

YOKEFELLOW

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A GREAT AND UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY Billy Bland

I have just returned from my third trip into the vast country of China. One is not permitted to teach or preach the Word of God openly to the more than one billion people who live there. However, a unique opportunity has been presented to us to spread the Word of God throughout much of China (perhaps by God's providence). On my recent trip, a Professor of a University was converted to Christ. I had the privilege of baptizing him into Christ, for the remission of his sins. He is a Professor of "Theological Aesthetics" and he, along with another Professor (who is already a Christian), edit a booklet dealing with Religion, which is published through the college system. These men have asked me to edit this publication with them, and we will become the owners of the booklet, which will still be published through the college system.

The booklet will no longer deal with "Art" or "Philosophy"; rather, it will be teaching God's Word. When I was asked to become one of the editors, I mentioned that I would not teach "Philosophy," but would write articles on such topics as "The Bible Is God's Word," "What Must One Do To Be Saved?" and "How To Identify The One Church." The answer I was given was, "No problem." They wish for me to submit all the articles in the book. They assured me that since the book has already been in operation, we could now change the content of the book, and it would still be published since the translators and publishers know them.

This book will be made available to every university in China! What an opportunity to make the truth known to the universities throughout China. I do not believe we should let such an opportunity pass. The book is to be 250,000 words (about 300 pages), and we will print 3,000 copies to be distributed. The cost for the professional translation and the printing of the book is about \$10,000. It will be well worth the price to produce a 300-page book teaching the truth, which will be made available to all the university libraries in China. Currently \$2,200 has been raised for this effort.

If you would like to help, please make checks payable to Far East World Evangelism, earmarked "China Book," and mail the check to the Coldwater Church of Christ, P.O. Box 437, Senatobia, MS 38668.

P.S. One young man, who was converted to Christ about two years ago, has already memorized the complete New Testament, the Book of Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes, and is working on Psalms. This shows the dedication of some of the people who are converted.

2012 MSOP Lectureship – Some Reflections

Barry Grider

The Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship is always a joyful occasion centered around our worship unto God, intensive study in His word, and the enjoyment of sweet fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ. This year was no exception. Enthusiastic crowds gathered daily the week of March 25 to hear messages surrounding the vitally important theme, “In God We Trust.” All who love God and country surely would appreciate the purpose of this year’s lectureship. It was the desire of our elders and of the faculty of the Memphis School of Preaching to present a program that would call America back to its roots and to the principles upon which she was founded which are clearly rooted in God’s sacred volume—the Bible. The church of our Lord must lead the way, standing for that which is good and right (1 Tim. 3:15). Throughout the week, attendees heard another poignant passage ring out, more than once, from the Forest Hill pulpit, “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Pro. 14:34).

All of the speakers on the program were faithful and able men and women who are serious students of God’s word. It was clear that each one was prepared to deliver the message assigned. Brother David Sain presented the opening lecture during the Bible class hour on the Lord’s Day in superb fashion, as he has done for several years. That evening, Joe Wiley, president of Freed-Hardeman University, spoke about Christian education in America today. I think all who were present echoed the sentiments of Curtis A. Cates, Director Emeritus of the Memphis School of Preaching, that the address by brother Wiley was one of the finest ever presented regarding what ought to be the goal of every Christian university.

Though I, like others on our staff, can be very busy during lectureship week and cannot hear all of the lessons as they are presented, I could not resist the desire to hear 100-year-old Perry B. Cotham preach on Monday morning. This beloved veteran preacher still has a keen intellect and a sharp mind which were clearly demonstrated as he presented his message. He still preaches with enthusiasm and is still committed to the old Jerusalem gospel. What a delight it will be to tell future generations we were privileged to hear this centenarian preach.

State Representative and dear brother in Christ, John DeBerry, boldly spoke that Monday morning concerning the responsibilities of civil rulers. It is good to know that a Christian man serves in the Tennessee State House. Likewise, we are so appreciative of the support that he gives to the school of preaching and for the respect he has for the work we are trying to accomplish.

Our four weeknight speakers: Dan Winkler, Tom Holland, Keith Mosher, and Robert Taylor, each presented powerful messages that were thought provoking and should stir us into action. These lectures were all centered around Proverbs 14:34, our key passage for the week.

