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Memphis School of Preaching Graduation 2026

*The Elders of the
Forest Hill Church of Christ
and Faculty of the
Memphis School of Preaching
Memphis, Tennessee*

*join Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Clarke
in requesting the pleasure of your presence
at the*

*Commencement Exercises and Reception
in honor of the Graduates
on Sunday, the twenty-first of June
two thousand and twenty-six.*

*Reception: 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.
in the Fellowship Hall of the
Forest Hill Church of Christ*

*Graduation: 5:00 P.M. at the
Forest Hill Church of Christ Auditorium
3950 Forest Hill-Irene Road
Memphis, TN 38125*

WAS THIS THE BEST EVER MSOP LECTURESHIP?

B. J. Clarke

In just about every lectureship I've been privileged to direct, it seems like one or more of the attendees has remarked, "I think this was the best lectureship you've ever had." Those comments are always appreciated, but admittedly, it's hard to quantify from one year to the next. It's kind of like hearing people say, "I don't ever remember a summer as hot as this one has been." It's easy to forget from one year to the next just how hot last year was, or how good the previous year's lectureship was.

Having said that, I must confess that this year's 2026 MSOP Lectureship does seem to rank right up there near the top of the list of greatest MSOP lectureships ever. I definitely heard more people comment that this was our best lectureship ever than in any other year I can remember. Why did so many feel this way?

1. The 60th Anniversary. The School began in 1966, and so 2026 marks our 60th year of operation. The COVID year 2020 cost us a lectureship, so this was only our 59th lectureship, but it is our 60th anniversary of training gospel preachers. Going down memory lane at the Monday night banquet (and throughout the week), and reflecting on 60 years of God blessing our efforts, was so very encouraging. The School has come a long way since it began, and to God be the glory for all that He has done and is doing!

2. The Theme. Our 2026 theme was "I Know The Lord Will Make A Way." There could not be a more sentimental theme for MSOP than this one. For decade after decade, that song has been sung by each MSOP student at the end of each morning chapel service. The very sound of the melody and the poignant words of the song strike the chords of each heart that has been a part of the Memphis School of Preaching. Also, it has such a positive message of hope and confidence in God to see us through.

3. The Comfort. The circumstances leading up to the annual lectureship were extremely challenging and emotional for the MSOP family. Lauren Rutherford, beloved daughter of our dear Kevin and Vicky Rutherford, died suddenly as a result of a car accident on Christmas Day. Just a few weeks later, one of our dear students, Matthew Paschall, suffered a seizure and a fall and was also taken suddenly from our presence. Reeling from these tragedies, their families and the MSOP family needed comfort from above, and focusing for a week on how the Lord would make a way was just the spiritual tonic that was needed. This year's lectureship book was also dedicated to Lauren and Matthew.

4. The Singing, the Preaching, and the Fellowship. Every lectureship offers good singing, good preaching, and good fellowship, but this year's just seemed to fill a special niche that was so very timely. Each message seemed to lead to the next until we enjoyed the crescendo of the final sermon: "Won't It Be Grand To Hear Him Say, 'Well Done?'" Indeed, it will!

Of course, when the focus every year is to glorify God, it is impossible and moot to rank one lectureship above another with any absolute precision. However, one thing is certain: this year was one of the best! Can we equal it or top it next year? Mark your calendars for March 28-April 1, 2027, when the theme for our 60th Lectureship will be "Thank God!" Please come and make it another one of the best ever MSOP lectureships!



RESTORATION TRIP 2026



Director (BJ Clarke) gives information about Barton W. Stone at the Cane Ridge Meeting house.



Our tour guide at Shaker Village gives information about the Shaker movement and its history.



The group took the time to trek to Campbell's Cemetery ("God's Acre") at Alexander Campbell's mansion.



Part of our group waiting to go through the Breakfast Buffet before touring Shaker Village



Our first stop is the Birthplace of President Abraham Lincoln.



Tour guides on this year's trip were MSOP Director (BJ Clarke) and Recruiter (Michael Clarke).



First Year student Nathanael Nelson leads singing at Cane Ridge. It is always an uplifting period of singing!



Jimmy Hitt and Second Year student Nico Pinnock posing for a photo at the Cane Ridge Meeting house.

NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM—BROADCASTING

Kevin Rutherford, Dean of Admissions

The Biblical Broadcasting graduate program will begin this coming fall quarter.

This program will include classes such as Introduction to Bible Broadcasting, Biblical Persuasion and Broadcasting, Ethical Responsibility in Broadcasting, Fundamentals of Communication, Fundamentals of Faithful Gospel Preaching in Broadcasting, and Technology for Biblical Broadcasting. Instructors will include BJ Clarke, Nathan Liddell, Jonathan Burns, Mike McDaniel, Michael Clarke and Kevin Rutherford.

Some excellent broadcasting equipment has been purchased for the program, and some additional equipment will be added soon. Students will be given the opportunity to spend many hours in the studio, as well as time with portable equipment outside of the studio.

There is no tuition charged for the program but support will be needed to be raised to cover living expenses because this is a full-time program. In addition to six hours each day in class instruction, there will be a number of hours outside of class time the students will need to devote to keeping up with assignments.

Those interested must have completed a two-year school of preaching program, or a four-year college program, or higher in order to enroll. Please check out the MSOP website for application information.



WHY CONSIDER MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING?

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