OKEFELLOW

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Sending Them Forth And Bringing Them In B. J. Clarke ust a few weeks ago, on June 16, 2013, it was Graduation Day for us at the Memphis School of Preaching. Twenty-five students walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. Twenty-three graduated

from our two-year program, one student received his graduate certificate for our 3rd year program, and one student made history by becoming the first to graduate from our World Missions Program.

Graduation Day is always a bittersweet time. It is a sweet time, as we watch the students receive a visible reward for their thousands of hours of hard work and study. It is also sweet to anticipate the good these students will do for the kingdom of God as they go forth from us. We send them forth with the prayer that "the word of the Lord will have free course, and be glorified" (2 Thess. 3:1).

Graduation Day is also an emotional time for us. When you are with someone, almost on a daily basis for two full years, you become a family – and it is hard to watch family members move away. Alongside the tears of joy, and



shared sense of accomplishment, there are also the visible tears of sadness as the members of the student family give one last hug before going their separate ways (cf. Acts 20:37).



For we who remain at MSOP, the sadness of watching students move away is tempered by knowing that they are going forth to preach Christ, "warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that they may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Col. 1:28). Our



sadness at watching students go forth from us is also tempered by the arrival of new students, who are excited with the same hopes and dreams of learning the Bible as those who are going forth from us to labor in the vineyard of the Lord.

One new student began in January of this year. The week after graduation, six new students arrived to begin their two years of study at MSOP. In August, approximately two-

dozen more students are scheduled to arrive. We will experience gladness as these new family members arrive. We will develop new relationships, and it will be sweet indeed.



We also will deepen our relationship with the nearly two-dozen students who are about to begin their second year with us at MSOP.

Before you know it, as the days turn into weeks, and the weeks turn into two years, we will be smiling through the tears again as we watch this new group walk across the stage to receive their diplomas, and then go forth to preach the gospel (Mark 16:15). This is the essence of our work at MSOP – bringing them in, and sending them forth!



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN A BLESSING TO ERIK Billy Bland, Associate Director

During the "Alumni / Friends Dinner" in the recent Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship, brother Michael McDaniel, our Alumni Liaison, made

an appeal in behalf of one of our students, brother Erik Harman. Due to Cerebral Palsy, Erik moves about in a wheelchair. Out of his wheelchair, brother Erik can pull himself about on the bedroom floor of his on campus apartment. The problem however was that the floors are not carpeted, and he gets sores on his knees. Also,

even though two of our apartments are designated as handicap apartments, they are lacking shower accessibility for wheelchairs. Consequently, an appeal

was made that we might make the shower in Erik's apartment truly handicap accessible, and for the bedroom floor to be carpeted so he can move about on the floor without hurting himself.

Your response to this appeal was tremendous. More than enough funds were contributed and the work has been completed (see photos). Brother Erik is an encouragement

to all of us. He never complains about his situation, but rather with zeal and determination goes forward in serving our Lord. He is a diligent student and a good communicator of God's Word. Like us, he is grateful for your contributions for these additions in his apartment. Thanks!





Have You Heard About Our New Recording Studio? Bobby Liddell

able, with the expertise of our good brother, Paul Sain, to secure quality equipment at very reasonable prices. Other contributions helped us to finish purchasing

For some years, we have dreamed of having a recording studio at MSOP. Several years ago, I approached some brethren with experience in radio, television, and Internet broadcasting, and asked them what we should do, and how should we



proceed. Their helpful encouragement and direction greatly benefitted us. At the time, the cost was just too prohibitive, and we had no space sufficient to house



a studio. Over the ensuing years, we kept exploring the options, and the costs, but still were unable to go forward with our plans.

In 2012, the Forest Hill elders graciously

provided us with a room suitable for the studio.





It is large enough to house the equipment and control booth, and still have room for several sets, and it is conveniently



and it is conveniently located in the Educational Building that houses the offices and classrooms for the Memphis School of Preaching.

In April, 2012, I was privileged to meet with the

good brethren of the Lord's church in Jay, Florida. We are deeply grateful for their very generous response, in that they agreed to provide us with funds for the studio. With those funds, we were help. We look forward to utilizing this tool to the best of our ability, and to God be all the glory, honor, and



the essentials in order to get started. Thanks, also, to brother Sain, and to brethren, Robert Hatfield, and Joe Christopher, all from the faithful brethren at East Hill Church of Christ, Pulaski, TN, for their tremendous help in setting up the studio, and ensuring that everything was in working order.

We are happy to announce that we have completed our first recordings recently, utilizing the

abilities of our second-year students. Brother B. J. Clarke, MSOP Director, is working on the final

touches that will enable us to train our students on both sides of the camera, to produce quality, broadcast ready programs, to teach the Gospel around the world by various broadcasting means, and to teach certain classes by video, or over the internet.



After many years, we are delighted to see our

dream made a reality. Thanks to all who have made this possible! We still are in need of additional, and ongoing funds, and would welcome the opportunity to

talk with you about your





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*
- Three Campaigns, Restoration Trip, Lectureships, And Other Opportunities For Growth And Service During Two Years
- Personal Direction From A Seasoned Faculty Experienced In All Facets Of Preaching
- Opportunities To Preach While In School
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B. J. Clarke, Editor

EOKEST HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST Under the Oversight of the ELDERS Newsletter from memphis school of preaching

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