

Laborers Together Newsletter

Memphis School of Preaching Alumni Association

"For we are laborers together with God..." (1 Cor. 3:9)

Editor: Mike McDaniel, MSOP Alumni Liaison

Lee Davis, President Preston Silcox, Recording Secretary Volume 10, No. 1 Keith Dixon, Vice President Keith A. Mosher Sr., Treasurer April 2015

The 2015 M.S.O.P Lectureship: "Restoration: History in the Making"

Keith Dixon, Vice President

I always enjoy attending the M.S.O.P. lectureship for many reasons. One, I get to restore my spiritual soul by listening to others preach. If one is not learning then he cannot teach others; I always learn at the lectureship.

Two, there are sermons that I hear, and then bring home, making them my own, and preaching them.

Three, there are the old friends that re-connect with once again. Along those same lines, there are also new friends that are enjoyable to make.

This year there was a first for me. I guess it started last year when I was elected Vice-President of the Alumni Association. Lee Davis is the President, and recently he had some health issues.

This occurred two weeks before the lectureship. The duty of the Vice-President is to fill in for the President when he is unable to fulfill his duties as President. He asked me to fill in for him. We do hope that Lee is feeling better now.

Next year will be the fiftieth anniversary of the Memphis School of Preaching. If you have not been coming, why not make a special effort to come to next year's lectureship. If you know of some alumni that have not been coming, why not send them a special invitation to come? If you have classmates that have not been coming, why not invite them to come? It is always a special time, and next year will be extra special. I look forward to seeing all of you next year.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

B. J. Clarke

Much has happened at M.S.O.P. in recent days! One of the best lectureships we can remember was conducted March 29-April 2nd. The theme for the 49th Annual Lectureship was: "Restoration: History In The Making." In this day and time of rapid and unauthorized changes, it was refreshing to hear so many good sermons that were rooted and grounded in the truth. Visit our website at www.msop.org, and you can watch all of the lectures for free.

Immediately after the lectureship, the students embarked on a weeklong restoration trip. This was a perfect time for the students to reflect upon the "restoration principle" they had heard so much about during the lectureship. Their return home marked the end of the 3rd Quarter, and we just started the 4th quarter this week.

As we look ahead, we would love for you to "Save the Date" for March 27-31, 2016 for our 50th Anniversary Lectureship. We are determined to have our largest crowd ever. The theme for this lectureship will be the very same as the motto of the School: "Preach The Word!" The world still needs the Word! (Rom. 1:16; James 1:18-21)

Thanks to you, and your generous contributions, many in this world have heard, and will hear, the Word of God. You are making a difference, and we thank you for enabling us to train men, and to send men forth to "Preach the Word." We continue to covet your prayers on our behalf!

World Missions Program

We are pleased to have three students now enrolled in our one-year World Missions Program. Sao Joseph (from Sierra Leone) and Efrain Aranda (from Mexico) are graduates of the two-year program, but they are now busily engaged in studying a concentrated curriculum designed to prepare them for the mission field and will soon graduate. Paul Sinnatuah (from Liberia) also enrolled last quarter. Ronnie Gootam (from India) arrived at the start of the fourth quarter and is studying with us for one quarter and will then begin the two year program this summer. How exciting it is to have good men from four different countries in class. If you know of someone who is preparing to go to the mission field, please encourage them to attend!

LEE DAVIS BEGINS FUND-RAISING TO RETURN TO FOUR SEAS COLLEGE IN SINGAPORE

Lee Davis (1985) was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He has been a Christian since 1974. He preached his first sermon at the age of 17 and has preached regularly after that. Lee is a 1985 graduate of

the Memphis School of Preaching. He holds the B.A., M.S., and M.Div. (Cum Laude) degrees from Amridge University. He also holds the Doctor of Ministry degree. Lee has been preaching for over 34 years and has done local work in Tennessee, Louisiana, Georgia, and Alabama.

In September of

2001, Lee started working to raise his support to be a missionary to Singapore. In January of 2003, Lee went to Singapore to begin teaching full-time as one of the instructors at the Four Seas College of Bible and Missions where he also served as the Dean of Academics. He continued this work until December of 2005. He is also on the board of directors of the college.

