etc.).

The chairman and committee members are ineligible for consideration as nominees. Our Committee chairman is Mark Reynolds. Committee members are past recipients of this distinguished award: Melvin Hampton (1989), Dewey Medlin (1990), Rod Rutherford (1991), Jim Dearman (1992), John Barcus (1993), Skip Andrews (1994), Bobby Gayton (1995), Nick Deiger (1996), Bobby Liddell (1997), Hermon Doss (1998), Dean Gittings Jr. (1999), Ted J. Clarke (2000), Don Rhodes (2001), Jerry Martin (2002), Billy



Bland (2003), Bob Spurlin (2004), Gideon Rodriguez (2005), Anthony Hixson (2006), Jeff O'Dell (2007), Michael R. McDaniel (2008), Eddy Gilpin (2009), Keith Mosher (2010), Preston Silcox (2011), Riley Nelson (2012), and Barry Hatcher (2013).

Brother Albert McDaniel (1990) was bestowed the 2014 Alumnus of the Year award at the Alumni and Friends Dinner. Brother Rod Rutherford sent in the following nomination: "I would like to nominate Albert McDaniel, class of 1990, to receive the Alumnus of the Year award. Brother McDaniel took early retirement from his work as an engineer with the Missouri

Power and Light Company to attend the Memphis School of Preaching. He was the outstanding student in his class with a straight A record. His wife, Zelma, also took all the courses and graduated near the top of the class. After graduation, the McDaniels returned to their home in Missouri. Brother McDaniel preached for the House Springs congregation until he was well into his 80's and ill health forced him to give it up. He and Zelma are in their mid to late 80's. I don't know of anyone more deserving than he or his wife either, for that matter. She has been a faithful helpmeet by his side in all his work."

Brother McDaniel is certainly a worthy recipient. Unfortunately, brother Rod Rutherford was unable to be present to introduce him, but his son, Kevin, filled in for him and did a superb job. Our congratulations to brother Albert McDaniel! While we are not related, he has certainly added luster to his good name.

THE ANNUAL MSOP ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The annual board meeting was held at MSOP on April 1, 2014. Including Alumni Association officers, there were thirty-two classes. The following classes were represented: 1968, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013. Obviously, we would like to have as many classes represented as possible. If those serving as class representatives cannot be at the meeting, they should contact their alternate if they have one, or possibly seek out another member of their class who will be attending the lectureship. Please be reminded that new class representatives are to be selected at the 2015 Alumni and Friends Dinner.

At the time of the meeting, there was \$6,966.36 in our account according to our Treasurer.

Freddie Burns was selected in December, by an e-mail vote of the board, to be an honorary alumnus. This was done early so that the honor could be bestowed upon him on his 100th birthday. Larry Acuff was selected in the meeting to be our other honorary alumnus. Congratulations to both of these worthy recipients.

It was decided that \$4300 of alumni funds would be utilized to help pay for equipment to broadcast the Third Year Program, enabling people from around the world to participate in this field of study. In addition, the collection taken up during the dinner would be for this purpose.

There was discussion concerning the possibility of doing something special for the 50th Anniversary of the school in 2016.

An election was held and Lee Davis

was elected as the new President of the Alumni Association. Since brother Davis was serving as Vice President, this created the immediate need for an election for Vice President. Keith Dixon was elected as the new Vice President. Our congratulations to each of these brethren. Thanks to all for the splendid meeting this year!

Order Your Copy Of "STILL STANDING: BUT NOT STANDING STILL"

Please call 1-800-782-8175.

The cost of the 2014 book is \$23. The 2014 CDs (searchable on your computer, with text from all MSOP lectureships, plus many other valuable volumes) are \$25 per CD.

Or, you may purchase the 2014 book and CD for \$35 and save \$13. Shipping and handling are extra. Please call for prices of other books.



**\$8943 Was Contributed For New
Equipment By Alumni & Friends!**

ENCOURAGE YOUR SONGLEADER

Mike McDaniel

"And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives" (Mark 14:26).

The last thing Jesus and His disciples did in the Upper Room was to sing. Some believe they may have sung the traditional Passover hymn based on Psalms 115-118. Imagine our Lord singing when the cross was only a few hours away. I wonder . . . who led the song? Did our Lord do it or one of His apostles? What must it have been like to sing with Jesus?

If I were not a preacher, I would be a songleader. One day, my wife and I visited Hoyt McPherson in Dunmor, Ky. He was a dairy farmer and an elder in the church. We had not seen him in sometime. As we got out of the car in his driveway, he smiled and said, "the singing preacher." We laughed. I will never forget that.

My father, James McDaniel, was a songleader. His father, Clarence McDaniel, was a songleader. Many remark in different places about my wife, Martha's, beautiful voice. Her father, Raymon Wallace, was a well-known and much used songleader in Obion and Lake Counties in Tennessee. B. J. and Tish Clarke were in our home this week for an evening meal. Brother Clarke noticed an old Sacred Selections song leader's edition on display at the top of our bookcase. Noticing the engraved cover, he asked Martha if *Wallace* was her maiden name. We explained that we display her father's songbook in memory of him. My daughter, Kayla, is also developing a beautiful voice, and now my son, Ryan, is becoming a very capable songleader, much to his parent's delight. We recently bought him a songleader's edition of our hymnal to

encourage him and just this week, he used it to lead singing for us during our Gospel Meeting.

Growing up, some of my fondest memories were of attending county singings with my parents and grandparents throughout Gibson County, Tennessee on Sunday afternoons. For awhile, Dad was in charge of scheduling those monthly singings.

In addition, there was those Sunday afternoons in the home of my grandparents in Trenton, Tennessee where we would all sing together. Those were lasting memories to be treasured. A few years ago, a family member produced a tape of a singing that we recorded on one of those days. It was a fond reminiscence.

Songleaders are worship leaders. They should appreciate the opportunity to lead the people of God in worship. They should seek to utilize wisdom in selecting songs that combine scriptural lyrics with beautiful melodies. They should pray for God's help in making the worship of others as meaningful as possible. If the Word of God is dwelling in us richly as Colossians 3:16 suggests, then we will participate in the worship and sing with grace in our hearts unto the Lord as the songleader directs us.

Tom Holland wrote, "Singing has the power to convict us or to challenge us; the power to encourage and to exhort; the power for self-examination and the power to sustain our souls." How meaningful the last hymn our Lord sung on this earth must have been to Him and to His disciples!

Friends, can you think of some ways in which you can encourage current songleaders as well as instilling in others the desire to sing praises unto our God?