



YOKEFELLOW

Vol. 31, No. 7

A Publication of the Memphis School of Preaching

July, 2004

Co-Editor's Column
THE DOINGS OF THE LAND
 Garland Elkins



God's children are in the world, but they are not of the world. Jehovah, instructed Israel, "After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do; neither shall ye walk in their ordinances" (Lev. 18:3).

We live under the New Testament (Heb. 10:9-10; 9:15-17). As Christians we are strictly warned not to live like the world (Jas. 4:4; I Jno. 2:15-17).

The Lord's people have always been solemnly enjoined not to engage in slander. A true Christian will not be the author of a false tale or report, or of such tales or reports collectively, uttered with malice and designed or tending to injure the reputation of another. We must carefully avoid engaging in calumny and defamation. We should remember Paul's statement regarding evil, "But ye did not so learn Christ" (Eph. 4:20).

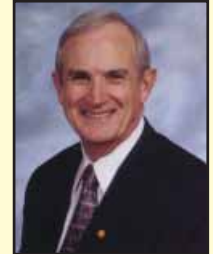
Children of God are not to be talebearers. "Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbor: I am Jehovah" (Lev. 19:6). This statement is as timely now as when originally spoken. Our enjoyment of life is closely connected to the control of our tongue. "For, He that would love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile" (I Pet. 3:10).

An evil tongue is so devastating that we should pray that we might escape from its blighting curse. "Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue" (Ps. 120:2). In view of the horrible evil that is committed by the lying tongue, what should be our attitude toward our own tongue? The answer is: "I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me" (Ps. 39:1).

Unfortunately, liars exist in every age, and the story is always the same. Their lies cripple, mar and destroy. They have lied to God. "But they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues" (Ps. 109:2).

There is a discernible attitude on the part of both the liar and the person who anxiously awaits to receive the lies. The "lying tongue" is listed along with "a proud look" and "hands that shed innocent blood" (Prov. 6:17). An evil person delights to receive

(Continued on Page 2)



From The Director

SPECIAL CREATION: FOUNDATION OF THE CHRISTIAN SYSTEM

- A. First, basis for the fact of God; "There is a God in heaven;" An objective epistemology takes into consideration objective evidence of God.
 - 1. Must be Being, eternal, self-sufficient, self-contained, personal, purposeful, transcendent, boundless, moral, revealing.
 - 2. Must be adequate Cause.
- B. Second, basis for material world being an objective reality.
 - 1. Distinct and independent from, not a part of, God; things created always distinct from Creator.
 - 2. Pantheism false; was created by God before man (thus independent from mind.)
 - 3. The order of creation: nothing material--then, material (non-living)--then, living (plants and animals)--then, spiritual (man).
 - 4. Matter real; possesses time, space characteristics.
- C. Third, basis for fact that universe had beginning, will have end.
 - 1. Two Laws governing operation of universe--First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics.
 - 2. Principle of entropy says universe increasing in randomness, disorder.
 - 3. Thus, necessity of having had beginning; must end--end of world, universe mentioned many times in Scripture. (Matt. 6:19,20; II Pet. 3:3-13; 1 Cor. 15:24.)
- D. Fourth, basis for man made in image of God. (Gen. 1:26; 2:7.)
 - 1. Created a little lower than angels. (Psa. 8:5; Heb. 2:7.)
 - 2. Adam not mythological figure, but father of whole human race.
 - 3. James Dwight Dana, geologist, "I find it (Genesis) to be in perfect accord with science."
 - 4. Man created by God last, but created utmost in dignity.
- E. Fifth, basis for entrance of sin into world. (Rom. 5:12.)

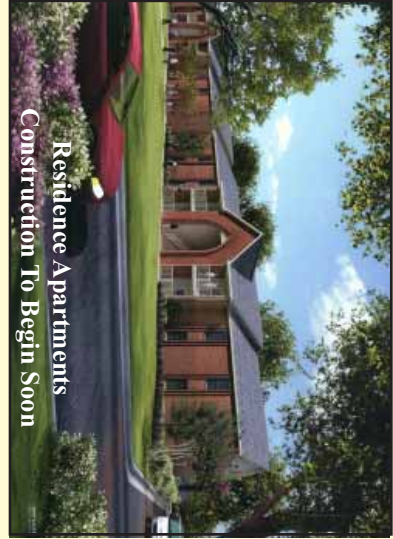
(Continued on Page 2)

ENROLL NOW FOR UPCOMING CLASS INDUCTIONS
You may begin your studies on
AUGUST 23, or NOVEMBER 8, 2004
 Write, call, or email today to receive an application packet.
 Visit msop.org for more information.

