



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 2, No. 1

Skip Andrews, Vice President
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January-February 2007

BROTHER CATES TO BECOME DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Nov. 22, 2006

Dear friends of the Memphis School of Preaching:

My beloved friends, I have decided that it is time for me to bow out of directing the Memphis School of Preaching, effective at the Annual Lectureship, March 27, 2007. Words cannot describe the honor which was bestowed on me twenty-five years ago when I was asked to come to the School and to follow brother Roy J. Hearn as director.

The decision is totally my own; both the elders and the faculty strongly urged me to reconsider. But, after five years of battling cancer, of throwing myself completely into this great work, and of nearing my sixty-sixth year, I have made the request of the elders that someone else carry the load. They understand, and I am sure you do also.

The Memphis School of Preaching is a truly great collegiate institution. The Forest Hill eldership has all through the years shown

outstanding leadership, and I love them dearly and treasure their deep friendship. The faculty of the School is second to none and are fully dedicated to the Old Jerusalem gospel. Those students who get to study at the feet of these Bible scholars are especially blessed. And, I love and appreciate them; they are among my dearest friends also, as are the competent staff.

Beloved, I am not retiring--far from it! I will be continuing to teach regularly, I will be Director Emeritus, Annette (my wife) will continue to head up the N. B. Hardeman Library, and Dan (our younger son) will continue to teach in the School. I thank a great eldership and a gracious God who blessed me with the indescribable privilege of directing the School for twenty-four years and for continuing to serve, only in a different role. My heart is in the MSOP; my love, admiration, and appreciation for the elders, faculty, and staff is immeasurable. [And, I wish to write some more books, especially on Job].

Now, please allow me to express to you, my friends, my deepest thanksgiving for your prayerful and financial support of the MSOP all through the nearly one-quarter century while I have been director. Words cannot begin to convey the gratitude in my heart for the confidence you have demonstrated in my directorship. It has been my unswerving, determined purpose to carry out the School's original and solid Bible goal of staying in the strait and narrow, without deviating either to the left or to the right. As brother Hearn, whose faithful work I greatly admire and have tried to imitate, often and up to his very death would say, "I am thankful the toes of the School are pointed in the same direction."

The Forest Hill elders, who oversee the School, will choose the right man to assume the leadership of the School; I have full confidence in them. The MSOP is completely worthy and deserving of your

continued, generous support. I want to ask you to give even more, if possible. One of the greatest things we can do right now is to come with the approximately 1.4 million dollars to complete the student apartments. That would save over \$20,000 monthly in housing these more than fifty students and their families. I shall continue to do everything within my power to support the elders, the next director, and this school as we educate faithful, loving, capable "men of the Book."

Please continue to pray for the elders, the faculty and staff of the MSOP, and for me. Again, my confidence in and love for the School is deep; this work is very close to my heart. God bless you for helping!

Affectionately in Christ,
Curtis A. Cates, Director

P.S. In the words of Mark Twain, "The report of my demise has been greatly exaggerated."

MSOP LECTURESHIP BOOKS SPECIAL

84 - ACTS I \$5.00

86 - I, II TIMOTHY AND TITUS \$5.00

96 - THE APOSTLE PAUL: GREAT SOLDIER OF THE CROSS \$5.00

97 - EZEKIEL AND LAMENTATIONS: LESSONS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE" \$5.00

98 - LESSONS IN LYRICS \$5.00

99 - GOD HATH SPOKEN, AFFIRMING TRUTH AND REPROVING ERROR \$5.00

00 - CHURCH GROWTH: MAN'S WAYS OR GOD'S WAY? \$5.00

01 - THE BOOK OF GENESIS:

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH AND THE UNFOLDING OF GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION \$5.00

