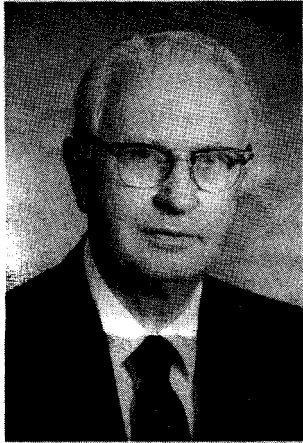


FOUNDER, LONG TIME DIRECTOR OF MSOP DEPARTS TO BE WITH THE LORD

Curtis A. Cates



Brother Roy J. Hearn, outstanding gospel preacher and Christian educator, passed to his reward on Saturday, November 25, 2000, at the age of 89 years, having been born in Wilmar, AR, on November 15, 1911. He died of heart failure. Brother Hearn's funeral services were at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 29th, at the Forest Hill Church of Christ. Speakers were former students of brother Hearn, brethren Walker Crossno, Neil Myers, Sorrell Wesson, and Curtis A. Cates. Glen Wilson led the congregational singing. A large crowd of friends and family were present. Burial was in Memorial Park, Memphis.

Brother Hearn was a great man and defender of the faith. The writer was privileged to learn about and come greatly to appreciate brother Roy J. Hearn when his friend and mine, Franklin Camp, told me about the new journal they were beginning, First Century Christian, in July, 1967. Brethren Hearn and Camp were the editors, and writers included such faithful men as Foy E. Wallace, Jr., Glenn L. Wallace, W. L. Totty, Robert R. Taylor, Jr., Gary Colley, J. A. McNutt, Foy L. Smith, and others. I came greatly to appreciate brother Hearn's unswerving loyalty to the old Jerusalem gospel, his love for the brotherhood and for souls, and his courage in being "set for the defence of the gospel," and I felt a very kindred spirit with him and his work. I also came to appreciate the solid work being done in the Memphis School of Preaching, both from the journal and from being in brother Camp's classes at Shades Mountain in Birmingham. First Century Christian was published by them for ten years and did untold good.

Brother Hearn had been baptized in July, 1934, and began preaching in Memphis in 1936. Not only did he love, obey, and preach the truth for some sixty-four years, he also instructed others how to preach the Truth (2 Tim. 2:2). After having taught at Freed-Hardeman and David Lipscomb, brother Roy Hearn was inspired by brother N. B. Hardeman and others to begin a school of preaching. After he had spent much time and thousands of miles on the road raising money and recruiting students, the Getwell Road School of Preaching was begun at the Getwell Church of Christ. Many good brethren at Getwell and others helped in this noble endeavor, and it was immediately very successful. After several years, it moved to Knight Arnold, and the name was changed to the Memphis School of Preaching.

The School's curriculum was outstanding and, with the addition of a World Evangelism course, is the present curriculum. It is now in its thirty-fifth year, having been started in 1966. From its beginning, the School has been recognized for its Biblical and academic soundness; it has been much imitated. The writer considered it a very high honor to have been recommended by brother Roy J. Hearn to the elders when he was retiring as director of the MSOP. The School had a dinner in honor of brother and sister Hearn. His work as director was superb, and his scholarly teaching had a profound influence upon his hundreds of students here. In fact, those faithful "men of the Book" are a testimony to the greatness of his work. I told brother Hearn this

on numerous occasions. "Whatever the School accomplishes for the Lord and in the spread of His kingdom will be a tribute to you, for we are standing on your shoulders." He would often say that he appreciated the fact that "the School's toes are pointed in the same direction," which encouraged us greatly. He was very pleased concerning the congregation and the School's moving to Forest Hill-Irene, the new facilities, and especially concerning the new library building in honor of his greatly admired and beloved teacher N. B. Hardeman. I was blessed greatly to count him as a friend.

Sister Sadie Hearn is an outstanding Christian woman and was the very supportive, loving, and caring wife of brother Roy for sixty-five years. Brother Hearn is also survived by two lovely daughters, Dolly Totty of Centerville, TN, and Janet Paden of Cookeville, TN, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Our sincere prayers and sympathy are extended to them.

Though brother Hearn has departed, his tremendous influence lives on in his family, his writings, and his many students, and in multitudes whom he influenced. He loved the Lord and His cause dearly, and we are better because his life touched ours. ". . .He being dead yet speaketh" (Heb. 11:4) [Taken from the Yokefellow, Vol. 27, No. 12, December 14, 2000].