



Co-Editor's Column
RICHARD L. CURRY
AS A FELLOW
PREACHER



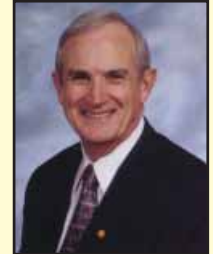
The problem in writing about a great Christian man like brother Curry is not in not having enough to say, but in what to leave out that could be said! My specific privilege is to discuss brother Curry as a fellow gospel-preacher. It is a joy to do this.

1. He loved the Lord and His truth (Mt. 22:37; Jno. 8:32; Prov. 23:23; Jno. 14:15; I Pet. 1:22).
2. Brother Curry was "set for the defence of the gospel" (Phil. 1:16). When truth was under attack, one could always know that brother Curry would stand for and with the truth.
3. Brother Curry was humble. Though always standing for the truth, he did it with becoming humility. He imitated his Lord (Phil. 2:5-11), and sought to serve, not to be served (Mt. 20:26-28).
4. Brother Curry, as a fellow gospel preacher, was a "true yokefellow" (Phil. 4:3). Those who know much about horses know that there are different kinds of horses; some are "show horses" and some are "work horses." "Show horses" are beautiful to behold, but when there is need to see a project through to the end, then the "work horses" are necessary. Brother Curry was a "work horse" and not only so, he worked well with others; he was a "true yokefellow."
5. Brother Curry was a great preacher also because his Godly wife, and their children were so very supportive of him and his work.



6. Brother Curry was successful in his work for the Lord in that he put himself into the positions of others. He did this when he served as a preacher for a local congregation; when he served as an elder; and when he served as an Instructor in his many years of teaching at the Memphis School of Preaching. His students had a tremendous respect both for his character, and for his great teaching of the Bible and Bible related subjects.

7. Brother Curry was prepared both to live and to die. He added the "Christian graces" (II Pet. 1:5-7). Therefore, he was promised an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom (II Pet. 1:8-11).
 Conclusion: The Bible states relative to David's preparation to build the Temple: "For he had prepared abundantly before his death." This same principle applies to brother Richard L. Curry, "For he had prepared abundantly before his death" (Phil. 1:21-23; II Tim. 4:6-8).
Garland Elkins



From The Director
A TRIBUTE TO
RICHARD L. CURRY,
CHRISTIAN "IN WHOM
WAS NO GUILE"

On Monday, October 27, 2003, the angels carried the immortal, precious soul of brother Richard Curry into the bosom of Abraham; however, he is truly missed at the Memphis School of Preaching and Forest Hill. He was cherished by me as a deeply beloved, genuine friend and as a great, supportive co-worker.

Brother Curry was one of the most genuine, sterling Christian characters I have ever known. Christ, who knew what was in man, stated of Nathaniel, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile" (John 1:47). When I think of brother Curry, that description comes to mind. He was a man who possessed deep conviction and impeccable integrity.

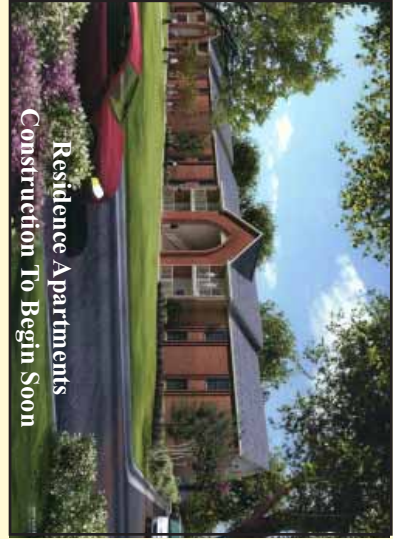
For some thirty years, brother Curry was an instructor in the Memphis School of Preaching. He had studied at the feet of such greats as N. B. Hardeman, L. L. Brigance, and W. Claude Hall while in Freed-Hardeman College. He preached in Indiana and Mississippi before beginning his work as a preacher and/or elder for three decades at the Oak Acres church in Memphis. In the School, he taught Restoration History, Bible Geography, Bible Archaeology, Prophets, and other Old and New Testament books. He was truly a scholar. He led numerous study trips to the restoration sites, a real highlight to the students. He also preached in many gospel meetings in eighteen states; his preaching covered some fifty-five years, and it was distinctively Biblical and unswervingly loyal to the old Jerusalem gospel.

Richard L. Curry left a tremendous heritage. He had a profound influence in declaring the truth to his generation. Except for brother Garland Elkins and me, he had a large influence in teaching and training the other seven administrators and teachers in the MSOP. These men are carrying on the great heritage, as did he; "And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Tim. 2:2). The writer was truly blessed to have gotten to work with brother Curry for more than fifteen years; he was a joy and an inspiration. We express sincere sympathy to sister Curry and the family and join with them and with his other co-workers and countless students and friends as we "rise up, and call [him] blessed" (Prov. 31:28).
Curtis A. Cates

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
 GERMANTOWN, TN
 PERMIT #94

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

Attend The Annual
MSOP LECTURES
 Which Begin the Last Sunday of March and Continue Through the Following Thursday.
March 28-April 1, 2004 ••• Theme: "Sin And Salvation"

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

RICHARD L. CURRY: TEACHER

A teacher has been described as one who “knows what he teaches” and who “has the ability to motivate learning.” My fellow teacher Richard Lee Curry, at Memphis School of Preaching, was also one of my instructors at the School during the years 1973 through 1975. Brother Curry knew his subjects and certainly could inspire his students to learn. Both in his daily life and in the classroom, brother Curry (who asked me to call him Richard, but I could not because of my respect for him) would encourage his “boys” to learn about and to live the Christ-filled life.