02 - SATAN: DIABOLICAL RULER OF THE WORLD AND ENEMY OF GOD AND MAN \$5.00

03 - GOD THE FATHER \$5.00

04 - SIN AND SALVATION \$10.00 set

05 - WHAT IS MAN? \$10.00 set

Please contact MSOP, 3950 Forest Hill Irene Road, Memphis, TN 38125, attn. Kathy Jones; call 901-751-9964 or place order at kjones@msop.org)

BOBBY LIDDELL NAMED AS NEW DIRECTOR OF MSOP

A few weeks ago, brother Curtis A. Cates informed us, the Forest Hill eldership, of his decision to resign his position of Director of the Memphis School of Preaching, as of March 27, 2007. That date will mark his twenty-fourth year in that capacity, his having followed brother Roy J. Hearn, beginning at the Seventeenth Annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship in 1983. [He began teaching with MSOP in August, 1982]. It was with regret and reluctance that the elders accepted his resignation as Director, but we understand.

We are happy to commend brother Cates, without reservation, and to express to him our appreciation for his faithful service to Memphis School of Preaching, and to the brotherhood, as Director of the School. Brother Cates' excellent leadership and great vision have guided the School through a sustained period of tremendous growth and accomplishment, while maintaining the high standards of steadfastness to the truth and academic excellence upon which the School was established.

While we are saddened by his decision, we have urged him to continue with the School as Director Emeritus. We are delighted he will continue working with the School, in this position, and will continue his superb work as an instructor. In addition, he plans to spend time in writing—which we believe will result in much benefit to the Cause of Christ. Sister Annette Cates will continue to direct the N. B. Hardeman Library. We look forward to our continued close association with these, our friends.

We wish to announce that the elders have chosen Bobby Liddell to be the next Director of the Memphis School of Preaching, also effective on March 27, 2007. Brother Liddell is well known to the congregation and the eldership at Forest Hill, and has been widely used by the brotherhood. He is a graduate of MSOP (1979), has continued a close relationship with the School, and has been a great supporter and encourager of our work. He is a seasoned preacher of nearly three decades service, and has worked with the School since August 1, 1994. Initially, he served as Dean of Admissions and instructor. In August, 2002, he began his work with the School as Associate Director, and started directing the annual MSOP Lectureship, which includes his editing the lectureship book.

Since then, he has accepted more duties in the daily work of administration; thus, we believe he is well qualified, Biblically, academically, and energetically, for the work we have given to him. We trust he will continue in the same sound, courageous, wise tradition as brethren Hearn and Cates.

We invoke our Almighty God for blessings as this transition takes place at the Forty-First Annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship, and we ask you to join with us in prayers. Thank you, dear brethren, for your continued, generous encouragement and support.

Faithfully, The Elders
Forest Hill Church of Christ

MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOREST HILL ELDERS UPON SELECTING BROTHER BOBBY LIDDELL

Curtis A Cates

At the evening service, December 3, 2006, I learned of the elders' selection of brother Bobby Liddell to succeed the writer on March 27, 2007, as Director of the Memphis School of Preaching. The elders made the announcement to the Forest Hill church before worship began. I enthusiastically commend the eldership, which oversees the School (a part of the Bible teaching program of the Forest Hill congregation), for selecting a great and good man who loves the Truth dearly and is fully capable of continuing the institution in its original mission and purpose.

Bobby Liddell hails from Adamsville, Alabama. He was influenced early by the loved and lamented Bobby Duncan and Franklin Camp. He gave up high-paying employment when he and sister Joan moved to Memphis to prepare in the MSOP, to preach the old, primitive gospel. He was graduated in 1979 having studied under such noted teachers as Roy J. Hearn, J. A. McNutt, Richard Curry, John Renshaw, Frank Young, E. L. Whitaker, and Gary Colley. Brother Liddell was selected by the faculty to receive the "Outstanding Student Award," June 24, 1979. Later, the Alumni Association of the School named him as "Alumnus of the Year," April 1, 1997.

