

# YOKEFELLOW

Vol. 41, No. 5

September - December 2014

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## A SPECIAL END OF THE YEAR ISSUE WITH SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

*B. J. Clarke*

**I**n this special eight-page, end of the year edition of the Yokefellow, we have a fourfold purpose:

- To spotlight a number of good works we are doing;
- To inform you of some of the specific needs we are facing at the end of 2014;
- To encourage you to consider making a tax deductible end of the year contribution that would help us diminish some of our 2014 expenses and/or
- To encourage you to consider making a monthly contribution in 2015 that would offset some of our annual expenses.

Sometimes people have the idea that the only financial challenges faced by a School of Preaching come in the realm of having enough money for student support. While this is always a paramount concern, there is much more involved in conducting a School than having enough money for student support.

A healthy general fund is also needed for the everyday office expenses that come in the form of paper costs, and equipment costs for copiers, printers, scanners and computers, not to mention the costs of office furnishings, and outfitting our classes for audio/visual learning. Thus, we are always happy to receive contributions for the general fund.

Sometimes brethren ask me if we have a specific need at MSOP that they could consider supporting. In this issue of the YokeFellow, we will capsule some areas of specific need. Of course, we understand that very few folks can give to every area of need mentioned in the following pages. However, any contributions given to any of these areas will help us to offset the expenses of 2014.



*Housing Units At MSOP*

## CAMPUS NEEDS

The Memphis School of Preaching has been blessed with a wonderful campus. The School building is adjacent to the meeting place for the Forest Hill church of Christ, and it serves as the educational building for the Forest Hill Bible School programs, which includes offices and classrooms for the Memphis School of Preaching. The School building also houses the Cates Chapel (named last year in honor of Curtis A. and Annette Cates), and a state of the art studio, which is being used to train our students in both radio and television preaching and teaching. The School building is in excellent shape although the air conditioning units, which are the original units are beginning to show their age by requiring more and more maintenance.

The student housing is one of the most attractive features of the MSOP campus. Four

buildings contain eight apartments each, with four upstairs and four downstairs apartments in each building. All of these apartments are three bedroom, two full bath apartments, with a living room, dining room, kitchen, and laundry room. A small patio area is also available outside of each apartment.

## HOUSING UNIT REPAIRS

These apartments were opened in July of 2007 and are still in excellent shape. However, a few years after construction, a deficiency was discovered in the way the upstairs flooring had been built. Consequently, we have to reinforce and replace the flooring in each of the upstairs apartments at the cost of about **\$12,000 per upstairs apartment**. At present, this project has been completed in 5 apartments and still needs to be done in 11 more apartments.

## LECTURESHIP NEEDS

*A donation toward helping us to handle this student housing repair expense is a donation toward helping our students because they are the ones living in the apartments.*

## DRIVEWAY REPAIRS

A long driveway leads into the student housing area and around to a playground, which opened in 2009, named in honor of Gwen Liddell Johnson. Of course, there has been a great deal of traffic in this area where the students live, and years and years of the dump truck that comes into this area to empty the dumpsters has taken its toll on the driveway. Several sections of this driveway are chewed up and crumbled. The sections that have not yet crumbled are very close to doing so.

Several thousand dollars were spent in 2011 to try and patch the problem but it was recently discovered that the problem is not going to be fixed by mere patching and paving. The undergirding of the asphalt is not sufficient to bear the constant weight of the dump truck and other vehicles that travel through this area on a daily basis.

As a result, it will cost in the neighborhood of **\$60,000-70,000 to fix the problem** on a permanent basis. This problem has to be fixed and money must be used for this that we would rather have on hand for other aspects of the work of preacher education.

*Accordingly, any donations toward helping us to recoup these expenses will certainly help our students and their children (many of whom ride bikes) to enjoy a safer environment and a better quality of life.*

The annual lectureship is a great time for the study of the Scriptures and the renewal of friendships. Hundreds and hundreds of alumni and friends grace our campus during the last week in March every year. Many may be unaware of the financial investment that goes in to the lectureship every year.