Lee will be going back to Singapore and teaching full-time with Four Seas once again. His sponsoring church is the Piedmont Road church of Christ in Marietta, Georgia. Lee has done several short term mission trips throughout the world. He has been to Russia, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Hong Kong,

Mainland China, and the Philippines.

Lee labored as the local evangelist for the North Cobb church of Christ in Kennesaw, Georgia, just north of Atlanta, for the past ten years. Lee is on the faculty of the Online

Academy of Biblical Studies and teaches the Preacher's Epistles in the Spring and the book of Isaiah in the Fall. Lee is the Marietta Campus director for the Georgia School of Preaching and Biblical Studies. He also is an online instructor for the Four Seas College of Bible and Missions. He serves as Alumni President of the Memphis

School of Preaching. Lee speaks at various lectureships and gospel meetings throughout the year.

If you would like to know more of the work that Lee will be doing in Singapore, please contact him via email, e.leedavis@gmail.com or via phone 678-907-9911 or contact the Piedmont Road church of Christ at (770) 971-9933 or by writing; Piedmont Road church of Christ, 1630 Piedmont Road NE, Marietta, GA. 30066. Please make the checks out to the Piedmont Road church of Christ with the Memo being "Lee Davis Mission Fund" or "Southeast Asian Missions".

PROSPECTUS FOR THE WORK IN SINGAPORE

Lee Davis

Initially, the plan was to be in Singapore by the second week of January of Brother Peter Chin (2006), the 2016. President of Four Seas College, contacted me letting me know that the other full time instructor at Four Seas, brother Patrick Swayne, will be accompanying his wife to her home country(Australia) for a minimum of two months so as to be there when their child is born. That being the case, brother Swayne will be leaving Singapore in August or September of 2015, and brother Chin has asked me to come to Singapore in September to start my teaching responsibilities, help plan the Four Seas College lectureship that is held in late November/early December of 2015, and to participate in and plan the school graduation just prior to the lectureship. I responded to him by saying that if I am able to raise the funds to come early (Sept.), I would be able to move to Singapore at that time. If this is not possible at that time, then I will plan on moving to Singapore at the original time of January 2016.

Whenever I do move to Singapore, the following work will be done while I live as a long term missionary to Southeast Asia. I plan on an initial stay of 6 years.

1. I will be a full time Instructor for the Four Seas College of Bible and Missions. I will be assigned classes within the curriculum as needed. At this time, there are 19 different countries that have graduates of Four Seas College. Here is the list of countries and how many have graduated from those countries: (1). Singapore-49; (2). Malaysia-39; (3). Philippines-33; (4). Indonesia-18; (5).

China-17; (6). Vietnam-6; (7). Taiwan-4; (8). Sri Lanka-4; (9). Thailand-3; (10). Hong Kong-2; (11). Nepal-2; (12). India-2; (13). Cambodia-1; (14). Pakistan-1; (15). Australia-1; (16). USA-1; (17). Japan-1; (18). S. Africa-1; (19). Laos-1.

Besides the countries of Singapore and Malaysia, the school has trained and graduated several from other countries in the last two years. We also have current students and students planning on attending from the following countries: China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia and Laos. The growth of the school is amazing!

From 2002-2005, I was a full time instructor at Four Seas College and also the Dean of Academics. Brother Patrick Swayne is now the Dean of Academics and one of two present full time instructors. There is also a part-time instructor, brother Eddy Ee. Here is the college website: http://www.fourseas.edu.sg/FourSeas/

My interest has been, for many years, to do a lifelong work as a missionary to Southeast Asia. I have made numerous trips to this area of the world already. My first trip was in 1989.

- 2. When the move is made to go to Singapore, I will also continue as one of the faculty members of the Georgia School of Preaching and Biblical Studies and will teach part of one of the terms there at the Marietta Campus if possible. At this time, that term has not been selected. I will spend most of the year in Singapore.
- 3. Also, I will be working with two churches in Singapore, Jurong, and Lim Ah

Pin Road churches respectively.

