



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 3, No. 1

Skip Andrews, Vice President
Keith A. Mosher Sr., Treasurer
January-March 2008

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE LECTURES

Keith A. Mosher Sr.

The Forty-Second Annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship is but weeks away, March 30-April 3, 2008. We are expecting great crowds which means that many will have the privilege to hear the pure gospel preached by splendid speakers. In addition, there will be other great and momentous happenings.

This year's lectureship is on ***Strengthening The Heart***. You will not want to miss this! We are especially excited about a tape from Bob Spurlin on the subject, "Don't Ever Give Up." All the other subjects will also be most edifying.

Please keep in mind the ***Prospective Students and Supporters***

Seminar at 2:30 P.M. on Tuesday. This activity is designed to inform prospective students of the program, the facilities and staff, and the means of raising their support. You are among the finest and most dedicated recruiters for your alma mater. Also, any friends who wish to learn more about supporting the School are welcome at the Seminar.

We are certain that you are making plans to be present, if at all possible. You are a very important part of the success of lectureship week; it will not be as great without you. We look forward to seeing you and your family. God bless your work for Him. Pray for us.

The Passing Of Alumni And Their Wives

We know of four alumni who have passed away in the following year: William Armstead, William Norman, Frank Payne, and Dewey Medlin. If you know of others, please call the school office or e-mail me as soon as possible.

We regret to inform you that the wives of two alumni have also recently passed away.

Sister Claire Walker, beloved wife of Adolphus Walker (class of 1985), passed away on Tuesday, February 12th.

Even more recently, Sister Shirley Bryant, beloved wife of Jim Bryant (class of 1973), passed away yesterday, March 5, 2008. The viewing and funeral will be at Aldridge Grove church of Christ today. This is where Jim has been preaching for many years. Jim's address is 2635 County Road 150, Moulton, Alabama 35650-9789 if you would like to send him a card. After today, she will be taken to Ravenden, Arkansas for another service and burial. This is where Shirley was from.

Also, brother Bobby Liddell's sister, Gwendolyn Johnson, passed away on February 14th. She had been ill for some time.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to all of these families in their bereavement.

Prayer Requests

Patsy Hughes (age 15), daughter of Michael Hughes (1976), was critically injured recently when a vehicle crashed through a convenience store where she was. We understand she is doing some better. Please remember her in your prayers.

My wife, Martha McDaniel, underwent surgery in January to remove a cancerous tumor in her salivary gland. She is doing well and no treatments were required. We ask for your prayers that the cancer does not recur.

I would also like to ask for your prayers on behalf of sister Loretta Tucker. She is the beloved wife of Mike Tucker who is the faithful gospel preacher at the Northside church in Mayfield, KY and a friend of mine. She has just been diagnosed with Arthur Kerea Malformation (birth defect of skull & 1st 2 disc). This causes a larger than normal opening at base of skull and affects discs, allowing the brain stem to get into the enlarged area putting pressure on the spinal cord. She had a great deal of mental confusion, loss of memory, a horrible head ache with electrical sensations in her head, neck and sometimes arms.

Please remember Sister Loretta Tucker in your prayers.

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE AT THE LECTURESHIP

Brother Keith Mosher tells me that he hopes to have his new book available during lectureship week for your purchase. It is his material found in *The Book God Breathed*, Volumes 1, 2, and 3 covering Inspiration, Canonicity, and Textural Criticism in one hardback volume. This

book will serve as the Memphis School of Preaching's new textbook for the General Biblical Introduction Course.

This material is tremendous and needs to be in the hands of Christians in the pulpit as well as in the pew.

Free Books!!!

Yes, you read that headline right. I am talking about free books. Does that interest you book-loving preachers out there?

During the lectureship, there will be a table set up with stacks of past MSOP lectureship books as well as other books in stock. Bring with you a contribution toward eliminating the indebtedness on the new student apartments and receive some free books as a gift to you. This can be a personal donation from you or money you have helped raise for this purpose. The bigger the contribution, the more books you will receive. More information about this will be located at the display table.

The amount of indebtedness is now approximately **\$775,000**. It is a pleasure to watch this number drop! We would like to eliminate this amount by the end of 2008 if at all possible. It can be done, but we earnestly need your help to do it. Please mention this need to others as you have opportunity.

