



Laborers Together Newsletter

Memphis School of Preaching Alumni Association

“For we are laborers together with God. . .” (1 Cor. 3:9)

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STUDENT SUPPORT NEEDED

Rick Lawson

There were lots of tough things we all faced going through MSOP. The memory verses brother Elkins had us quote ten minutes into the first day of class, the long papers for brother Mosher, the thorough tests given by brother Liddell, the maps we colored for brother Curry. Well, ok . . . maybe the maps were not so bad! I would rather do any of those things again, rather than have to go back through the ordeal of raising my support for school. Do you remember how it felt to raise funds so you could attend MSOP? It was fifteen years ago for me, and I remember the gut wrenching feeling very well indeed!

Wouldn't it be nice if we, as alumni, could help alleviate that feeling for some current and future students? Can you think of a better way to spend the Lord's money than to train men to go into fields that are white unto harvest?

Is the church where you are located supporting students at MSOP now? Could

you take on another? The student body is growing, and this year the School expects to be near full capacity. There has never been a time when your support was needed more! I personally know of three men who are currently enrolled without enough support. I know it is hard to study and learn with part of your mind fretting over finances. If you would like to help one or more of these men, please feel free to contact me at Rick Lawson, 870.200.9010, bibletooter@gmail.com.

Voluntary Alumni Dues

As you all know, the more resources that are at our disposal the more good we can do. At last report, our alumni fund was lower than normal. Could it be that you have not given your \$25 in dues this year? Please do so right now by sending them to our treasurer, Keith Mosher at this address: MSOP Alumni Association c/o Keith Mosher, 3950 Forest Hill-Irene Road, Memphis, TN 38125. The dues are voluntary and greatly appreciated.

ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

A Word Of Thanks

From **Wilkin Tom O'Neal (1996)**, "Words cannot begin to express our appreciation to the elders of the Forest Hill congregation and to the Memphis School of Preaching for their continued love and support in holding up our hands in seeking and saving the lost. We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for the blessings that He has bestowed upon us since we arrived in Paris, Texas back in January 2012 to labor with the Bonham Street congregation. We've had 7 baptisms, several restorations, and we just completed a three day Vacation Bible School that was very successful, not only in attendance but in planting the seed. We had parents and children that attended for the very first time in this congregation. None of this would be possible if we had not had the training of faithful gospel preachers and teachers at the Memphis School of Preaching. We thank God every day for the opportunity that has come our way!"

Mission Work

In July, **Tim Wilkes II (2006)**, along with his family, went on a mission trip to Guyana in South America. They worked with two congregations located on the outskirts of Georgetown. They conducted Vacation Bible School at both of them and then conducted Gospel Meetings. The Lord blessed their efforts with nine souls being added to the kingdom of Christ.

After being in China, brethren **Tim Burroughs (2004)**, **Tim Hayes (2007)**, **Jason Hilburn (2005)** and **Billy Bland (1977)** went to Singapore where they participated in the Four Seas Bible College Lectureship. Robin Burroughs (Tim's wife) had already gone to Singapore by-passing China, and they met up with her, as well as **Lee Davis (1985)** in

Singapore once they arrived. Four Seas is gaining in the number of its students and much work is being done to train to prepare them for the work that lays ahead, Lord willing.

Patrick (2005) and Chantelle Swain wrote that they have completed their move to Singapore to begin teaching at Four Seas College this month and to build up area congregations. He will be Dean of Academics at the College.

Mark Reynolds (1999) is now working with Far East/ World Evangelism. He will be concentrating in Kakinada, India and Muramansk, Russia.

Brenda wrote to tell us that **Rod Rutherford (1974)** left on August 6th for a two week mission trip to Zambia, Africa. She said, "He will be joining Ron Gilbert, another MSOP alumnus on the trip. This is where we worked with the churches for seven years. He is anxious to get back and teach and preach. He will be gone Aug. 6-22."

Stephen Higley (2010) writes, "I am a MSOP 2010 graduate. Currently I am raising support to go into the mission field of New Zealand to work with the Foxton church of Christ in Foxton, NZ on the south part of the North Island. This is the same area where 1994 graduate Mac de Thierry was, and his family is still there. I am leaving Sept.1, 2012, Lord willing. This work is a tremendous one and is greatly needed in the country. The gospel has never been heard in the surrounding cities except for Palmerston North and Foxton. The surrounding population is around 120,000. Please send support to: Bremen church of Christ; C/O Stephen Higley Mission Work; PO Box 1295; Bremen, GA 30110. Prayers are asked for

daily. Also, there is a campaign for Foxton in Feb.2013. Please let me know if interested. email: higster45@yahoo.com; cell phone: 678-925-5750.

