



# YOKEFELLOW

## END-OF-YEAR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

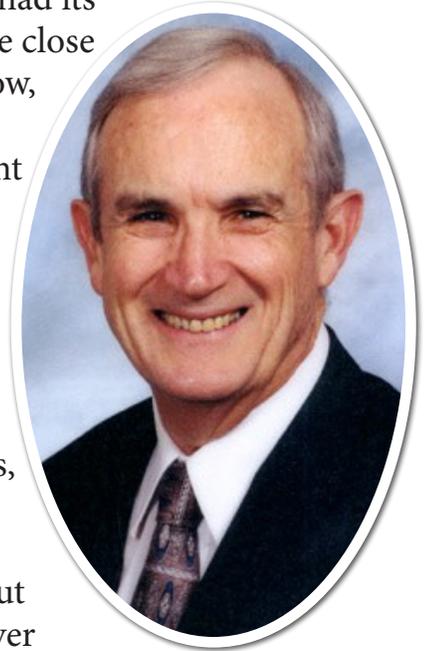
**Curtis A. Cates**

Ever since the Memphis School of Preaching had its beginning (1966), those contributions made at the close of the year have been vital to its work. As you know, the MSOP receives no [It does not wish for nor would it accept any] federal or state grants, student loans, building loans, or other governmental support. And, it charges neither tuition nor fees. The School is a part of the Bible teaching program of the Forest Hill Church of Christ.

These end-of-year gifts are very helpful because of the students who have not raised all their support, January enrollment of new students, anticipated lectureship expenses in March, and catching up with unanticipated expenses. Those many hundreds of graduates preaching throughout the world tell us this was the hardest work they ever did—and loved! Equal to more than four years of college in two years (164 Semester Hours), they learn discipline and diligence.

These donations are fully tax deductible, of course, and they are a Godsend. Please help if you can.

*Brother Curtis A. Cates, longtime Director of the Memphis School of Preaching, wrote these words for the December, 2003 Yokefellow. Twenty-one years later, they are just as important. Brother Cates recognized the great opportunity for brothers and sisters to join with Forest Hill in helping prepare faithful men to preach the saving Gospel of Christ. BL*



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www.msop.org

office@msop.org

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TEACH ALL NATIONS

March 30th-April 3rd, 2025

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

## HABAKKUK: EMBRACING A “BURDEN”

*Keith A. Mosher, Sr.*

The Hebrew name, Habakkuk, seems to mean embrace, or ardent embrace. Shortly before the ancient empire of Babylon rose to power, Habakkuk wrote his prophecy (ca. 625-606 B.C.). [This prophet’s message, then, was contemporary with Jeremiah.] Habakkuk’s message is referenced at Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:37-38: “The just shall live by faith.” [The Hebrew term, faith, as used by Habakkuk is also found at Genesis 15:6 and means something like “trust in God, all other adversaries to the contrary notwithstanding.”] Habakkuk asked two major questions in his work: 1. “How long can lawlessness go unchecked?” 2. “Why did God use an evil nation against His own people?”

The answer to the above inquiries was that “as long as lawlessness went unchecked, so long would God have to use evil against evil.” That is, since evil embraced evil there would be a burden on the nations involved (Hab. 1:1). Amazingly, then, the third chapter of Habakkuk is a song of praise to God Who is just. It is interesting to note that “embracing a burden without considering the consequences” seems to be the attitude of evil, and that God’s justice deals with such a characteristic in the way it is practiced: evil for evil. Praise be to God that He does deal with evil.

Habakkuk’s message is, thus, an unusual burden. Human personality is an endless study, since no two minds seem to react in the same way to a given message. The human prophets were all inspired directly by the Holy Spirit (2

Pet. 1:20-21), yet inspiration did not take away their own personalities. Habakkuk is especially unique, for he is addressing God and not the prophet’s countrymen or even Babylon. The real burden in the message seems to be on the prophet as he wonders at what he knew (Hab, 1:1b). [A burden; Hebrew ma-sha; figuratively means a judgment that is heavy on a people who do not care to obey God.] Habakkuk’s burden, however, weighed on the prophet as he struggled with the fact that God had to deal with a nation that embraced evil by using another nation that embraced evil to punish the first nation!

Habakkuk had a crisis of faith, but he will ultimately triumph in his battle with his burden. As Renshaw put it, “Habakkuk began with a sob, and ended with a song” (Class notes; MSOP, 1975). Many of God’s children have wrestled with the confusion of faith and fear and misunderstanding. Peter was recognized as one of Jesus’ disciples, but his fear caused him to reply that he was not one (John 18:17). Paul begged God for relief from his thorn in the flesh, but he was told no (2 Cor. 12:7). But most of all, Jesus struggled and cried out in anguish from the cross, but He later won (Luke 22:44). It is difficult to embrace a burden, but the good news is that we can win the battle (cf. Jam. 1:2-5). There are only two kinds of people in this world—the overcome and the overcomers. Which shall we be?