Brother Liddell is well educated (in addition to MSOP), having attended Walker College, the University of Alabama Birmingham, and Regions University (B.A., Summa Cum Laude and Valedictorian, 1985; M.A., 1986; and much additional work toward the M. Div.).

The Liddells have preached the gospel since 1978, working with congregations in Alabama, Florida, and Tennessee for the last twenty-nine years. They have three children who are faithful workers for the Lord: Tony, Nathan, and Keri, and four grandchildren. Tony (who preaches in Alabama) and Nathan (who preaches in Colorado) are MSOP graduates (2003).

Brother Bobby has been a great supporter of MSOP since his graduation. He was added to the faculty in 1994 and has demonstrated himself to be an excellent teacher, very capable Dean of Admissions, and gifted and invaluable Associate Director.

I am very excited about and deeply commend brother Liddell for his selection. He has my pledge of encouragement and support in every way possible. I shall be privileged to continue with the School in the capacity of Director Emeritus and teacher. My heart is with the School, as is only natural after twenty-five years. My health is good, and I look forward to more productive years in the Lord's service, the Lord willing. I pray much success for Christ's work at this place.

Dear friend of the Memphis School of Preaching, please continue your most generous moral and financial support of MSOP and even help more, if you can. Especially remember brother Liddell, the Forest Hill eldership, and me in your prayers. My deepest appreciation is expressed to you for your encouragement of our efforts for a quarter century.

NOMINATIONS FOR ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Rick Lawson

The time is quickly approaching for the MSOP Lectureship. One of the tasks that must be accomplished before that time is the selection of an Alumnus of the Year. If you have someone in mind that you would like to nominate, please let me know as soon as possible. My E-mail address is bibleoter@gmail.com. My phone number is (731)587-3534. My mailing address is Rick Lawson, 414 Gardner Rd., Martin, TN 38237.

The selection criteria for MSOP Alumnus of the Year are as follows:

1. *Is exemplary in Christian living (Rom. 1,2; 1 Thess. 2:10).*
2. *Faithfully proclaims the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27; 2 Tim. 4:1-4).*
3. *Has continued to demonstrate primary devotion to preaching for a period of at least 10 years (Acts 4:20; Jer. 20:9).*
4. *Is a fitting example of humble service (Eph.4:1-3; 2 Cor. 10:18).*

5. *Has manifested fruitful labors whereby men may glorify God (Matt. 5:16).*

6. *Has demonstrated his willingness to make personal sacrifices for the cause of Christ [health, financial deprivation, etc.] (Phil. 3:4-11; 2 Cor. 11:23-28).*

7. *If he is married, he has been supported in his work by a wife "faithful in all things" (1 Tim. 3:11).*

8. *If he has children, they must respect their parents, and revere God (Titus 1:6).*

9. *Has lent moral support to MSOP (attended lectureships, etc.)*

Along with the name of the nomination, please include a brief explanation of why you think this person should be considered for the honor of MSOP Alumnus of the Year. **The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2007.**

The honoree is selected by a vote of the Awards and Recognition Committee.

ALUMNI MOVES

Word has just been received that brother Patrick Morrison (1999) is now the new pulpit minister of the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ in Jasper, Alabama. He will become the new editor of *Words Of Truth*.

Also, brother Andy Cates (2000) will follow brother Morrison at the Cleveland Church of Christ in Bankston, Alabama. We wish them well in their respective works.

A WORD OF THANKS

I lost my beloved father, James McDaniel on December 7th, 2006. He succumbed to heart failure while sitting in his barstool in his kitchen eating his lunch. He folded his hands and rested his face upon them as if in gentle sleep. I want to express our thanks to each one for the words of sympathy expressed and prayers offered on behalf of mother and our family. We appreciate them greatly.

Let us think more of Heaven in 2007!