James Eaves (2002) wrote, "On July 6th, I departed Houston, TX, for Quito, Ecuador, with several brethren from the Dallas area. Our Spanish speaking brethren that meet at the building in Gonzales were involved in a work to help build a church building in Tulcan, Ecuador, and asked us to help out. Our elders decided to send funds to help in this work and asked me to "check out the work." We spent a total of 10 days in Ecuador with one overnight trip into Pasto, Columbia. I was privileged to preach in several congregations in Ibarra, Tulcan, and Pasto. Each place that we visited the brethren could barely fit in their meeting places. The Word is producing Christians at a rapid rate and the souls there are very eager to hear that Word."

Larry K. Henry (1973) writes, "Now that I am retired, I am interested in assisting missionaries, particularly in the U.S. If a missionary needs temporary assistance in personal work, teaching, community projects or assistance with the local work while they participate in fund raising, they should contact me at 615-347-7840 or 615-597-4537, lkhenry@dtccom.net, POB 715, Smithville, TN., 37166. I left the "full-time" aspect of the ministry in 1981 for health reasons. After working for Tennessee government for 25 years, I retired with the sole interest of expanding my mission involvement. For 15 years I have served as a deacon with the local church with specialties in member care, personal evangelism, jail ministry and web design (www.smithvillechurch.org). Feel free to talk with any of the elders for additional information about me. Their contact

information is available on this site. May God's work prevail and His grace be yours."

Reclaiming Addicted And Abused Women

Kenny Taylor (2006) writes, "Recently at the MSOP lectures, I was privileged to give a presentation on behalf of RAAW. I would like to thank brother Keith A. Mosher, Sr., for the opportunity. Reclaiming Addicted & Abused Women (RAAW) is a work of the LORD'S church in Jacksonville, Texas, and was started by brother H.L. Shirey about four years ago. RAAW is a mission work of the church that seeks to mend broken homes. Rather than permanently remove children from troubled homes and give them to others to raise, RAAW works to heal the parents so that the children can return to them and be raised in godly families. RAAW does this primarily by providing a program to help women who are in danger of losing their children and are therefore motivated to get help. The secondary focus is to work with the men as well so that the entire home can be healed. This has included branching out into a prison ministry and reaching these men wherever they may be.

RAAW teaches these women the skills they need to better their lives, which means learning about God, letting Him heal their past hurts, and trusting in Him as they battle their current destructive behaviors. RAAW does this with Bible classes, a Biblical 12 step program, and one-on-one counseling sessions. The women have outside jobs as they live together, creating a closely-knit support group. RAAW provides a safe, godly place for them as they learn to trust GOD and develop self worth that is critical to their recovery. The process demands that only a relatively small group of women be taken in at a time. RAAW

is only 4 years old, but to date, 72 women have already completed the program. Of these women, so far as we know, 43 are still clean. This is nearly a 60% success rate, an especially encouraging rate when compared to similar state programs. We believe that the reason that so comparatively few women have gone back to their former lifestyle is because this program puts the focus of their recovery squarely where it should be: on God. Recently I was privileged to take a lady who is in RAAW to visit her children at a church supported home for children in Oklahoma. (RAAW seeks to work in conjunction with these homes, never in opposition.) She was so happy to see them, and soon after returning to RAAW she was baptized into CHRIST to become our sister! Every lost soul that is reached is worthy of celebration, and we work alongside, never in competition with other brothers and sisters who do the same. In order to keep the control of the program in the hands of the church and to preserve its godly focus, RAAW is determined not to accept any monetary assistance from the government. The work, however, is greatly in need of assistance, both in financial support and in workers. Any elderships seeking to support a work of the church, any businesses or individuals who may be able to help, are strongly encouraged to dig deep and contribute each month what you can joyfully give. Please send contributions to P.O. Box 963 Jacksonville TX 75766. Any women in the area or willing to relocate who can help the program by staying at the home RAAW provides and provide transportation are sought as well. Any questions you have, please ask. Any help you can give will go to GOD'S work. We are grateful for all of the works being done for GOD'S glory and in HIS will, and we believe RAAW is important as is every mission work.

On The Move

Tim Wilkins (1997) wrote that he has moved to 2400 McFarland Apt. J101, West Plains, MO., 65775. He is currently not preaching but looking in this area.

David E. Armstrong (1983) wrote to give us their new address: P.O. Box.744, Moundridge, KS., 57107, Phone No. 1-620-234-2423. He also wondered if anyone would have news concerning Ronny Stevens from the class of 1982? If anyone does, send it to me by replying to this newsletter, and I will forward it to him.

Bobby O'Dell (1995) has moved from Naples, FL., to the East Wood church in Paris, TN. Please remember him in your prayers in his new work.

Scott Webster (2005) writes that he moved to Red Bay, Alabama, the first of July and began working with the Red Bay Church.

Corey Barnette (2002) writes, "My family and I are now a part of the Fairview congregation (Pulaski, TN). I started 'full-time' on March 18, 2012. Previously, I was working with the Farmington congregation near Lewisburg, TN., for close to 5 ½ years."

Ed Casteel (1991*) wrote to tell us that after 12 years of work with the Ackerman Church of Christ in Ackerman, MS. Ed and Iris have moved to work with the Central Academy Church of Christ between Batesville and Oxford, MS.

