



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
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Skip Andrews, Vice President
Keith A. Mosher Sr., Treasurer
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AN ALUMNUS DIES IN THE PULPIT

Mike McDaniel

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bobby Gene Tillman, 66, who died on Sunday, August 20th, while preaching the gospel. I am informed by Shackelford Funeral Home that brother Tillman had been asked to fill in for the local preacher at Adamsville because he had not been feeling well. When brother Tillman's heart began to race while he was preaching, he asked for a drink of water. Not long after that, it is believed that he died of a massive heart attack.

Brother Tillman was a 1970 graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching. I did not have the pleasure of knowing brother Tillman, but I think it commendable for one to breathe their last breath while trying to do the Lord's work. For those who knew him, I am enclosing his obituary and also a poem which his wife Jean wrote and which was read at his funeral.

Obituary for Bobby Gene Tillman

Bobby Gene Tillman was born April 9, 1940 in McNairy County, Tennessee the son of Reatha Moore Tillman Smith and the late

Jonah Tillman.

He was united in marriage to Jean Smith on August 31, 1962.

Mr. Tillman was the owner of Tillman Plumbing & Electricial, and was a member of the Adamsville church of Christ, where he served as an elder. He preached for various congregations throughout the area. Mr. Tillman served in the United States Army for 3 years (1959-62), and played basketball for the U. S. Army team. He studied for 2 years at the Memphis School of Preaching. Bobby loved sports of all kinds, and especially enjoyed playing the guitar and singing with his family and friends.

Mr. Tillman departed this life on August 20, 2006 in Adamsville, Tennessee at the age of 66 Years, 4 Months, 11 Days. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jean Smith Tillman of Stantonville, Tennessee; three sons: Steve Tillman and wife Carol of Cookeville, Tennessee, Stan Tillman of Huntsville, Alabama and Jeff Tillman of Nashville, Tennessee; three grandsons:

Jonathan Tillman, Cory Tillman and Caleb Tillman; his mother, Reatha Moore Tillman Smith of Selmer, Tennessee; two sisters: Nancy Sweatt of Topeka, Kansas and Judy

Weichman of Washington, Illinois; a brother, Larry Tillman of Clarksville, Tennessee; and a step-brother, Wayne Smith of Akron, Ohio.

POEM IN HONOR OF HER HUSBAND

Jean Tillman

When we were dating, I thought his too-large hands and double-jointed fingers were ugly, and I was embarrassed at them.

Yet I have seen those same hands tenderly hold a baby and guide a toddler's first steps.

I have seen his hands pat a Little Leaguer's shoulder with encouragement and throw balls for practice to timid players.

I have seen his firm hands friendly handshake given along with a genuine smile and outstretched hands for the downtrodden in life.

I have seen the generosity of hands giving without grudge when his children needed money he didn't really have.

I have seen his nervous habit of rubbing and twiddling his thumbs on the steering wheel of the car when he was worried or preoccupied with details of the day.

I have seen him comfort terminally ill patients by simply sitting by their bedsides and laying his hand on their arm to let them know they were not alone.

I have seen his ambidextrous hands as he hammered a nail first with his right hand and then his

left, and I have seen his skill as he repaired the intricate workings of a television.

I have seen the clenching of his hands and the tightness around his lips when he feels that someone isn't being treated fairly, as he boldly defends what he believes to be right.

I have seen these hands playing the guitar as he softly sings a love song to me, often when I'm drinking my morning coffee.

I have seen the suntanned, dirty, calloused hands of a man who does physical labor to provide for his family so that he can volunteer his time to help send the gospel to the whole world.

I have felt his touch as he dries my tears and encourages me to be all I can be even when I am reluctant and content with the status quo.

I now hold his brown, often-blistered hands in mine and wonder how I could have ever been so shallow to see ugliness in these hands of steel and velvet that I love -- the hands of the one who has brought both strength and gentleness, love and laughter, and contentment and challenge into my life.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Zach (2003) and Cindy Cox upon the arrival of twins. Catarina and Colin were born May 25. Zach is the associate preacher for the Swartz Creek, MI Church of Christ.

INFORMATIONAL DINNER DURING THE LUBBOCK LECTURES

Mike McDaniel

We want to invite everyone who can to come to an MSOP student housing informational dinner in Lubbock, Texas on Tuesday, October 10th, 2006 at 5:00 P.M. This will be held during the week of the Ninth Annual Lubbock Lectureship at the Southside church of Christ, 8501 Quaker Avenue in Lubbock. Their theme this year is: *"To the Unknown God."* If you are able, plan now to attend the lectures and to attend this informational dinner on Tuesday evening.

The dinner will be held in the large room of a local restaurant. The exact location has yet to be determined at the time of this writing. Each guest will pay for their own



meal. We hope to be able to present the 13 minute video presentation we have produced about the student apartments and to have several speakers to speak briefly regarding the work of the school and the need for these new apartments. We also want to thank each one who was able to come out to the informational dinner on Tuesday, August 1 at the Southaven church of Christ in Southaven, Mississippi during the Power Lectureship. It was very well attended. Our thanks to that good eldership for the use of their facility and to several of the members at Southaven for their technical assistance.

New Equipment Purchased

Mike McDaniel

Not too long ago, we sent out letters to all the board of directors of the MSOP Alumni Association seeking authorization to purchase for the Forest Hill congregation and the school of preaching, a new DVD duplicator and an inkjet printer which would print on the DVDs. I am happy to announce publicly that this equipment has been purchased by the alumni association. It may be that the addresses or e-mail addresses of a few of our board members are out of date. We know of one, for example, who just sent in their change of address three days ago. Nevertheless, twenty seven votes

from board members were returned either by mail or e-mail in favor of the suggested purchase. No votes were received against it.

The video presentation about the new student housing is being copied using this equipment. Our appreciation to all of the board members who communicated with us.

Please keep in mind that each alumnus has yearly honorary dues of \$25 which should be sent to brother Keith Mosher. If you have not yet done so this year, please send in your dues to help offset this purchase.