- 4. Also, I will be traveling to area churches in Singapore and surrounding countries (like Malaysia), that request my presence from time to time, in order to teach series on: Leadership in the church, Hermeneutics, and other needed subjects.
 - 5. I will be doing personal evangelism,

including "tracting" (handing out tracks) which is a very popular activity with the local brethren.

6. I will be providing a monthly newsletter to anyone who would want it.

Please help us do this great work for the Lord! Any amount will be of assistance!

ALUMNI NEWS

Prayers

Bobby Gayton's (1975) recent biopsy came back as a fast growing kind of cancer. He writes, "I will be going on May 20th to have a consultation with the doctor. A date will be set at that time for robotic surgery. If all goes well, I will be in the hospital for about 2 days and back at work in 2 weeks. I will have the surgery at Emory in Atlanta. Thanks for all the prayers and cards. I will be okay." Please remember him in your prayers.

Eugene Jenkins (1980) wrote, "My 10 year old great niece, Alissa Hughes, has had her diagnosis changed. She has T-cell Leukemia instead of T-cell lymphoma. Due to this, her therapy has changed and will continue three to six months longer. We thank you for your concern and prayers!"

Brett Rutherford (1996) wrote the following in his latest mission report: "The end of the month did not end as well as I hoped. We had been enjoying a wonderful month filled with visitors and Bible studies, but at the end of the month, I experienced a sudden onset of my disease. I was hospitalized for three days of treatment. It wasn't all bad news. I received encouraging news from the doctors while I was in there. I happened to be admitted to the hospital while a vascular specialist was visiting there. He reviewed my case and treatment and confirmed my

diagnosis. He said I was on the right course of treatment, and that it should start to work within months. He did say I may have another setback before the new medication takes effect. Lord willing, by the middle of the year I will have this under control. It is a little bit frustrating when your immune system views your brain as the enemy! Thanks for your prayers and financial assistance."

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to **Kenny Taylor (2006)** and his wife, Rebecca, in the passing of their newborn daughter, Carrie Elise Taylor, born Sunday, April 19th.

Preached At Aubrev?

Current M.S.O.P. student, Tony Brewer, requests that any alumnus who ever preached at the Aubrey church of Christ in Aubrey, AR to contact him by the following email:aubreychurchofchrist@gmail.com. Brother Brewer writes, "The reason is two fold. One reason is because I am helping the congregation raise support to have a full time local preacher. The second reason is because I am going to try to have monthly events and would love to have people who have "cut teeth" at Aubrey come back and speak. Also, the ladies at Aubrey are excited to participate in and host ladies' days. I figure that those who were blessed to have had a place to practice preaching, even for only a time or two, may be

interested in helping this work."

New Address

Larry Jelley (1972) writes, "As of May 19th, my new address will be 1537 Crestway Drive, Athens, TN 37303. All other information remains the same. I appreciate all you do to keep us informed."

Moves

Lee Snow (2012) writes, "We will be moving to Columbus, GA in a few weeks to work with the Warm Springs Rd. congregation."

Stephen Higley (2010) writes, "I have just returned from two years of missionary work in New Zealand and now am working with the Quitman, MS church of Christ."

Missions

Denton (Denny) Landon (1983), traveled to Ternopil, Ukraine in the western region. He taught the book of Isaiah for the first year class in Bear Valley Ukraine. The city of Ternopil is about four hours from the border of Poland. After completing Isaiah, he met his wife Jo in Munich, Germany. Together they traveled to Kathmandu, Nepal where Jo taught three days of ladies' classes while Denton taught the work of an evangelist to the students in the school as well as several graduates and a few preachers from the border of India and Nepal.

Ronald D. Gilbert (1973) writes, "My wife and I are in Malaysia for 5 weeks conducting Gospel meetings, ladies' classes and seminars. We plan to return back home May 5th. When we return home, we will have 8 weeks to get ready for our annual mission trip to Africa. This year we will be visiting 6 of the 10 preacher schools we are working with in Africa. We will have around 60 preachers to graduate from these schools this year. We will be in Zambia, Kenya and Uganda. We recently shipped another shipment of tracts to Africa, making 200,000

during the past 6 months. Since International Bible Teaching Ministries started in Sept. of 2007, we have shipped just over 1 million Gospel tracts to Africa. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel."

