

YOKEFELLOW



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From The Director

ENVYINGS (IV)



ENVY AND THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM

Can the deadly sin of envy and its devilish fruits invade the church of Christ, the peaceable kingdom over which the Prince of Peace rules as King? Isaiah in prophecy described the church thus: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:6-9).

What a warmly comforting, tenderly supporting, brotherly loving, and uniquely peaceful place! It is possible only because of the transforming power of the Word of God (Rom. 1:16; 12:1-2; Heb. 4:12). What other power can enable one to become "poor in spirit," "pure in heart," and one of "the meek" and of "the peacemakers" (Mat. 5:3-9); to become humble as a "little child" (Mat. 18:3-4); "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, [to forbearing] one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:2-3); to crucify the "old man...that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Rom. 6:6), thereby being "crucified with Christ" (Gal. 2:20); to be counted among those who would "beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks" with those out of every nation who would not lift up sword or study warfare "any more" against each other in that peaceable kingdom (Isa. 2:2-4)? "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

The reality is, though, that entrance into the peaceable kingdom does not rid the child of God of his free will, though it is certainly unbecoming for the Christian to "continue in sin" (Rom. 6:1-2). We must remember it is possible to allow the old, crucified man of sin again to "reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof" (vv. 6-13). Clearly, if "brethren" who are "debtors not to the flesh, to live after the flesh" (8:12), do "live after the flesh, ye shall die [be destroyed eternally in hell fire]" (v.

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Co-Editor's Column CLIFF LYONS TO BE HONORED

Garland Elkins



Brother Cliff Lyons is to be honored with an appreciation dinner during our upcoming MSOP Lectureship. We anticipate a large number to attend. When the Jews requested that Jesus would heal the centurion's servant, they said of the centurion, "He is worthy." We believe that brother Lyons is "worthy." *Garland Elkins*

CLIFF LYONS HONORED WITH DINNER AT MSOP LECTURESHIP

On Monday, March 28th at 4:30 PM, brother Cliff Lyons, dedicated missionary, defender of truth, and faithful preacher of the Gospel will be honored at a dinner in the multipurpose building during the Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship. Brother Lyons has faithfully preached the Gospel of Christ for many years. He has not chosen the easier places for his work, having served as a missionary in New Zealand, and in Russia, as well as working with various stateside local works.

Brother Cliff and sister Marty Lyons are well deserving of this honor. Many friends and supporters of truth will want to be present for this occasion. The cost, which covers the cost of the dinner, is seven dollars per adult and three dollars per child (twelve years of age and under).

Please reserve your ticket by calling sister Sherry Brown, MSOP secretary, at 901-751-2242, as soon as possible, and certainly not later than Friday, March 25th, so that an approximate number can be assessed. We are looking forward to honoring this wonderful couple!

Billy Bland

Memphis School of Preaching



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Keith Mosher
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Garland Elkins
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Bobby Liddell
Associate Director



Dan Cates
Instructor



Barry Gridler
Instructor



Annette B. Cates
Librarian



David B. Jones
Instructor



Jerry L. Martin
Instructor

Attend The Annual

MSOP LECTURES

Which Begin the Last Sunday of March and Continue Through the Following Thursday.

March 27-31, 2005 ••• Theme: "What Is Man?"

Yokelfellow

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3950 Forest Hill Irene Road
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NEWSLETTER from MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- Intensive Two-year Collegiate Program Of Strong Bible Emphasis Under A Qualified Faculty
- Recognized For Educational Excellence In Pulpit, Local Work, and World Evangelism
- 54 Courses, 164 Semester Hours, 2,960 Clock Hours, Two Full Years Of Transferable College Credit
- Established In 1966--Oldest School Of Preaching East Of The Mississippi
- Classes For Wives (Diplomas Awarded), Third Year Graduate Program
- New, State Of The Art Facility On 15 Acre Campus, N. B. Hardeman Library Building On Campus, Residence Halls Planned To Be Ready Soon
- No Tuition Or Fees, Scholarships And Housing Assistance Available, Approved For V. A. Benefits
- Accepting Applications Now. Write Or Call For Catalog And Application

FAR EAST MISSION TRIP

Billy Bland

On November 23rd, 2004, Curtis Cates, Andy Cates, Ronnie Scherffius, Vada Rice, and Terry and Billy Bland met at Memphis International Airport and boarded a Northwest Airliner for the first leg of our journey, with our destinations being Singapore, then on to Malaysia and then the Philippines. All of our flights connected on time, and we arrived in Singapore as scheduled, howbeit, without our luggage. Sister Rice, Terry and I experienced a delay of luggage on our trip to Thailand a few years ago. Sister Rice is getting a bit leery of flying with me as it seems this happens when we fly together! Fortunately, this time our luggage arrived the next day (however, we were not so fortunate on the Thailand trip).