*Large Crowd At The Annual MSOP Lectures*

*The annual cost for the lectureship is approximately \$25,000.*

This investment is well worth the good that it does for the souls in attendance. Perhaps you have been blessed by the annual lectureship and would like to give an end of the year contribution to help offset the 2014 MSOP lectureship expenses.



*Scene From The Alumni Dinner*

## LIBRARY NEEDS



### *What If The N. B. Hardeman Library Had No Staff Available To Assist Our Students?*

The Memphis School of Preaching is extremely blessed to be the location of the N. B. Hardeman Library. Brother Hardeman was vitally interested in, and did very much to advance, the cause of Christian education. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Bradshaw family and other relatives of brother Hardeman, the N. B. Hardeman library was built on the campus of the Memphis School of Preaching. It contains a number of items of the personal memorabilia of brother N. B. Hardeman.

It also contains in excess of 20,000 volumes, which makes it equivalent to, and larger in size than many college or university libraries. This vast amount of material is conveniently located about 200 yards away from our student housing. To have so much information so very close to where our students live is one of the great advantages of attending the Memphis School of Preaching.

Another great advantage of the N. B. Hardeman Library is that it is not just a building with books inside. It is a place where our students can find experienced, hard-working librarians to assist them with the learning process. Sister Annette Cates is the School Librarian, and she is no novice in this work. Sister Cates was a librarian for Rhodes College for a number of

years. She has worked with the N. B. Hardeman Library since its opening.

A few years ago, sister Jan Kuehn began assisting in the library. Her hard work, and dedication to the students who visit the library makes her an invaluable addition to the library. We believe strongly at MSOP that a good library is essential to the educational process.

The purchasing of books, periodicals, and the shelving, stocking and staffing of the library represents **an investment of nearly \$60,000 per year.**

This is money that is needed every year, and there is presently no regular source of income or contribution to help offset this annual expenditure.

*It would be a tremendous help for us at MSOP to have someone, or a number of brethren, to give a significant one-time contribution for the library, or to make consistent monthly/annual contributions toward the library fund.*



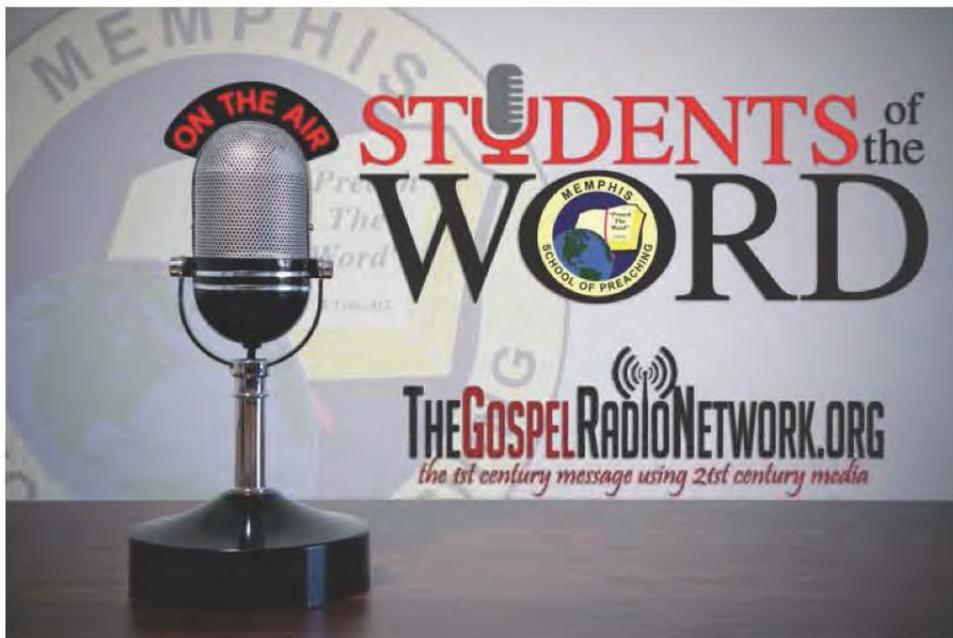
*Thankfully, Our Students Are Blessed By A Helpful and Knowledgeable Library Staff*

# AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

*Daniel F. Cates*

## MSOP "STUDENTS OF THE WORD" ON TGRN

At the Memphis School of Preaching we are proud of our association with the Gospel Radio Network, and invite you to tune in to our program, **Students of the Word**, which airs every Tuesday morning at 8:30 A.M. Central Time (it is re-aired at 8:30 P.M. the same evening)--a number of the shows are archived on the Gospel Radio Network website. During the program one will hear sound Gospel preaching, generally by one or more students, and will be introduced to the opportunities available for ones who wish to train to be Gospel preachers, or who wish to support the Memphis School of Preaching--whether individually or congregationally.



The Gospel Radio Network, which was launched in January of this year, may be heard at [thegospelradionetwork.org](http://thegospelradionetwork.org) or [tgrn.org](http://tgrn.org) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is a work overseen by the elders of the Mount Vernon (TX) Church of Christ. A time schedule is available on their website.

Twenty-three episodes of **Students of the Word** have already been completed, with numerous students being able to benefit firsthand from an exposure to preaching on radio. Sitting before a microphone rather than standing before an audience can be intimidating in a unique way; those who have been able to participate in the area find that the second and third occasions are far less stressful than the first; to illustrate, a student may sit down that first time thinking that filling twenty-six and a half minutes will be easy, only to find that his material is exhausted at the fifteen minute mark; when a second opportunity arrives, the twenty-six and a half minutes is approached more realistically. The experience that the students gain now, will certainly help them in the long run.



*Please tune in to  
**Students of the Word**  
on the  
Gospel Radio Network  
Tuesday mornings at  
8:30 A.M. Central.*

# MAKING THE M.O.S.T. OF PREACHING THE WORD

*Daniel F. Cates*

The **MSOP Ongoing Spiritual Training** program, formerly known as the third-year program, is underway with nearly 40 students enrolled from 13 states and 1 foreign country [others who are not enrolled are able to watch the classes on a delayed basis, meaning the number benefiting from the program could be higher]. With the beneficence of God, the advancement of technology, and the generosity of brethren like you, any prospective student who has internet access in any part of the world can be a part of this program.

These classes may be attended in person, but are aired live over GoToMeeting (with classroom interaction such as being able to ask questions via chat) and are then archived on the school's website and viewable through YouTube (with no interaction). Regardless of the mode of attendance or transmission,

there is no cost for any student to study the Word in this structured environment.

The classes may be audited, taken for an MSOP M.O.S.T. certificate, or for an MSOP M.O.S.T. advanced diploma (available to those who have a degree from MSOP or a similar degree as approved by the faculty). The certificate and diploma require the completion of 72 semester hours (18 courses at 4 semester hours each) and require outside work appropriate for the goal of each track.

You may find more information at the MSOP website ([www.msop.org](http://www.msop.org)). As with any effort, especially technological and educational, there are costs involved. While there are no fees for students; someone has "to pay the bills"; accordingly, ones able to help offset the cost of the free education are encouraged to **contribute specifically toward this effort**. These donations will go toward equipment acquisition and maintenance and toward being able to pay for the Internet and broadcast avenues. To contribute, please contact the school.