Mike McDaniel, Editor

PREVIEW FOR PROSPECTS DAY

Jerry Martin

The Memphis School of Preaching depends on its alumni to recruit students and help raise student support. For 15 plus years we have tried to coordinate those efforts with the Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship. On Tuesdays of the Lectureship each year a Preview for Prospects presentation is conducted. This year's presentation will be on March 27th at 2:10 PM in the Chapel Hall of the School. Here, prospective students and congregations interested in supporting preacher students are given an introductory overview of the Memphis School of Preaching by the Director and faculty. Prospects have an opportunity to ask questions and will be given a packet of information to take with them.

Each year during the Preview for Prospects time slot, an alumnus of MSOP

speaks for about 10 minutes. This gives prospective students and potential supporters an opportunity to see and hear from a finished product of the school. This occasion also gives an alumnus the opportunity to highlight how they have personally benefitted from the training they received from the Memphis School of Preaching. This year's guest speaker will be brother Terry Claunch of the class of 1984.

Your efforts to bring prospective students and supporters to the preview presentation and to the lectureship are vital to our recruiting efforts. We are asking every alumnus to make a special effort to make this year, 2007, the best year ever for student recruitment and support raised. See you at the lectureship.

News From Danny Butler

As of November 2006, I have completed the academic work and passed the comprehensive exam toward my Master of Divinity Degree in Ministerial services. I will receive my degree at graduation exercises at Region University in June of 2007. I have begun working on my Doctor of Ministry with the Spring semester. I solicit my brethren's prayers in this endeavor.

Also, I may make a request. I have not received but a few responses for the book we agreed to [brief outlines of 10 to 15 min.]. I want to encourage all to please respond to this need.

Distinguished Alumnus Award

This year, we will have a new award to bestow. This award will be given to those alumni who graduated from MSOP and who have been consistently faithful and active members of the church for a period of not less than twenty-five full calendar years from the time of their Diploma. Those serving on the committee to determine the recipients of this reward are: Michael Hughes, Bobby Baker, Riley Nelson, and Dustin Forthun.

The board of directors will be notified for a vote on this between now and the time of the lectureship.

HAVE YOU MADE UP YOUR MIND YET?

Mike McDaniel

As President of the MSOP Alumni Association, I would like to personally exhort every faithful alumnus who loves the school to attend the forty-first annual lectureship March 25-29, 2007. The theme this year is "Epistles To Corinth." Every verse of First and Second Corinthians has been assigned to able men along with some weighty themes given to the ladies. I predict that this book will serve as a new, tremendous commentary in the brotherhood on these important epistles. Please be praying for the speakers, many of whom are fellow alumni, as they make their final preparations.

In 1988, I came to Memphis for the lectures. I stopped and ate lunch at the Mall of Memphis and nearly choked to death from a piece of hot dog which lodged in my esophagus. I went to the hospital at Getwell and Knight Arnold and was there all day. It took a scope to remove it. My family came to take me back home. As I was laying there in the hospital bed, very sick, it made me even sicker to know that I was missing brother Andrew Connally's sermon that night and renewing associations with old friends. That is the only lectureship I have ever missed since I started at MSOP in 1983. I was just down the street, but could not attend.

Many alumni make sacrificial efforts each year to come. Sadly, others

seem never to do so. But last year, I noticed several there whom I had not seen in a long time.

Friend, if you are reading this article, I want you to consider this. Living the Christian life is not easy and being a gospel preacher in this day and time isn't either. There is just something about seeing old friends, old classmates, fellow soldiers of the cross who continue to endure despite hardships, that really encourages me in my ministry. It always has. And then when I add to that the opportunity to hear great men of God, seasoned in years, as well as young men who are excelling in their spiritual growth, it makes me appreciate the work of the past and look forward to the promise of the future.

Please consider coming to the lectures this year. It will be significant in the history of the school due to the transition of directors. And it could be of significant spiritual benefit and encouragement to you if you will only attend.

Why not begin now to set aside some money for expenses and books for your library, make your motel reservations, and turn to your wife and say, "Honey, you can come with me or stay behind because this year, I have made up my mind. I am going to the lectures!"