One of the great highlights of our week together is the annual Alumni/Friends dinner conducted on Tuesday afternoon during the lectureship. A lot of business that pertains to the school is discussed during this time. It is always a period of time to express appreciation to so many who mean so much to the school. It is also good and right to honor those who honor God and have sacrificed greatly for His cause. During the dinner, we were privileged to honor State Representative DeBerry and our dear sister Sherry Brown as honorary alumni. Sister Brown has been the secretary of the school of preaching for about a dozen years. She, along with her husband, Jim, are members of the Forest Hill church where brother Jim, also, serves as one of our deacons. No one probably does more to prepare for our lectures than sister Brown. She is usually working behind the scenes and literally is working year round to help us with logistical matters concerning the lectureship.

Brother Riley Nelson, 1987 graduate of MSOP and long time evangelist of the Richmond Hill, Georgia, Church of Christ, was named alumnus of the year. Riley is a true example of faithfulness and fortitude. He loves the Lord and His people. We salute him for his works’ sake and pray God to give him many more years of service.

Likewise, brother Tom Holland, who is no stranger to lovers of gospel preaching, was presented with a plaque given in recognition of his years of service. Holland, now 80, continues to wield the Spirit’s sword in a mighty way and still busies himself in the work of the kingdom. Also, each Forest Hill elder was presented with a plaque of appreciation, given by the Alumni Association, for their continued faithful oversight of the school of preaching.

Another aspect of lectureship week is the opportunity to hear and highlight so many good works that are being done in our brotherhood. While we bemoan the secularism found in our society and the liberalism found in the church, much good is being done by many individuals and congregations to promote the gospel of Christ. The Memphis School of Preaching has many graduates who are not only laboring with local congregations but are also involved in numerous works such as missions, Christian education, publications, and communications. Opportunities abound for the growth of the kingdom and many are seizing these opportunities and turning dreams into realities.

Heartfelt thanks is extended to all those who make lectureship week a splendid reality. We are grateful to our good and faithful elders, hardworking deacons, the staffs of the church and the school, our excellent students, and the devoted members of Forest Hill and sister congregations who assist in this effort. A special thank you is extended to our esteemed director of the Memphis School of Preaching, Bobby Liddell, and our resilient lectureship director, Keith Mosher. Of course, we are grateful to alumni, friends, and other interested individuals who come to learn and grow and be a part of this great annual event. Above all we thank our heavenly Father, the Giver of life, without whom we could not have these privileges. Our hearts and minds have surely been challenged.

Regardless of how the world responds to us, may our resolve always be “In God We Trust.”

2012 MSOP Lectureship



Alumnus of Year



Perry Cotham, Preaching at 100 Years Old



Sister Brown Honored



Thomas Holland Honored



The Barber Story



"The Wasp & The Preacher"



INFORMATION ABOUT MSOP

- Intensive, Two-year, Collegiate Program Of Strong Bible Emphasis
- 54 Courses, 164 Semester Hours, 2,960 Clock Hours In Classes
- Two Full Years Of Transferable College Credit
- Emphasis On Doctrinal Soundness, Christian Character, And Evangelistic Zeal
- Sound, Well-qualified, Dedicated Faculty
- Recognized For Educational Excellence In Preacher Preparation For Pulpit, Local Work, and World Evangelism
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- Personal Direction From A Seasoned Faculty Experienced In All Facets Of Preaching
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Bobby Liddell, Editor

FOREST HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST
Under the Oversight of the ELDERS

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YOKELFELLOW

ARE YOU READY FOR FOUNDATIONS 2012? A Training Camp Of The Memphis School Of Preaching June 23-29, 2012

The fifth annual training camp for young men (13-18 years old) will be conducted on the campus of the Memphis School of Preaching from June 23-29, 2012. Young men from all over the country will come together for a week of specialized training in a variety of areas of service. Special instruction will be given in the area of preparing and delivering a 5-7 minute sermon. We will also provide training in the areas of leading singing, leading prayers, reading Scripture in the public assembly, and in presiding/serving at the Lord's table.

Our aim is to prepare men to excel, not only in the worship of the church, but in the work of the church as well. Accordingly, we will also provide training in how to become an elder/deacon in the church someday. We will explore ways to serve the Lord and the congregation even outside of the four walls of the church building.

This special week of training is free. The meals are provided by local congregations, and the campers are housed in the apartments on the campus of MSOP. The camp is open to the first 45-50 young men (ages 13-18) who submit and receive approval of their applications. Applications may be downloaded at <http://www.msop.org/foundations.pdf>

We would love to accommodate every request to attend, but due to limited housing, the logistics of giving proper attention to each student, and finding time for the sermons to be presented, we must limit the space to no more than 45-50 campers.

Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis, so do not delay.

Applications and forms must be received and approved by June 8, 2012.