Memphis School of Preaching



N. B. Hardeman Library
 Completed • Great Benefit To All



Residence Apartments
 Construction To Begin Soon

Yokefellow
 Forest Hill Church of Christ
 3950 Forest Hill Irene Road
 Germantown, TN.....
 Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
 U S POSTAGE
PAID
 GERMAN TOWN, TN
 PERMIT #94

				
Dan Cates Director	Barry Grider Dean of Academics	Annette B. Cates Dean of Students	David B. Jones Dean of Public Relations	Jerry L. Martin Associate Director
				
Curtis A. Cates Director	Keith Mosher Dean of Academics	Billy Bland Dean of Students	Garland Elkins Dean of Public Relations	Bobby Liddell Associate Director

Attend The Annual
MSOP LECTURES
 Which Begin the Last Sunday of March and Continue Through the Following Thursday.

NEWSLETTER from MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

Under the Oversight of the ELDERS
FOREST HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST

ELDERS
 Anthony D. Callahan
 Floyd M. Hayes
 Harold Mangrum
 Leonard Watson

(901) 751-2242
www.msop.org
msop@msop.org

DIRECTOR
 Curtis A. Cates
CO-EDITORS
 Curtis A. Cates
 Garland Elkins

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Intensive Two-year Collegiate Program Of Strong Bible Emphasis Under A Qualified Faculty
- Recognized For Educational Excellence In Pulpit, Local Work, and World Evangelism
- 54 Courses, 16 1/2 Semester Hours, 2,960 Clock Hours, Two Full Years Of Transferable College Credit
- Established In 1966--Oldest School Of Preaching East Of The Mississippi
- Classes For Wives (Diplomas Awarded), Third Year Graduate Program
- New, State Of The Art Facility On 15 Acre Campus, N. B. Hardeman Library Building On Campus, Residence Halls Planned To Be Ready Soon
- No Tuition Or Fees, Scholarships And Housing Assistance Available, Approved For V. A. Benefits
- Accepting Applications Now. Write Or Call For Catalog And Application

(Cates: Continued from Page 1)

1. Adam, Eve rebelled against God; separated. (Gen. 3:1ff; Isa. 59:1,2.)
 2. Mankind denied further access to "tree of life," a veritable fountain of youth; thus, all die physically because unable again to partake of the tree. (Gen. 3:22-24.)
 3. Suffering a common lot of man. (Gen. 3:16-19.)
 4. "All have sinned." (Rom. 5:12.)
- F. Sixth, basis for God not leave universe, man to shift for themselves.
1. Has awareness of number of stars, feeds beasts. (Psa. 147:4-9), takes pleasure in, upholds righteous (Psa. 147:11; 37:23,24.)
 2. "In him all things consist" (hold together, marg. ASV). (Col. 1:17), are upheld. (Heb. 1:3; II Pet. 3:7.)
- G. Seventh, basis for human responsibility.
1. Man creatures of choice; unlike beasts-basic to Biblical principles of sin, salvation.
 2. Man not autonomous, but dependent upon God; not saviour of himself, as teach the Humanists. (Matt. 12:30.)
 3. Since created by God, responsible to God, must be saved by God, will be judged by God.
 4. If would live abundantly, must recognize manhood's creaturehood.
 5. Evolution says man but a product of his environment, a victim.
 6. Man not a victim but a sinner; not society's fault but criminal's fault; not family's fault but child's-individual must take blame, responsible.
- H. Eighth, basis for scheme of redemption.
1. Promise made in Garden of Eden. (Gen. 3:15.)
 2. If no first Adam, then no need for Second. (I Cor. 15:20-22; Rom. 5:17.)
 3. Second Adam bore man's sins on cross. (Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 5:8,9.)
- I. Ninth, basis for Christian's hope.
1. If no special creation, no resurrection. (I Cor. 15:12-23,45.)
 2. If no special creation, man must save himself.
 - a. "No deity will save us; we must save ourselves." Humanist Manifestos, I, II, p. 3.
 - b. Humanists everywhere at war with God, aided and abetted by liberals in the church.
 - c. Vital neurological source of Christianity severed; church worthless, mere proclaimer of impotent, ineffectual social gospel.
 3. If no special creation, pseudo-science the new religion.
 - a. Scientist is priest-the sole repository of all answers, by his own admission; all others, blathering idiots.
 - b. Issue religious, not scientific, edicts in bulls pronounced by their temples and evangelistic organizations, e.g. public schools, modernistic churches, and mass media.
 - c. Is religion of perversion, for man can not direct own steps (Jer. 10:23); apart from revelation, vain speculation; cannot understand nature, much less understand moral responsibility. (Rom. 1:20-27.)
 - d. End result inevitable-destruction of man, totalitarian state.
 - e. Attempt to make man over in own image, not God's; man a mere animal for use in experimentation-e.g. values clarification, programming, brainwashing, conditioning, genetic engineering, sociobiology, others.
 4. If no special creation, civilization disappears.
 - a. Strength of civilization directly proportional to strength of Christian morality in nation.
 - b. If West falls, be more ruinous than fall of Rome.