In Singapore, brother Cates and I, along with brethren Eddy Ee (preacher for the Jurong congregation) and Kwan Tai Choom (preacher for the Lim Ah Pin congregation), were able to take care of some business related to Four Seas Bible College. On the Lord's day, brother Curtis taught the Bible class on the subject "The Nails of the Cross," and then I preached on the topic "God's Plumline." The brethren at Jurong are a dedicated group of Christians, and it is always a joy to worship with them. Later that afternoon, we boarded Malaysian Airlines and flew to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to participate in the 20th Annual Asian Bible Lectureship, hosted by the Kuala Lumpur Church of Christ. This mission trip was, no doubt, very special to sister Rice as she and brother Ira and their family moved to Kuala Lumpur in April of 1961 to establish the Lord's church in this city. The Kuala Lumpur congregation, in its early days, met in the home of the Rice family. This year's Lectureship theme was "Evangelism." I was privileged to open the lectureship on the topic "Not Willing That Any Should Perish" (2 Pet. 3:9). Ronnie Scherffius spoke on "The Discipline Factor In Evangelism." Andy Cates discussed the subject, "Prayer, The Powerful Influence in Evangelism." And, Curtis Cates' subject was "Feareth Him and Worketh Righteousness." Due to one of the other speaker's inability to travel because of sickness, I was asked to speak on his assigned topic "Evangelism Begins Where You Are." One of the highlights of the lectureship for us was that brother Cates and I were privileged to award brethren David Chew (President of Four Seas College), Eddy Ee (Registrar of Four Seas), and Kwan Tai Choom (Dean of Students, Four Seas College), with a plaque honoring them for their many years of dedicated service in training men and women in the Word of God at Four Seas College of the Bible and Missions.

With the Lectureship coming to an end in Malaysia, brother Cates and sister Rice traveled back to Singapore, and brother Cates preached in a Gospel meeting with the Jurong congregation and also taught a class at Four Seas on the topic "Human Suffering as Seen in the Book of Job." Andy Cates, Ronnie Scherffius, Terry and I flew to Manila, Philippines, for the purpose of preaching and teaching. Arriving on Friday afternoon, we immediately began three Gospel Meetings that evening in the city of Manila. Andy preached at the Malate congregation where Edward Manimtim serves as the local evangelist, while Ronnie preached at Commonwealth church of Christ, where Jann Diamante preaches and I preached at the Capital City Congregation where Gideon Rodriguez labors as evangelist and Director of Metro Manila School of Preaching. Additionally, I conducted a Personal Evangelism Workshop during the day on Saturday, and Terry spoke to a group of ladies. On Sunday evening, I spoke at the 2nd Annual Graduation services of The Metro Manila School of Preaching. Each of the aforementioned Filipino and American brethren is a graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching. It is humbling to see that God has blessed The Memphis School of Preaching with the opportunity to train men who literally are taking the Gospel "into all the world" (Mat. 28:18-20). The Metro Manila School of Preaching is training men in the

back into their cities and villages and preach the Word of God there (2 Tim. 4:2).

Upon completion of the Gospel Meetings, etc., and having one day to rest, we took approximately a four hour ride outside the city of Manila for the purpose of visiting the brethren in various villages. Because of the distance involved, as well as the time it took to visit the brethren in those villages, we had to stay overnight in a city nearby some of the villages. It is very encouraging to see the great work that is being done by the brethren who have graduated from MMSOP and are now back in their villages preaching the Gospel of Christ. Many of these men have little to no support and could accomplish more if they had the financial support. Yet, these dedicated men keep on preaching the Word in spite of the hardships. [An interesting incident happened while I was visiting one of the churches in a village. I saw some men beating the ground with long canes in an adjacent yard to the church building. Walking over to the yard, I asked the men, if it were a snake. The men replied with one word - "Cobra!" As one man completed killing a snake near him, another man began to beat the ground in another area of the same yard. Yes, another cobra. They showed us close ups of the cobras they killed, which clearly illustrates some of the dangers of working in the rice fields in those areas. Most of the people seemed unconcerned about the snakes, and went on with their activities.] It was certainly good to see brethren Rodriguez, Manimtim, and Diamante and the work that they and their fellow instructors, George Villanueva and Roger Agustin, are accomplishing in training men to "preach the Word."

On December 9th, early in the morning, Gideon took us to the Manila Airport where we connected with our Northwest flight to Tokyo, Japan. Meeting up with brother Curtis Cates and sister Vada Rice in Tokyo, we began our long flight back home. Because of the great distance involved and flying over the International Dateline, we actually had two sunrises and two sunsets in the same day! Although the trip was very tiring, each one was appreciative of the opportunity to participate in the work of the church in carrying God's Gospel into that part of the world (Mark 16:15). The Memphis School of Preaching is dedicated to holding fast the pattern of sound words and being evangelistic in spirit. To God be the glory (Eph. 3:20-21).

LECTURESHIP DISPLAY RESERVATIONS

Those who plan to have displays during the 2005 Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship **must** make reservations by no later than **March 17, 2005**, since space is **very limited**. Liberal displays/materials are not allowed.

Contact Kathy Jones at (901) 751-9964 to make reservations, or for additional information.

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13), Paul warned. Let us not be deceived; if we return after entering the peaceable kingdom to being wolves, leopards, lions, bears, and poisonous snakes, we shall be destroyed (2 Pet. 2:20-22; Rev. 21:8). Note the description of the Jews who failed to fill their hearts and lives with good thoughts and good works after the evil had been cast out [illustrated by Christ regarding the "unclean spirit...gone out of a man"]; the evil returned seven times worse than it was before (Mat. 12:34-45). No wonder some members of the church will do anything and say anything! No wonder the apostle Peter said concerning those who had "escaped the pollution of the world through the knowledge of the Lord" [and] are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning (2 Pet. 2:20)! That evil is multiple times worse, as is their ultimate punishment (Luke 12:47-48; Jam. 3:1).

(Continued Next Month)



THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL LECTURESHIP MARCH 27-31, 2005

THEME: "WHAT IS MAN?"

MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

3950 FOREST HILL IRENE ROAD, MEMPHIS, TN 38125-2560

Table with columns for dates (SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY), times, topics, and speakers. Includes a 'CONGREGATIONAL SINGING' section on the right.