God’s answer to Habakkuk’s first question that Judah deserved to be punished, caused a larger burden for the prophet. He wanted to know

how God could use that evil Babylon as the tool of God's vengeance (Hab. 1:12-17). Sometimes when the burdens of life seem greatest, more questions as to why arise. God pledged to Habakkuk that he could survive by faith (Hab. 2:4). God also pledged to Habakkuk that the earth would be filled with the "knowledge of the glory of the Lord" because of God's actions (Hab. 2:14). Often more is learned about God from burdens than from the good times. The songwriter penned: "Life is easy when you are up on the mountain, and you have peace of mind, like you've never known. But then things change, and you are down in the valley. Don't lose faith friend; you are never alone. For the God of the mountains is still God in the valleys. When things go wrong, He will make them right. And the God of the good times, is still God in the bad times; the God of the day is still God in the night" (Tracy Dartt).

Habakkuk's song of faith is a rhapsody to the God who takes care of problems (Hab. 3:1-19).

## THE C. A. AND JEANETTE FEENSTRA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*Bobby Liddell*

We are happy to announce the establishment of the "C. A. and Jeanette Feenstra" scholarship at the Memphis School of Preaching.

C. A. was born on a farm near New Holland, SD. He served in the army, during the Korean war. He served eighteen months in Alaska, and upon returning home, he married Jeanette Dyk. For ten years, they farmed near New Holland, SD then moved to Mitchell, SD. Later on in life, he also worked numerous years in Iowa and Tennessee.

C. A. (Celice Andrew) grew up a very devout Calvinist in the Christian Reformed Church, where all his children were "baptized" as infants. His first exposure to the Lord's church was in Fairbanks, Alaska, and he was very impressed with their Bible knowledge. When the family moved to Mitchell, SD, they found themselves four doors down from a mission family that was starting the church in Mitchell. One Sunday night, the children were all



sick, and C. A. said he would just go down the street to church—to the church of Christ. There, he met Clyde and Billye Freeman. He was so impressed that he agreed to study the Bible with them, and about four months later, C. A. and Jeanette became Christians, driving ninety miles to Sioux Falls, SD, to be baptized.

After C. A. and Jeanette were baptized, plans were made and support secured for the family to move to Lubbock, TX for C. A. to attend two years of preaching school at Sunset School of Preaching. After C.A.'s graduation, the family moved to Sioux Center, Iowa, to begin mission work. Each Sunday, the family drove sixty miles to Sioux Falls, SD, which was the closest congregation of the Lord's church to where they lived. Together, they started a Bible correspondence work and sent out and graded tens of thousands of courses spreading the good news of Christ. They were successful in converting several families; thus, the Lord's church was established and

The prophet even prayed for a "revival" before the history he was privileged to see had ever occurred (Hab. 3:1). The prophet finally understood, from God's historical dealings, that God's ways were "everlasting" (Hab. 3:3-15). No generation has ever escaped the burden of God's judgment, and none ever will (Hab. 1:13). The Hebrews writer asked his readers to "call to remembrance the former days" (Heb. 10:32), and all of God's people can embrace any burden when they understand and trust the God Who always has a purpose in His dealings.

Habakkuk's ability to embrace his burden is of great value to God's people. The prophet had first to admit his trouble of honest doubt, but he did resolve to wait on God for the answer (Hab. 2:1). How long the prophet waited is not known, but God did answer and gave Habakkuk hope.

Dear reader, are you embracing your burden and waiting on and trusting in God?

the church continues to this day in Sioux Center, Iowa.

Jeanette, C. A.'s wife of 55 years, who preceded him in death, was a wonderful helpmeet to C. A. She worked tirelessly alongside him, grading Bible course lessons, and being hostess to all the ministers and guests who stayed in their home. She had an excellent work ethic and was good at cooking, sewing, and handling the many tasks of rearing four children. In 1974, they moved to Waverly, TN, and eventually to Dickson, TN.

Years before I ever met him, I knew C. A. Feenstra through his book exposing and opposing Calvinism: "Calvinism in the Light of God's Word," which is used in Bible schools around the world. He was very kind and generous to give the last copies of his book to the students at MSOP, for which they were very grateful.

Brother Feenstra had a yard FULL of daffodils, for he carefully planted them, spreading the bulbs over his whole yard. It was a beautiful sight (see photo) when they were in bloom in February and March. Among his many innovations, he had devised a way

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to grow tomatoes that was unique and bountifully productive. And, his yard was full of birds, who lived in the houses he built.

Brother Feenstra died at the age of 91, on February 25, 2023. I feel very blessed, indeed, to have known him, and cherish the times we were able to visit together. He was an honest, cheerful man, who loved life, worked hard, and was very devout, and determined in his Christian life. He was very proud of his family, about whom he spoke to me in great detail. I could see the love he had, as he spoke of them, and I never grew tired of his stories.

C. A. and Jeanette had four children. Ron (Beth) Feenstra - Ron is an elder at Hillsboro Church of Christ - Nashville, TN. Janice Cato - (Keith passed away) - he was an elder at Green Hills Church of Christ - Nashville, TN. Donavon (Cynthia) Feenstra - Donavon is a Deacon at Crieve Hall Church of Christ - Nashville, TN. Sharla (Calvin) Buckner - Calvin is an elder at McEwen Church of Christ - McEwen, TN. They were blessed with nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Through their efforts, brother and sister Feenstra have brought an untold number of souls to Christ. Now, through their scholarship, they will continue to be a blessing, helping men become preachers of the Gospel they both loved so dearly.



*Brother C. A. and daughter, Sharla*

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