Sean and Anita Hochdorf (1996) had to return to America from Tanzania to receive urgent medical care. Anita needed a nerve ablation in her back. Sean required surgery to remove the damaged vertebrae from his neck and replacing it with either a synthetic disc or fusing the two discs that are on either side of the damaged disc. They were advised that returning to Tanzania anytime in the near future wouldn't be the wisest thing to do considering the serious nature of the surgery. Sean writes, "It is good to hear from you. My addresses e mail current are: seanhochdorf@gmail.com shochdorf@wetrainpreachers.com. We are currently in the U.S., and I am still awaiting surgery. There are a lot of nice brethren and people in the medical community trying to help us out. If all continues to go as planned, I will have the surgery sometime in May. As the coordinator for the Andrew Connally School of Preaching, I and Anita will be residing in the U.S., and I will be flying to Tanzania 3-4 times per year. I will also be involved in curriculum development and classroom instruction for the Bear Valley Bible Institute's other 16 foreign extension schools which, in turn, will also require annual visits. Please keep us in your prayers as we move into this new phase of the work. The position requires support so, if you or your congregation is interested, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'd be glad to discuss the work with you."

Howell Ferguson (1984) wrote the following using his cell phone in Tanzania: "Just made my 'maiden voyage' with Ezekiel up to Ailsa - the mountain mission behind

Chimala with our new Land Cruiser that we finally got cleared in Dar. It handled the 57 hairpin road quite ably, but the heavy rains have taken quite a toll on the road. We went to check on the progress of the workers who have been disassembling, cleaning and stacking bricks for the past 3 weeks. They were about 95% completed, and the old house foundation and slab were in remarkably good shape considering it is around 100 years old and built by the Germans before the First World War. We anticipate it will take about 3 months to complete the new mission house. I'm continuing to preach in seminars as they are assigned to me. This is a program I helped start with the teachers and students of the Chimala Bible Institute about 4 years ago. I believe this is one of the most practical and enjoyable parts of preacher training at Chimala."

Adam Evans (2013-WMP) writes, "Here in Iringa, Tanzania, we are striving to share the good news in many different ways. During our first year we worked diligently to target one-on-one Bible studies. These proved to be effective but only reached a small portion of the population. Now during our second year, we are striving to reach more by utilizing the radio and also involving the brethren in evangelism by using Bible Correspondence Courses (BCC). We have a unique challenge using the BCC due to the fact that most do not have a mailing address or PO Box. Very few people have a way to contact them directly via snail mail. So we utilize the BCC by having Christians hand them out one at a time to their friends, family, and neighbors. When their contact has completed the first lesson, they then return it by hand to be graded and to receive a new lesson. We are first training all the Christians using the lessons first, and then they will have the ability to continue to use this tool once we

are gone. Each Christian is first filling out the lesson themselves and having them graded. We are then going to be teaching each lesson in a Bible Class for all the Christians to have an opportunity to learn and ask questions. We also have given select men a handheld device for studying various Bible lessons in their own home, at their own pace and time, annd also in their own language. Each tablet has a separate solar panel, battery, and a separate external speaker. We are utilizing WVBS lessons in Swahili to provide quality Biblical education in several homes. This gives the brethren an opportunity to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are also using the audio from a few of these lessons to teach many on the radio. We have had many calls and contacts via the radio program as well. This leads us to one-on-one or group Bible studies that seem to be very effective. These individuals have reached out to us and are very interested. In Tanzania, the people are very polite and welcoming. However, it is hard to tell if they are studying the Bible with you because they are being polite or if they are truly seeking the truth of God's word. The radio is assisting us to find those that are truly seeking. We are also having several Biblical works translated into Swahili that we can leave here for the brethren to use for years to come. Lord willing, they will be in print and distributed very soon."