Curtis A. Cates

(Elkins: Continued from Page 1)

lies. "A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue" (Prov. 17:4).

A lying tongue is a terrible scourge. Job lists the escape from such as a choice blessing of the righteous. "Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh" (Job 5:21).

The lying tongue produces strife. "As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife" (Prov. 26:21). When one involves himself with those who love strife, he is asking for trouble. "He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears" (Prov. 26:17).

The lying tongue cuts and wounds. "Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteous" (Ps. 52:2-3). Further the Psalmist said, "My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword" (Ps. 57:4). "The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly" (Prov. 18:8).

Those who are the objects of the lying tongue are to be pitied. Solomon said: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof" (Prov. 18:21). Of such a tongue it is affirmed: "The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue" (Prov. 25:23). Finally, "A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it, and a flattering mouth worketh ruin" (Prov. 26:28).

How can we rid ourselves of this deadly evil? Simply let the talebearer cease from his evil ways, and strife will cease: "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth" (Prov. 26:20). Idleness and busybodies often go hand in hand. "And withal they learn also to be idle, going about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not" (I Tim. 5:13).

Some in Paul's day had quit work and had become busybodies. He said, "For we hear of some that walk among you disorderly, that work not at all, but are busybodies" (II Thess. 3:11). He states the remedy for such: "Now them that are such we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread" (II Thess. 3:12). Let us remember that, though the tongue is little, it can be dangerous. "So the tongue also is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how much wood is kindled by how small a fire!" (Jas. 3:5).

Let us make sure that our tongue is used only for good, and then only good will result. "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit" (Prov. 15:4).

Garland Elkins

In Need Of Our Prayers

Dorothy Mosher

Several have inquired as to the medical problems of my beloved friend and wife. She has been diagnosed with a form of bone marrow cancer. Please pray for Dorothy and send cards or call, for such contact really is uplifting to her. Dorothy Mosher, 4688 DeSoto Road, Walls, MS 38680-9211. Phone: 662-781-2333. *Keith Mosher, Sr.*

Bob Winton

Bob (Class of 1972), and his wife recently lost their daughter Freda Elliott, and granddaughter Rachel, victims of a violent attack. Their grandson, 15 year old Seth, was critically injured, but survived. We are deeply saddened by this tragedy and extend our sympathy. Related expenses have been significant. Contact Bob at 464 Ridgewood Drive, Manchester, TN 37355-6071. Phone: 931-728-3480.

THE SETTLEMENT OF THE MOULMEIN PROPERTY IN SINGAPORE

*Billy Bland, Chairman of the Board
Four Seas College of the Bible and Missions*

Two articles recently appeared in the **Christian Chronicle** discussing the settlement of the property on Moulmein Road with **Four Seas College of the Bible and Missions**. Unfortunately, these articles as reported to the **Chronicle**, and consequently to the readers of the **Chronicle**, do not present the actual way the property was settled and they also imply dishonesty on the part of Ira Rice and the **Four Seas College of the Bible and Missions** (who was in trust of the property).

Under the heading "Indonesia jailings point to Asian church property concerns," the **Chronicle** reports: "In the 1950s missionary Ira Rice established a church in Singapore and raised money to purchase property, which rose dramatically in value the next half century. The church on that property--the Moulmein congregation--didn't receive the deed until November 2003 because of a lengthy legal battle with Rice, said missionary Dave Hogan. Rice contended that the church had fallen into apostasy, but some church members suspected that the legal action had more to do with dollars than doctrine. After Rice's death in 2001, the matter was resolved. The property is now in the care of five trustees from the Moulmein church, Hogan said."