*In addition to the on campus students pictured here, brother Dan Cates is teaching well over 30 other online students in the M. O. S. T. Program*

*NOTE: In order to provide these opportunities for training and learning, we had to make a number of equipment purchases. We had to upgrade our Internet speed at a significant cost per month to be able to provide these live streaming classes. We also needed an Internet upgrade to make it possible for our World Missions program students to communicate online with preachers and members in the foreign countries to which they are going so that they might learn the language. To their credit, the Forest Hill elders encouraged us to go ahead and make this expense with the full confidence that once brethren saw what we were doing, they would give generously to help support these efforts.*

*At present, we have spent \$37,540 to make these things possible. An end of the year contribution would help to offset this deficit, and is tax-deductible. BJC*

## LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT LOOK AT WHAT 82 CENTS A DAY CAN DO!

There are some expenses we incur, which come and go (such as the repaving of the driveway, the purchase and installation of studio equipment, etc.), while other expenses are with us annually. For instance, the expense categories listed below involve annual expenses that equal a total of approximately \$144,000.

<b>Foundations</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>
<b>Lectureship</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Yokefellow</b>	<b>\$37,000</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>\$56,000</b>
<b>Polishing The Pulpit</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>

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**Annual Expenses For These Five Areas:     \$144,000**

A Proposed Solution. The need to raise nearly \$150,000 every year to meet these annual expenses seems rather daunting. However, if a large number of people each contribute a little, the good they can do adds up rather quickly.

For example, if we could find just 500 MSOP supporters, who would send just \$25 a month to MSOP, it would provide \$150,000 of annual support, more than enough to pay for the expense of the five categories mentioned above!

Of course, God has blessed some with the financial wherewithal to give more than \$25 per month, but there are many, who are not blessed with great wealth, who can give \$25 per month.

This is the equivalent of just \$0.82 per day! For less than the cost of a good cup of coffee, or fountain drink, you can make an eternal difference in furthering our work.

*Would you consider becoming one of the 500 for the 5 areas of work mentioned above? If so, you may send your \$25 monthly contribution to 3950 Forest Hill-Irene Road, Memphis, TN 38125. Please make out your check to MSOP and, if you would like to designate your contribution to help us cover the annual expenses in the five categories listed above, you may write "500 for the 5" in the memo line.*

If you prefer to give \$25 a month to MSOP without having to bother with writing and sending a check each month, call the School and our financial secretary will walk you through the steps involved in arranging for a secure monthly electronic transaction, which will automatically deposit into the School's account each month the amount you authorize.

*Thank you so much for your help in all that we do!*

## FACULTY NEEDS

We are blessed with one the finest faculties anywhere in any school. They deserve more compensation than we can afford and, as the need arises to hire new teachers in the future, we will need funds on hand to be able to hire the highest caliber of teachers for future generations also. Consequently, the **Curtis A. Cates Memorial Faculty Fund** was established after his passing. This fund will be used to meet the needs of our faculty both in the present and in the future.

*You can touch the future by contributing to those teachers who will teach the future generations of gospel preachers.*

## YOKEFELLOW NEEDS

We have occupied this entire issue of the YokeFellow to educate our dear readers about some of our greatest works, and the expenses we have incurred to make these works possible. In fact, the YokeFellow itself is an example of a work of the Memphis School of Preaching, which costs a considerable amount of money each year to print and distribute. We do not charge for the YokeFellow, and thus there is no income to offset the **\$35,000-40,000 per year it costs to produce and send it**. We are exploring some cost cutting measures, but in the meantime we need to try and offset the funds we have already spent.

*If you would like to give a tax-deductible end of the year gift to help cover some of these costs, it would help us immensely.*

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## FOUNDATIONS AT MSOP

*B. J. Clarke*

I am extremely grateful that brother Bobby Liddell approached me about coordinating this program way back in 2007. Our first FOUNDATIONS program was in June of 2008 and it has continued to grow each year. I am also very thankful for the great job brother and sister Patton (and many others) have done in helping out with the program.

The camp has always been tuition free and we very much want to keep it this way. As the program has grown the cost of the program has grown as well. FOUNDATIONS 2014 assisted in the training of 73 boys and 57 girls.

*Our expenses for the program were \$13,150 in 2014.*

If you would like to give a tax-deductible end of the year contribution to help us recoup these funds it would bless us all.

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NEWSLETTER FROM MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING  
Under the Oversight of the ELDERS  
FOREST HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Bobby Liddell, Editor

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