

# YOKEFELLOW

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## What A Week It Was!

B. J. Clarke

The Memphis School of Preaching annual lectureship week has now come and gone, but will not be soon forgotten! Our cup “runneth over” with joy as we reflect back on what a week it was. What made this year’s lectureship so memorable?

**The Theme.** The 2013 lectureship theme was “A New Testament Christian.”

The topics and speakers associated with this theme were well chosen by lectureship director, Keith Mosher Sr., with additional input from brother Barry Grider. Brother Mosher deserves tremendous commendation for the way he directed the lectureship.

**The Messages.** Every message I was privileged to hear was just that—a privilege. The sermons and classes were well researched, well delivered, and well received. Morning, noon, and night, the simple message of New Testament Christianity filled the ears of men and women, young and old, Christians and non-Christians.

**The Attendance.** Despite the price of gasoline, we were blessed with excellent crowds as we studied what it means to be “A New Testament Christian.” The balconies were filled for several of the evening lectures. Daytime attendance was also very encouraging. What a joy it was to see so many of our alumni in attendance! What a joy it was to get to know the prospective students who attended our informational seminar!

**The Singing.** What a thrill it was to blend our voices in song with hundreds of brethren! We were blessed with great song leaders, and the sound of the singing was so very beautiful and uplifting.

**The Men and Women Of Honor.** This year’s lectureship afforded us the opportunity to honor many brothers and sisters in Christ. What a joy it was to honor Bobby and Joan Liddell on Monday afternoon! The words of appreciation, especially those written and spoken by their children, spoke volumes about brother and sister Liddell!

Barry Hatcher was named the Alumnus of the Year at the Alumni and Friends dinner on Tuesday. His reaction, via phone, was both humble, and priceless. John Grubb and Racine Wilder were each named as an Honorary Alumnus of the Memphis School of Preaching, and deservedly so.

Brother Keith Mosher received his pin for 35 years of service at MSOP! Leonard Watson received a pin recognizing his 15 years of service as an elder. Tony Callahan (10 years) Greg Mangrum (5 years) and Keith McAlister (5 years) also received service pins for their work as elders of the Forest Hill church of Christ.

**The 2014 Lectureship.** We are already anticipating next year’s lectureship (March 30-April 3, 2014). Our selected theme is designed to communicate our mindset at MSOP. Accordingly, our 2014 theme will be “*Still Standing, But Not Standing Still.*” We are still standing for the truth, but we are not standing still. There is too much work to do for us to “rest on our laurels.” Please pray for us as we march onward with the Truth!

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# Honor To Whom Honor: Personal Appreciation To BOBBY AND JOAN LIDDELL

Curtis A. Cates

The influence of brother and sister Liddell in the Lord's cause and in the lives of countless people has been very significant and positive. Our friendship of more than three decades has been a pure delight and blessing to Annette and me. We appreciate this great couple.

In the first place, a graduate of the Memphis School of Religion, brother Liddell has faithfully preached the Gospel in many states and in numerous foreign countries, as well as in local work. Also, being very evangelistic, he has preached in many Gospel meetings and lectureships. In addition, his writing and his editorial work have been extensive. He exalts the old Jerusalem Gospel.

In the second place, brother Liddell is an encourager. Numerous ones are preaching today because of his influence upon them, and he continues to mean much to those brethren. I treasure his enthusiastic, personal encouragement thirty years ago when I was blessed to follow brother Roy J. Hearn as director of the School.

In the third place, brother Bobby and sister Joan did a tremendous located work, including with the Parrish Church of Christ in Parrish, Alabama, and with the Bellview Church of Christ in Pensacola, Florida. Both congregations grew abundantly, both in spirituality and in number. With my having been privileged to hear and to be with brother Liddell in numerous lectureships – including at Bellview – when we needed another teacher in the Memphis School of Preaching, I naturally thought of brother Bobby. He graciously accepted the invitation; his teaching has been scholarly and his instruction true to “the Book.” He also contributed greatly in other areas, such as directing the Annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship and editing the book. When I decided after twenty-four years to bow out of directing the School, my thoughts went to brother Liddell, thus my recommendation to the Forest Hill elders that they appoint him as the School's third director.

In the fourth place, brother Liddell's leadership as director has been a blessing to the institution. The success of any organization depends upon the strength of moral character and integrity of its leaders. Brother Bobby has shown appreciation for and loyalty to

the standards and rules of the Memphis School of Preaching, which are founded upon Holy Writ. Further, he showed consistency in upholding those standards and in enforcing those rules. Even further, he was ever “set for the defence of the Gospel.” Yet further, in student matters when rules were violated, he was always fair in his deliberations [though the outcome may not have been what the student wished]. He showed personal interest in every student.

Brother Liddell was visionary in his plans and hopes for the School. He worked hard to make his goals come to fruition. Excellent at delegating, he depended much on his staff and faculty [who came through for him]. While director, he continued trying to figure what “Director Emeritus” means. Interestingly, now that he has bowed out of the role of director, he may begin to learn its meaning. Brother Bobby traveled

much on behalf of the Memphis School of Preaching, putting forth much sacrifice, time, and hard work into fund-raising and into recruiting.

In the fifth place, I express my admiration to sister Liddell, as well as to brother Bobby. This exemplary Christian couple has a great family – wonderful children and grandchildren. They have been a powerful team for the Lord; sister Joan is to be commended for her having “kept the home fires burning” all through the years as brother Liddell has traveled extensively and preached the Gospel far and wide.

In the sixth place, I commend brother Liddell for recommending

brother B. J. Clark to follow him as the School's fourth director in some forty-seven years. I also commend the Elders for appointing this outstanding and gifted Christian to this responsible and vital position. I was privileged to travel to Cookeville, Tennessee, some years ago for the purpose of visiting brother Hearn in the hospital shortly before his passing. He stated to me in the hospital room, “Brother Cates, I am thankful that the toes of the School are still pointed in the same direction as always.” I was very grateful for his sentiments and for his encouragement. I have every confidence that the same will be able to be said during the tenure of our new director, brother Clark. God be with him! It is a pleasure to serve under brother B. J., as it was to serve under brother Bobby.

Annette and I love and salute you, brother and sister Liddell. We hold you in deep affection. God bless us all, and God bless the Forest Hill Church of Christ and the Memphis School of Preaching!

Curtis A. Cates, Director Emeritus





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B. J. Clarke, Editor

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