REMEMBER YOUR MSOP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DUES

Alumni Association honorary dues are \$25 each year. This money goes to special projects of the association, special needs of MSOP, association awards, and death benefits to families of deceased alumni.

Please send your dues to brother Keith Mosher Sr. at MSOP. He serves as the treasurer of the alumni association. If you are able to come to the lectureship, please bring your dues with you and give them to brother Mosher.

A Note Of Appreciation Received

December 19, 2007

Dear Mike,

Thank you most kindly for the nice honor you bestowed on Lynn and myself during the Memphis lectureship this past March. We will certainly cherish this honor for many years. I was very humbled when I was informed we had received this. Lynn and I are thrilled to be considered alumni.

The continued success of MSOP is critical for the furtherance of the kingdom. As such, I extend my deep appreciation for your work with the Alumni Association as well as your work as an evangelist.

I apologize for this belated note.

Thank you again for the most thoughtful and meaningful honor.

In Christ,
Brad Bradshaw

ANNUAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The annual MSOP Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 1st. It will be held in the school building in the classroom across from the break-room. All class representatives are strongly urged to be present. If you cannot attend and your class elected an alternate, you are asked to contact them and ask them to take your place at the meeting. We had terrific attendance last year and hope to have the same this year. See you there!

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL LECTURESHIP

MARCH 30-APRIL 3, 2008

THEME: "STRENGTHENING THE HEART"

MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

3950 Forest Hill Irene Road, Memphis, TN 38125-2560

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2008

9:30-10:20 A.M. He Shall Strengthen Your Heart: An Exposition of Psalm 31
David Sain
Barry Grider

10:30-11:30 A.M. The Heart Of The Preacher
Barry Grider

5:30-6:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

6:00-7:00 P.M. The Heart That Trusts God Though Reproached By Enemies
Glenn Posey

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2008

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL (Forest Hill) 1 Corinthians 16:13
Kyle Gilpin

9:00-9:50 A.M. Strengthen Thou Me According Unto Thy Word
B. J. Clarke

10:00-10:50 A.M. Gaining Strength Through Worship
Terry Claunch

CLASS* Growing Stronger In Personal Work
James Parker

11:00-11:50 A.M. Helping Our Neighbors To Be Stronger
Glenn Hitchcock

LADIES* Seeing God Through The Tears (Women Only)
Jane McWhorter

11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH

1:30-2:20 P.M. Practicing Pure Religion.
Mike McDaniel

LADIES* The Heart Of A Christian Mother (Women Only)
Tanya Silcox

2:30-3:20 P.M. Equipping Ourselves For Financial Challenges
Jimmy Palmer

CLASS* Withstanding Evil Influences In The Work Place
Eugene Jenkins

3:30-4:00 P.M. OPEN FORUM
Garland Elkins

4:00-6:30 P.M. INTERMISSION

6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

7:00-8:00 P.M. The Heart That Shows Mercy
Dan Winkler

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2008

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL (Forest Hill) Philippians 4:13
Dwayne Butler

9:00-9:50 A.M. Maintaining Biblical Balance
Don Blackwell

10:00-10:50 A.M. Trusting God's Providence
Gary Hampton

CLASS* Choosing A Mate Who Will Make You Stronger
Kevin Beard

11:00-11:50 A.M. They Shall Bring Forth Fruit In Old Age
Curtis A. Cates

LADIES* A Word Fitly Spoken (Women Only)
Jan Beard

11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH

1:30-2:20 P.M. "Don't Ever Give Up!"
Bob Spurlin

LADIES* When Loved Ones Go Astray (Women Only)
Tish Clarke

2:30-3:20 P.M. Having A Strong Eldership
Billy Bland

CLASS* Maintaining Strength In Times Of Temptation
A. J. Cox

SEMINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND SUPPORTERS
(MSOP CHAPEL)

3:30-4:00 P.M. OPEN FORUM
Garland Elkins

4:00-6:30 P.M. ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DINNER
(FELLOWSHIP HALL)

6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

7:00-8:00 P.M. The Heart That Is Lonely
Tom Holland

Editor's Note: *The 2008 MSOP CD will sell for \$30 this year. You can get it AND the lectureship book for \$40 – a great deal!*

There have been some changes in the schedule this year. Please let us know if you like the changes.