Brother Curry, as do we all, had his critics. On one occasion, he came to me, when I was a student, and asked me, with tears in his eyes, if he were “any kind of a teacher!” Someone had verbally attacked him and had intimated that brother Curry could not teach. How wrong that accusing brother was for nearly all of brother Curry’s students loved him and his classes! Everyone who sat in his Bible Geography class can still hear in his mind brother Curry laying out the country of Palestine from “Dan to Beersheba!”

Brother Curry had a deep, bass voice and could emphasize a point as clearly and forcefully as any, yet he did so with kindness. However, on one (and only one) occasion in the twenty-seven years he taught, a student did make brother Curry angry. The pupil, from a foreign country, decided that he would not take an exam in church history (another of brother Curry’s excellent studies). The student wadded the test paper in order to throw it on the floor. That booming voice said, as the paper left the student’s hand, “If that paper hits the floor, you are out of here!” Every other student in the class became quite upset with that foreign pupil, simply because he had upset their favorite teacher.

Over the years, brother Curry taught nearly every subject on the curriculum at the Memphis School of Preaching including English and Greek (one year each). Perhaps his study of Jeremiah was most cherished by his students in terms of a Bible subject, and Restoration History was best liked in terms of a Bible-related study. Brother Curry instituted a bi-annual tour of Restoration sites on which every student goes. Memories of that tour are strongly etched in all of our minds, but brother Curry’s knowledge of the settings and people of those early efforts to restore New Testament Christianity is even more firmly entrenched in our thoughts. Sometimes, brother Curry would gently correct the paid guide for the tour who might only have a superficial understanding of some person or event.

Brother Curry could get so enthralled while teaching Restoration history that on one occasion, as our beloved teacher waxed eloquent about J. W. McGarvey, Erman Hagar got so caught up in the moment that he asked brother Curry how well he knew brother McGarvey! Brother Curry said, “Brother McGarvey died in 1911, and I was not born until 1922!”

Brother Hagar, still enraptured by his teacher’s knowledge,

kept on and said, “Yes, but how well did you know him?” It took a while for the class to gather itself after that.

When I visited brother Curry in the nursing home, the conversation was inevitably about the School. He loved teaching; he loved his students; he loved the Bible, the church and the Lord. Those of us who sat at his feet were privileged to have had a great instructor. He taught Bible, history, and life. He is terribly missed. From “Dan to Beersheba” there are few like him, and from Kentucky there has arisen no greater. Thank God that this Bible and history teacher came our way for we are all benefited by the experience. May God bless Barbara and the family as they carry on until they see him again.

Keith A. Mosher, Sr.

RICHARD CURRY: CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN

My memory of brother Richard Curry goes back to 1974, to my home congregation, the Pine Bluff Church of Christ, located near Toccopola, Mississippi. This small rural congregation did not have a full time preacher, so students from the Memphis School or Preaching would drive there and preach each Lord’s Day, except on fifth Sundays. On the fifth Lord’s Day of the month, brother Curry would come down from Memphis and preach that morning, then we would sing (or else someone would speak) that night. Later, in August, 1975, my wife, Terry, and I moved to Memphis, and I enrolled in Memphis School of Preaching. Here, I would come to love and know brother Curry much better.

Webster defines a “gentleman,” as “a courteous or honorable man.” The word “courteous,” means “polite, respectful, and considerate.” I believe these terms, along with the name, “Christian,” aptly describe our brother, Richard Curry. Brother Curry was a man who lived and thus demonstrated, the Christian life. He was always very respectful and courteous to others. He endeared himself, by his kind and courteous ways, to every student that came to the Memphis School of Preaching. All students felt that they were important to brother Curry. The Word of God declares; “Charity suffereth long, and is kind.” Likewise, Paul wrote; “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you (Eph. 4:32).” Brother Curry exemplified this “kindness” as a part of his Christian character.

A Christian gentleman is also a man of honor and respect. I personally do not know anyone that does not respect brother Curry. Such also is true regarding our dear sister Barbara Curry. Brother Curry was a man that respected himself and commanded that respect from others, without ever asking for such. His demeanor always brought respect from others. His personable attitude always showed that he genuinely cared for every student that sat in his classes. He was always well prepared for his classes and his students profited greatly from his preparation. Being around brother Curry made one want to learn and be a good person. His classes were interesting and he was a friend to all.