The implication in the article above, and the one that previously appeared in the **Christian Chronicle**, is that Ira Rice, Jr., raised the money for the property and for personal reasons held such property refusing to turn it over to the church. The truth of the matter is that Ira, and other faithful brethren, did raise the money for the property on Moulmein Road for the purpose of a church building, **as well as a place to operate a school (the Four Seas College of the Bible)**. Because of doctrinal error of Dave Hogan, the board of **Four Seas College** dismissed Dave from the teaching staff of **Four Seas College**. Dave, however, was soon hired by the brethren at Moulmein Road and, of course, this is where the trouble began. Later, Dave was disfellowshipped by the Lim Ah Pin Road Church of Christ in Singapore (a withdrawal which still stands to this day).

When **Four Seas**, which was meeting on the property at Punggol could no longer meet there due to the government's taking possession of the land by the right of the Singaporean law of Imminent Domain, Ira and others wanted the college to meet in the building on the Moulmein property, **which building he (and others) had raised the money to build!** Keep in mind that neither he, nor others, ever asked the brethren at Moulmein to move out of the property, but simply share the property with **Four Seas College**.

These brethren refused! They simply wanted the property signed over to them, "lock, stock and barrel!" This Rice and the board wisely refused to do!

Regarding brother Rice's plan to establish the church **and a school**, he wrote: "That the college **grew out** of my initial work of planting the church in no wise negates that it was in our original plans. In our very first brochure re: the Far East work, printed as

Spurlin's "Don't Ever Give Up" • 9th Printing



Most all have suffered, are presently striving with, or will one day face tragedy and suffering. At times many have been tempted to "give up." Bob's perspective and words of exhortation in this excellent 182 page book offers help to others who are hurting. Please consider ordering this excellent volume. \$11.50 each (which includes \$1.50 for shipping) or \$300 for a case of 30 (shipping prepaid). Order from Bob at 256-773-0295 or email prechteach@aol.com.

far back as 1954 (the year **BEFORE** my family and I first left for Singapore), among other things, I wrote, "...By converting people of all the many nations represented in Singapore, and training as many of them as possible to preach the word, we thus can be able in a few short years to get the gospel going out of Singapore, as a sort of radiating center, into practically EVERY NATION THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE FAR-EASTERN AREA....This clearly presents the most logical way to get the job done..." (Letter "To Whom It May Concern," Sep. 21, 1989, Ira Y. Rice, Jr. Emphasis his.)

There is plenty more documentation that proves Ira intended the property to be used for the church as well as a school to train people in the Word of God. Consequently, brother Rice raised money for the property to be used as a church building and a place for the school. However, some of the Moulmein brethren did not want the school to meet there. Additionally, (as previously noted), they wanted brother Rice simply to "sign over" the property to them.

Finally, after years of discussions with no progress being made, brother Rice and **Four Seas College** gave several offers. (1) Sell the property and divide the money with the church at Moulmein (after they paid off their indebtedness to **Four Seas** and other brethren). Or, (2) **Four Seas** could buy out Moulmein's half. Or, (3) they could buy out the half interest of **Four Seas College**.

They refused all of these options. Finally, the government said that the matter must be settled, or they would simply take possession of the property. Upon such statement from the government of Singapore, Moulmein finally decided to pay a sum agreed upon by **Four Seas** and the matter was settled.

It was not the case that the government finally decided in favor of Moulmein Road, as implied in previous statements that appeared in the **Chronicle**. Neither was it the case that Rice was more concerned with dollars than doctrine (the withdrawal of fellowship from Dave Hogan by the Lim Ah Pin congregation attests to this fact). It was the case that brother Rice and others would not sign over (give away), the property, for which many faithful brethren had sacrificially contributed and worked so hard to obtain.

Brother Ira Y. Rice, Jr. is no longer here to defend his good name, but there are mounds of documentation, and many good brethren who are still alive today, to attest to the matters in Singapore. The reason the Moulmein Property issue is resolved is because the Moulmein church finally paid, at least a small amount of the value of what the property is worth, to the **Four Seas College of the Bible**.

With part of the funds, the **Four Seas College** has established the "Ira and Vada Rice Scholarship Fund," honoring the Rice family, which is designed to aid worthy students to come to **Four Seas College** to be trained in the Word of God.

Today, there are many graduates of **Four Seas College** preaching in various parts of the Far East and around the world. The great work at **Four Seas College of the Bible and Missions** continues to train men and women to be effective servants of the Lord. Any one wishing more information may contact the Lim Ah Pin congregation, the Jurong congregation, the **Four Seas College of Bible and Missions** in Singapore and/or Billy Bland, P.O. Box 321, Coldwater, MS 38618.

STUDENTS NEED SUPPORT

Have you the ability to help a faithful brother prepare himself to preach the saving gospel of Jesus Christ? Call or write MSOP today, and find out how you can help spread the good news.