The only dinner scheduled will be the annual alumni and friends dinner on Tuesday at 4:00 P.M. This will allow more free time for our out of town visitors to visit friends, go out to eat, shop, etc.

Please notice that singing will be at 6:30

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL (Forest Hill) 2 Timothy 2:1
Morne Stephanus

9:00-9:50 A.M. The Lord Is My Strength
Paul Sain

10:00-10:50 A.M. On The Mission Field.
Rod Rutherford

CLASS* Having Strong Deacons
Charles Broyles

11:00-11:50 A.M. Rearing Children With Healthy Hearts
Mark Mosher

LADIES* The Heart Of Her Husband Trusts In Her (Women Only)
Keri Sayle

11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH

1:30-2:20 P.M. Fighting "The Battle Of Armageddon"
James Hudley

LADIES* Essentials For Strong Bible Class Teachers (Women Only)
Christa Mangrum

2:30-3:20 P.M. Building And Repairing Our Homes
Jerry Martin

CLASS* The Christian Response To National Crises
Patrick Morrison

3:30-4:00 P.M. OPEN FORUM
Garland Elkins

4:00-6:30 P.M. INTERMISSION

6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

7:00-8:00 P.M. The Heart That Grieves
Keith A. Mosher, Sr.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL (Forest Hill) Ephesians 6:10
Josh Richardson

9:00-9:50 A.M. Keeping The Local Congregation Strong
Wade Webster

10:00-10:50 A.M. When Bad News Comes
Ed Smith

CLASS* Standing Against The Threats Of Atheism
Bob Pritchard

11:00-11:50 A.M. Drugs, Immorality, Violence, And Suicide
Are Not The Answer
Dan Cates

LADIES* Facing Responsibility As A Caregiver (Women Only)
Irene Taylor

11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH

1:30-2:20 P.M. Preparing For The Future Storms Of Life
John Barcus

LADIES* Strengthening The Preacher's Wife (Women Only)
Cecilia Grider

2:30-3:20 P.M. Remembering The Foundations Of Faith
Gary McDade

CLASS* Strengthening Our Sisters In Christ
Dan Dawson

3:30-4:00 P.M. OPEN FORUM
Garland Elkins

4:00-6:30 P.M. INTERMISSION

6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

7:00-8:00 P.M. The Heart That Anticipates The Blessings Of Heaven.
Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

***ALL Classes (Including Ladies Classes) Meet In Room 405 In The School Building.**

P.M. with the evening speaker at 7:00 P.M. This will allow us to get out earlier in the evening.

The amount of classes during the day has been reduced which should increase the attendance at those scheduled. All classes will now meet in Room 405 in the School Building. This is the former library and is a spacious room. **Ladies classes will also meet there.**

Bookstore displays will be open in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. each day and from 8:00 P.M. until 8:30 P.M. each evening.

THE METRO MANILA SCHOOL OF PREACHING SEEKING SUPPORT TO SAVE SOULS

Ronnie Scherffius

In June 1996, Gideon Rodriguez, preacher for the Capitol City Church of Christ, Quezon City, Philippines, announced his desire to the congregation to house a school of preaching, similar to the Memphis School of Preaching. In December of 1997, brethren from the United States, including Ira Y. Rice, Jr., Garland Elkins, and Barry Grider, expressed their pleasure in the project and entered into fellowship in this evangelistic endeavor. Returning to the states, brother Rice and others actively began securing supporters for the work and sought diligently for a sponsoring congregation. It was not until December 1999 that the Looxahoma Church of Christ in Looxahoma, Mississippi, a congregation which already served as the sponsoring congregation for Gideon Rodriguez's personal support, agreed to serve as sponsoring congregation. In March of 2000, Gideon traveled to the United States for the purpose of involving himself in raising the needed support still lacking. The school began regular classes in the fall of 2000 and continues today training Filipino men from various villages to preach the gospel to their own countrymen.