Patrick Swayne (2005) writes, "I work for Four Seas College of Bible and Missions as her Dean of Academics. Four Seas College is a Bible school not unlike MSOP in that we are a non-accredited institution that focuses on teaching Bible and Bible related subjects as opposed to secular ones. However, our structure and pattern of offering is somewhat different than MSOP as we cater to students with broad educational backgrounds (some have little formal

education while others are university graduates). We are also different from MSOP in that we are a coeducational facility. Four Seas College primarily serves the Lord's church scattered throughout Asia. The churches of Christ in Asia are for the most part young; often, they are immature and small. Christians converted through the work of these congregations generally find themselves in an environment without elders and deacons, without well trained preachers and teachers, and without generational examples of Christianity (grandparents, parents, and children all in the church). Our goal is to train men and women so as to inject maturity into these struggling congregations. We're happy when our men become preachers, full or part time, and we even train our students in lesson design, personal evangelism, and the work of a preacher. We're equally happy though when both our men and women simply become strong, contributing members of their home congregations. As a part of my work at Four Seas, I teach 4-5 courses each term (we have three terms in our academic year) on a variety of Bible and Bible related subjects. In addition to this, I handle the students' academic issues and have helped to shape the guidelines for our academic standards. Beyond my work at Four Seas, my wife and I are active in assisting the church in this region. I generally preach on 2-3 Sundays a month (once at the Jurong congregation where we are members, and once or twice at a sister congregation in Singapore or Malaysia). I regularly teach adult Bible classes, including the Four Seas Extension course we hold each year to give brethren here in Singapore who participate a "Four Seas" experience in Bible study. My wife Chantelle is a frequent ladies' and children's teacher as well as a writer. I work side by side with Eddy Ee, evangelist for the Jurong church of Christ and part time instructor at Four Seas, as well as **Peter** (2006) and **Pooi Fun Chin**, the school's president and secretary, respectively. There are plans for **Lee Davis** (1985) to join our team some time in late 2015/ early 2016 if the Lord wills. In the meantime, our school is also assisted by several online instructors who fill in the "teaching gaps" left owing to our small faculty size. Since I began working at the school full time in 2012, we have touched the lives of students from 9 countries (including Singapore) and have sent out 23 graduates."

Lectureship Comments

Lee Davis (1985), Alumni Association President, wrote, "The lectureship this year, as is true every year, was outstanding! The topic was extremely timely and the speakers did a wonderful job in pointing out the essential and Biblical principle of the Restoration of the Ancient Order. If one, today, obeys what people in the first century obeyed, they will become what those in the first century were: Christians – members of the New Testament church! It was refreshing to hear men preach that one can know the truth and obey it! (John 8:32). This was another great year of hearing the gospel at the Memphis School of Preaching lectureship!

Danny Butler (1990, 94*), "The lectureship was great. The lessons were superb. My most enjoyable time was the alumni banquet. It is here that you are among the old soldiers of the cross that have so much to share. Brother James Boyd is a case in point as well as others, no less loved and respected. Then there are the young preacher students and older alumni that are in the field. The lectureship lessons recharge and invigorate our hearts to stay focused on the mission (Matthew 28:19-20). Next year's lectures will be a milestone. I, Lord willing, will be there. My work with the Kingville church between Millport and Vernon,

Alabama is going well. We are involved in a Local radio program "Five minutes with the Master" over WJEC 106.5 FM five days a week with a listening radius of 60 miles. We also support "Bible Talk," a work of the Fayette Church of Christ with brother Larry Fife. This work has a listening audience of 1.5 million. In addition to local personal evangelism, we support two children's homes and a home for adults with physical and mental disabilities."

Timothy Glassoff (2014) writes, "Good evening brother McDaniel, just had to let you how much I enjoyed last week. I did not realize how much I needed the lectureship. It really boosted my spiritual need. I do not see how I would ever miss one. Thanks for all you do."

Angelo Munoz writes, "I will graduate in June 2015 and will continue another year for the WMP. While still on this last quarter, I will get married to my beloved Megan York on May 23rd. What I really liked more about this lectureship was the fact of seeing people coming and asking where the auditorium was. Then we asked them: "are you new to this event?" They said: "yes." That meant a lot to me because I realized that there are still good Christians that are looking for encouragement and to be strengthened. Regardless of how many liberal churches are arising now, there are still people who want the truth. Many were people that came from afar for the first time to this MSOP lectureship. I believe that it is necessary to advertise this event more and more for next year and how good its results are."