Wayne Rogers (2009) has been named the new evangelist for the Gulf Breeze, Florida Church of Christ.

Kevin Beard (1992) has been named the new evangelist for the Harrisburg, Arkansas Church of Christ.

Chad Dollahite (1998) has been named the new evangelist of the Bremen, Georgia, Church of Christ.

Howell Ferguson (1984) has recently had some changes in his work. He writes, "I am continuing to work in a limited capacity with the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver extension program as stateside coordinator for BVBIU in Gorlovka, Ukraine. I will be releasing my responsibilities with the Chimala Bible Institute (Tanzania) at the end of this year, 2012. I am also serving as congregational minister for the North Jackson Church of Christ, Jackson, TN. Those churches or individuals who wish to continue supporting me personally and my work fund may continue sending their funds to the Westside Church of Christ in Brownsville, TN. Those churches or individuals who have been asked to divert their support of me to BVBIU directly should send their funds to the

Christiansburg Church of Christ, Christiansburg, VA."

Illness

Gema Winchester, wife of MSOP graduate **Jonathan Winchester (2007)**, is battling stomach cancer and receiving treatments in Nashville. Their address: 4023 Knud Drive, Columbia, TN 38401.

Trip Opportunity

Tony Lawrence (HA-2004) writes, "I am organizing another trip to the Bible Lands. This one will be March 12-23, 2013 and will go to Athens and Corinth in Greece, cruise the Greek islands including Patmos and Crete, then conclude with the Seven Churches." If you are interested in the details, e-mail him at preacher@bybeebranch.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of the MSOP Alumni Association, which is comprised of our elected class representatives, met in the second year classroom on Tuesday, March 27th, at noon. Thirty brethren were present. We are grateful for all who were in attendance.

Among the business of the day, a committee was formed to find additional ways whereby alumni might pay their dues including Paypal. John Deberry and Sherry Brown were nominated as Honorary Alumni

this year. Rick Lawson was re-elected as President of the Alumni Association for another two year term. Larry Powers resigned as our Recording Secretary. We appreciate brother Powers for his steadfast service to the association in this capacity and in other ways. Brother Powers is a past President of the association. Preston Silcox was nominated as our new Recording Secretary. Tom Holland was honored at our Alumni and Friends Dinner. Riley Nelson received our Alumnus of the Year Award.

MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING CONDUCTS FOUR GOSPEL CAMPAIGNS

Billy Bland

The week immediately following the Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship, the students and faculty conducted four

Gospel Campaigns. Students were divided into four separate groups and traveled to the campaigns previously scheduled. During the

day, students (along with church members) knocked on doors in the community and invited the residents to attend the Gospel Meeting conducted nightly at the local congregation. Additionally, efforts were made to establish in-home Bible studies and/or Bible correspondence courses. These campaigns were with the Kissimmee church of Christ, Kissimmee, FL.; the Leonard Street church, Pensacola, FL., the church of Christ in Concordia, MO. and the Lay Lake congregation in Columbiana, AL.

Keith Mosher Sr. preached the Gospel in the campaign in Kissimmee, FL. There were approximately 3,000 doors knocked which resulted in 11 in-home Bible studies and 36 Bible Correspondence courses. There were 31 public responses to the Gospel's call. Nathan Franson is the local preacher for the congregation. The Kissimmee congregation has written a letter to the Memphis School of Preaching commending the students and brother Mosher for their works.

Michael McDaniel, part time faculty member and local preacher for the Central church of Christ in Caruthersville, MO., preached in the campaign in Concordia, MO. There were approximately 2,250 doors knocked which resulted in 6 in-home Bible studies and 17 Bible correspondence courses being established. We know of at least 3 baptisms and 1 restoration. Steve Thayer was the contact person for the church in

Concordia. Brother Thayer also has written a letter regarding the encouragement the congregation received due to the campaign and also mentions there are several future contacts for them because of the campaign.

Jerry Martin preached the Gospel in the meeting with the Lay Lake church of Christ in Columbiana, AL. The Lay Lake congregation is in a rural area and consequently, there were only about 870 doors knocked, but this resulted in 36 Bible correspondence courses. There was 1 baptism during the Gospel Meeting. David Bass is the local preacher for the Lay Lake congregation.

Billy Bland preached in the campaign with the Leonard Street church of Christ in Pensacola. There were approximately 1,200 doors knocked which resulted in 2 in-home Bible studies and 8 Bible correspondence courses. Barry O'Dell is the local preacher for the congregation. The brethren at Leonard Street were very gracious and hospitable.

It should be noted that many of the students were sick with "flu-like" symptoms. Some of them were unable to knock doors due to their being so sick. Brother Barry O'Dell, the local evangelist for the Leonard Street congregation, even had to be hospitalized due to pneumonia. In spite of all the sicknesses, the campaigns were successful. God blessed the efforts and perhaps there will be souls in heaven as a result of these campaigns.



A Rewarding Experience



Taking The Good Confession



Seeking To Make A Difference