He often admonished his preaching boys, “Never make a major decision on a blue Monday.” Since becoming an instructor at Memphis School of Preaching, there is no counting how many times, I, (as well as the others), have quoted brother Curry’s statement to the students. If one had a problem or difficulty, he knew he had a sympathizing ear and heart from brother Curry.

The old adage “No one cares how much you know, until he knows how much you care,” was certainly demonstrated by brother Curry. We were all blessed by Richard Curry. He was a great man. In many ways, he lives on in the lives of those whom he loved and those that loved him. May we follow him even as he also followed Christ (1 Cor. 11:1).

Billy Bland

RICHARD L. CURRY: EXAMPLE

In my thirty-two years as a Christian, a few men have, above others, exceptionally impacted my life. My beloved teacher, brother Curry, was certainly one of them. When I think of him, I remember a man to whom I looked as exemplary of what a Christian, a preacher, and a teacher should be.

Brother Curry was exemplary as a Christian, for he acquired and cultivated the “Christian graces” (2 Pet. 1:5-7). He demonstrated, in his daily living, the lofty plane of righteousness and godliness to which he encouraged others. With kindness, humility, and love, he walked this life’s pathway as a blessing to all who had the happy occasion to know him. With strength, determination, and courage, he faced temptation and trial, and overcame to win the victory in Christ.

As a preacher, he proclaimed, without fear or favor, the unsearchable riches of the gospel in a way that men did not wonder if he loved their souls and sought for them the very best. He was blessed with a pleasing voice made even more so by the kindness which exuded from within him.

Through diligent study, he prepared himself to wield the powerful gospel, the sword of the Spirit, in a mighty way. His sermons were true, right, and effective—helping countless souls prepare for eternity.

As a teacher, brother Curry was exemplary, always prepared, ready, and eager to teach. His classes were interesting and overflowing with information presented in such a clear, easily understandable way because he was genuinely interested in his students’ gaining and keeping the knowledge he imparted. By questions, review, and repetition, brother Curry taught the importance of being prepared for class, and of remembering what one learned. His quick mind easily brought up tidbits and side notes which brought to life the accounts before us. He taught the Bible in its completeness with historical and geographical facts interwoven with the text in such a way one felt as if he were there as the events unfolded. He was a great man first, then, a great teacher, and he was a favorite of his students.

In my office, I have a cross-stitched work framed and given me by a lovely sister who passed from this life some years ago. It reads: “A Good Example Is The Best Sermon.” Brother Curry preached his best sermon ever by the example he set before his fellow man every day.

Bobby Liddell



BIOGRAPHY OF GUY N. WOODS NOW AVAILABLE

On the frontline in the battle for truth in the Twentieth Century were the influence and work of Guy N. Woods. His fight for the Old Paths against radicalism, liberalism, and modernism was powerful. He was a giant among gospel preachers, truly one of the greatest scholars of his or any other generation. He engaged in more public debates and likely preached in more gospel meetings than any other person of his time. His conducting of open forums was unexcelled (if equaled). He was an enthusiastic friend and supporter of the Memphis School of Preaching. Brother Woods was concise and eloquent of speech, unswervingly loyal to truth, and powerful in refutation of error. We were blessed to be counted among his friends.

Harrell Davidson has done the brotherhood a great service; all who love the truth will rejoice that he has researched and written what we predict will be a landmark volume, *Over the Vast Horizon: Authorized Biography of Guy N. Woods*. Having been apprised of the book’s contents, we feel that every reader of the *Yokefellow* will want to purchase this biography. Copies can be acquired by contacting brother Davidson, P.O. Box 358, Obion, TN 38240 or harrelld@charter.net, \$17.50 including shipping and handling.

Co-Editors

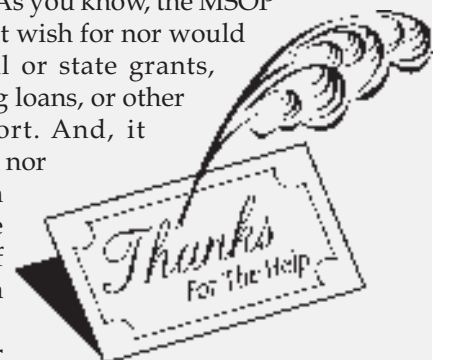



Ever since the Memphis School of Preaching had its beginning nearly thirty-eight years ago (1966), those contributions made at the close of the year have been vital to its work. As you know, the MSOP receives no [It does not wish for nor would it accept any] federal or state grants, student loans, building loans, or other governmental support. And, it charges neither tuition nor fees. The School is a part of the Bible teaching program of the Forest Hill Church of Christ.

These end-of-year gifts are very helpful because of the students who have not raised all their support, January enrollment of new students, anticipated lectureship expenses in March, and catching up with unanticipated expenses. Those many hundreds of graduates preaching throughout the world tell us this was the hardest work they ever did—and loved! Equal to more than four years of college in two years (164 Semester Hours), they learn discipline and diligence.

These donations are fully tax deductible, of course, and they are a Godsend. Please help if you can.

Curtis A. Cates, Director





**THE FACULTY
AND STAFF OF THE
MEMPHIS SCHOOL
OF PREACHING
WISH YOU
AND YOURS
HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**