Special Benevolent Request

Cody Calkins, 13 years old, was born with congenital cytomegalovirus. The damage to Cody's brain caused spastic quadriplegia, which is a severe form of cerebral palsy. The spasticity is so severe that it pulls Cody's hips

from the sockets, causing dislocations. He has had multiple surgeries to repair his hips, release the tendons, and clip the nerves that cause the spasticity, and also receives Botox injections regularly. Unfortunately, the spasticity has won, and Cody still requires anti-spasticity medications and pain medication just to get through each day. He communicates via a communication app on his iPad. He is confined to bed and wheelchair, and at this point any further surgery on his hip would have to be a fusion of the entire hip as a last ditch effort to prevent migration of the bones in order to manage the pain. Because constant spasticity burns calories at a high rate, Cody requires a feeding tube in order to get sufficient nutrition. He is unable to chew and swallow properly, because of spasticity in the throat, and requires a diet of puréed/chopped foods. He receives 5-6 feedings daily in order to keep up with his energy expenditure. He is unable to perform any activities of daily living; thus, he requires total care.

Since age 3, Cody has been in the custody of his grandparents, Sam and Annette Estes, who are faithful members of the Munford, TN congregation. Because Cody and his wheelchair have increased in size, it is no longer possible to transport him in a traditional van. The family lives within walking distance from the church building, so they are able to push him, in his wheelchair, to worship, when weather permits. Other than school (that provides transportation) and church, Cody is confined to home because of the inability to transport. This not only limits Cody, but also the entire family from going places that the average family takes for granted.

The family needs a transport van that loads from the back (because of the height of his wheelchair). Brother Estes has found used

vans in the \$15,000 to \$20,000 range. Let us join together to help this young boy, whose crippled body houses an active mind, and a precious soul, and to help this family who so lovingly cares for him.

The elders of the Munford church have agreed to receive and distribute funds. Please send your donation to:

Elders Munford Church of Christ P.O. Box 127 Munford, TN 38058

[Editor's Note: Our thanks to Bobby Liddell for bringing this worthy need to our attention.]

Special Request For Old Pictures

Brother B.J. Clarke has requested that in preparation for the school's fiftieth anniversary, our alumni should send pictures of their time at the school, of classmates, instructors, special events, etc. Please send these to this special email address: 50years@msop.org.

He has announced that the lectureship

theme for next year will be our school motto: "Preach The Word."

Have You Paid Your Dues For 2015?

Our MSOP Alumni Association dues are \$25 a year and may be sent to MSOP in care of our treasurer, Keith Mosher, at 3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd., Memphis, TN 38125. Make checks payable to MSOP Alumni Association.

If it is more expedient, just go to the alumni page of the website at www.msop.org and pay using your PayPal account. These funds allow the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association to fund special projects for the school and to send death benefits for deceased members. Having giving a large contribution to Foundations, our fund needs to be replenished. Please send your voluntary dues in today!

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DINNER



Brother James Boyd was the outstanding guest speaker at our 2015 Alumni and Friends Dinner. Brother Gary Colley gave him a wonderful introduction. Prior to speaking, brother Boyd was bestowed the Honorary Alumnus award by the M.S.O.P Alumni Association. He was genuinely surprised and expressed his heartfelt appreciation. Many of his family were very pleased to be able to be in attendance at the dinner and to see brother Boyd honored.

Robert F. Knox Jr. was elected as our Alumnus of the Year. His classmate, Keith Mosher Sr., introduced him and is seen here reading the inscription on his plaque. Brother Knox humbly accepted the award in behalf of his cherished wife for the great encouragement she had been to him.



Brother B. J. Clarke makes a plea to raise funds to off-set the nearly \$14,000 deficit incurred from Foundations. The folders contain applications from the many boys and girls desiring to attend. The contribution given was \$8076 with an additional \$3700 given earlier by the Alumni Board of Directors to this effort. The combined total was an astounding \$11,776!



There was a large crowd present for the alumni dinner again this year. Our thanks to everyone who attended, who participated in the program, and who served in any way. There were a few seats available, and if you were not able to attend this year, we hope you will make plans now to attend next year as we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Memphis School of Preaching.