In December 2006, the elders of the church at Looxahoma made the decision to relinquish sponsorship of both Metro Manila School of Preaching (MMSOP) and Gideon Rodriguez's personal support. This move on their part opened the door for another congregation to involve themselves in a tremendous evangelistic work in a country that is considered by many to be one of the most favorable and receptive to the gospel at this time. The Philippine islands total some

115,874 square miles on which a population of 86.6 plus million people reside. The capital city of Manila has a population of 10.4 million with the suburbs of Metro-Manila adding another 4 million. To put these numbers into proper perspective consider the following: the land area of Tennessee is 41,222 sq. miles with a population of 5,797,289 (140.64 persons/sq. mile) and the state of Texas has a land area of 268,601 sq. miles with a population of 21,779,893 (81.09 persons/sq. mile). Compare these figures to the Philippines which has roughly 748 persons/sq. mile.

While population figures demonstrate the great need for the gospel in this country, the religious population shows the great need for the training of Filipino men to soundly proclaim the gospel. According to a 2000 census, statistics for religious groups in the Philippines are: Roman Catholics 80.9%; Evangelical and other 7.3%; Muslim 5%; Iglesia ni Kristo (a Filipino version of the Mormon Church) 2.3%; other 3.8%. Of these numbers, the Lord's church represents less than .05% of the religious population in the Philippines!

Gideon Rodriguez is more than qualified for his role as Director of MMSOP. In addition to serving as director and full-time instructor of the school, Gideon is a 1992 graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching where he received the "Outstanding Student" award. He has been preaching since 1982 and has held no less than five public debates including one with a Muslim cleric in defense of the Bible. Gideon has also served on the Philippine Bible Society, a non-profit non-

denominational organization which produces the Bible in various languages in the Philippines. Since 1988, Gideon has taken part in a number of translation projects including: Ang-Bagong Magandang Balita Biblia (Tagalog Popular Version), Ang Bagong Ang Biblia (formal translation widely circulated), Greek-Tagalog New Testament Interlinear, and the New Filipino Standard Bible (still in review, yet to be published). Tagalog is the major language in the Philippines. Gideon's translation work also includes the production of the Himig, a hymn book used by many Tagalog-speaking churches. In addition, Gideon also directs the semi-annual Capitol City Lectureship and has served as director of two Asian Bible Lectureships, a lectureship that is hosted by various churches throughout Asia. The MMSOP director is a frequent speaker at preachers' forums, lectureships and gospel meetings among the sound brethren in the Philippines.

With the decision to relinquish sponsorship of the work, the elders at Looxahoma began to seek out a congregation to take this role. Tim Burroughs, minister of the church at Looxahoma, contacted Ronnie Scherffius, minister for the Glendale Church of Christ in Newbern, Tennessee, who had earlier expressed interest in being involved in the Philippine work. The work was presented to the Glendale eldership in January 2007. The church at Glendale is no stranger to Gideon Rodriguez and his work in the Philippines. They have financially supported his work with the school since 1999, and they also support Jann Diamante, a 2002 graduate of MSOP and instructor of MMSOP. After much investigation and prayerful consideration, the elders decided to take on the role of sponsoring congregation of Gideon and the school. The transition officially took

place in July.

In August, Paul Roberson, one of the elders of Glendale, and Ronnie Scherffius traveled to the Philippines for the purpose of establishing lines of communication and a good foundation for the work. They also met with Gideon and the MMSOP staff to set a budget and future goals for the school.

Due in part to lost support and additions to the budget, as well as changes in currency exchange rates, regular monthly support received was well short of monthly expenditures. The current budget for school operations and instructor support is \$5,301/month. When Glendale took sponsorship of the work, regular monthly support was \$3,550.00 - a deficit of \$1,751.00. At present, regular monthly support received is \$4,875.00, a deficit of only \$426/month.

As alumni of the Memphis School of Preaching, we more than most, realize and can appreciate the great importance of training men to soundly and faithfully proclaim the gospel of Christ to lost humanity! Those who have been involved in overseas works will readily affirm that the most expedient and successful way to accomplish this work is through training men to teach their own countrymen. Brethren, the saints at Glendale are diligently seeking more congregations who are interested in being a part of this good and worthy work. Your help is needed! If you feel that the congregation where you work would be interested in learning about this work, or if you would like more information about the work, please contact Ronnie Scherffius from the information below. You are also encouraged to stop by Glendale's booth at the MSOP lectureship this year where you can take information packets and/or talk to Ronnie personally about the work. Contact Glendale Church of Christ, 6739 Lanes Ferry Road, Newbern, TN 38059, (731) 627-9050.