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FOREST HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST
Bobby Liddell, Editor

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YOKEFELLOW

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A Word Of Appreciation, A Promise, And A Plea

B. J. Clarke

I am overwhelmed with a sense of deep gratitude to the elders of the Forest Hill church of Christ for the invitation to serve as the next Director of the school I have loved since I was a little boy. My father, T. J. Clarke, attended the school from 1970-1972. Even now, four decades later, I can remember the powerful preaching of E. L. Whitaker. I have heard my father speak fondly of the tremendous impact the faculty had upon him. I have seen the fruits of their labors in the work my father has done, and in the things he passed down to me, which he learned from these men.

I have immeasurable appreciation for the directorship of men like Roy J. Hearn, Curtis A. Cates, and Bobby Liddell. Every time I look at the curriculum of the school I thank God for the wisdom of Roy Hearn in laying foundations for the school that are still so solid. Every time I show a prospective student the student housing and library, I thank God for the vision of men like brother Cates. Every time I contemplate the current stability of the school, doctrinally, and financially, I praise God for the excellent job brother Liddell has done in leading the way. I cannot thank brother Liddell enough for recommending me to this great work. It brings me great comfort to know that brother Cates and brother Liddell will be close at hand to offer assistance and advice to me as I endeavor to "keep the toes of the school pointed in the right direction."

(Continued on Page 3)

PLEASE CONSIDER AN END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTION TO MSOP

Since the beginning of MSOP, the generous contributions made at the close of the calendar year have been very vital to our work.

MSOP receives no government grants or loans, and charges no tuition or fees to its students. We are dependent upon the Forest Hill congregation, and other faithful brethren, who are convinced of the continuing need to prepare men to preach the Gospel of Christ, to support the School.

Your contributions at the end of the year help us to provide for much needed student support, and anticipated expenses, and to catch up with the unanticipated expenses involved in the day-to-day operation of the School.

Remember, donations to MSOP are fully tax deductible, of course, and they are very much needed in order to continue the work of MSOP.

Please help if you can. Thank you, in advance!

A Note Of Appreciation For Jerry And Denise Martin

Bobby Liddell

As was announced in the last issue, brother Martin will begin his work as Dean of the School of Human Services at Amridge University on January 1, 2013. We are very happy for him, and we know he will do a great job, but we are saddened that he and Denise will be leaving MSOP.

Brother Martin and I met for the first time as we began our studies at MSOP in August 1977. We enjoyed a lot of happy moments together while in school, and we established a friendship that extended to our wives and children. After graduation, we kept in touch, and we helped each other through the challenges that face young preachers. Most important of all, we kept each other encouraged.

As the students could attest, brother Martin and I have had some interesting, unusual, and often humorous events in the thirty-five years of our friendship. Together, we attended classes at Alabama Christian School of Religion (now Amridge University), usually meeting in the early morning, in order to drive together for several hours to Montgomery, and to be there for our first class at 8:00 A.M. We took classes all day, one day a week, with our last class ending at 10:00 P.M. Then, we would make the long trip home, arriving in the early hours of the next morning.

Sometimes, brother Martin would not know I had enrolled both of us for that quarter's classes, until a few days before, but he always went. Eventually, he obtained his Ph.D. from Amridge University, and I could not have been more happy for him. He worked diligently to attain that educational accomplishment, and did so with the right attitude and purpose.

Brother Martin has been a tireless laborer on the faculty of MSOP, since he began here in 2000. Likewise, sister Martin has worked as our Financial Secretary, since 2007, and has done an outstanding job. They both have gone above and beyond the call of duty, and have always been ready and willing to do not only whatever I have called upon them to do, but also whatever they saw that needed to be done.

I encouraged brother Martin's addition to the faculty because I knew him so well—and that enabled me to know his unique talents,

tremendous abilities, and unwavering devotion. I have seen him face the most difficult of trials, with faith. I have seen him stand for right, when those around him abandoned the fight. I have seen him weep tears of anguish over lost souls. I have seen him, heartbroken because of what brethren had done, put his trust in the Lord, and keep on keeping on.

Through the years, brother Martin has labored quietly, steadfastly, and effectively. His reason for preaching has not been to be seen of men, or to make a name for himself. Preaching has not been, to him, a hobby, or an easy living. His love for the Lord, and for his fellow man, have made preaching and teaching the purpose of his life. He has not allowed enemies to consume his time, or his thoughts, but he has focused upon serving the Lord faithfully. He has proved himself, beyond question, by his work, by his faith, and by his Christian character. He has been a great example to me, and he has been a trusted confidant, and a wise and valued counselor.

Likewise, I encouraged sister Martin's becoming our financial secretary because I knew how intelligent and hard working she was, and that her honesty was unquestioned. She has been a trusted and valued coworker, whose expertise has greatly benefited us in our work.

We are deeply grateful for all brother and sister Martin have done for MSOP, and we are going to miss them. We pray for Jerry and Denise, and for their continued success in serving our Savior.

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Good men are willing to make personal sacrifices, in order to preach the gospel. These men (and their families) need food, clothing, books, insurance, and the other expenses of living.

We dare not fail our Lord by refusing to help deserving brethren to prepare themselves to be faithful gospel preachers. Send your support for students to MSOP. If you are interested in supporting a particular student, please contact us, and we will help you make those arrangements. Your contributions to MSOP are tax deductible. Thanks!

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(Clarke: Continued from Page 1)

I am very enthused about the opportunity to work together with the godly elders, gifted preachers, and dedicated members of the Forest Hill congregation. I am so blessed to work with such a knowledgeable and experienced faculty. They have taught me much, and I look forward to tapping into more of their wisdom. I am also happy to have my supportive wife, Tish, by my side, and I know she will be a positive role model for the student wives.

I truly appreciate the alumni of the Memphis School of Preaching. One of the greatest honors of my life was to be named as an honorary alumnus of the school in 2006. On January 1, 2013, I will experience an even greater honor, but also a greater responsibility. I pledge to you that I will not take this responsibility lightly. I look forward to your input.

Recently, brother Grider spoke in chapel and presented a masterful sermon on Faith, from Hebrews 11. My promise to you is that I will endeavor to be a man of faith. I am determined to be faithful to the truth in a balanced and uncompromising way. I am determined to be faithful to God, and to trust Him as we march into the future. I plead for your constant prayers and continued support, and I thank you in advance for your kindness.

*From All The Faculty,
Staff, and Administration
Of The Memphis School
Of Preaching,
We Wish For You*

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND A
GREAT
NEW YEAR!**