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NEWSLETTER FROM MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING
Under the Oversight of the ELDERS
FOREST HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST
Bobby Liddell, Editor

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YOKEFELLOW

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“THE BEHAVIOR OF BELIEF” The 45th Annual

Memphis School Of Preaching Lectureship

Persons of Christian faith must behave in certain holy ways (cf. James 2:24). The 2011 MSOP Lectureship is dedicated to exploring the various biblical admonitions and exhortations to achieve the balanced Christian life. The series starts on March 27th (Sunday) and ends on March 31st (Thursday). Forty-seven speakers will bring their expertise and enthusiasm to this year's effort.

All interested in gaining insight into the practical side of the Christian faith will want to be present. Each speaker has been challenged to be as practical as possible, so that all may go away armed to do battle with the ups and downs of living in this world. (Some of the speakers have written books on their subjects.)

In addition to the lectures, it is exciting to see friends return to the campus and to get to renew old relationships. The alumni and friends dinner is usually the highlight of the week and one of those memory-building moments that one will cherish in the years to come. We, here at Memphis, are no more thrilled than when we see those return who went through the program here.

PLAN TO BE PRESENT. I WILL LOOK FOR YOU MYSELF.

Keith A. Mosher, Sr.

Tragedy Strikes The Family of Alumni Association

President Rick Lawson Mike McDaniel, Alumni Liaison

We extend our sympathy to brother Rick Lawson (MSOP 99) and family on the death of his mother, Polly Ann Boaze. She was found murdered in her home, October 25th in Escambia Farms, FL. The murderer, a tenant who had been asked to leave, committed suicide.

She was a member of the church of Christ. Her funeral was held on Saturday, October 30th, in the chapel of Brackney Funeral Service, with David Williams and Mike Ray officiating.

Of her three sons, Randy Lawson, was killed in an automobile accident in 1998, and Clay Locke, 44, was struck by a car October 7th. He was critically injured and was taken off life support the day of sister Boaze's death, but has been clinging to life. It is hard to lose a parent, and such a loss is made even more difficult under tragic circumstances. Let us continue to pray for the Lawson family.

A STATEMENT FROM DARRELL BROKING

November 19, 2010

To my brethren,

My behavior dealing with the division in the church between 2005 and 2009 was not in harmony with what the Bible teaches about love of the brotherhood. I am genuinely sorry for the way I attacked the MSOP, OABS, GBN, T-CSOP&CD, and Apologetics Press, and for releasing my phone conversations with Chad Dollahite and David B. Smith. I have learned the tremendous need to talk to all parties involved in a matter and not to simply rely on the word of one side of a disagreement. Please pray for my family and me as we do our best to be faithful to Jesus Christ and go to heaven.

Brotherly,

Darrell Broking, 3926 FM 455 West, Sanger, TX 76266

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A NOTE FROM BOB SPURLIN

We recently ran an article soliciting help for our beloved brother Spurlin. In a note of thanks for our doing so, Bob included these words.

“To our surprise, we have received numerous cards and contributions from individuals and congregations spanning from Delaware, the Carolinas, Pennsylvania and as far west as California. If it is possible to squeeze a line in the Yokefellow thanking those that have responded to the Spurlin family it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks for all the help. Bob, the ‘Horizontal’ preacher”

The Spurlins are still in need, brethren, and are deserving of our help. Let us open our hearts and hands to do all we can to help this good, godly couple. BL

ALUMNI HAVE LOST LOVED ONES

We extend our sympathy to alumni Allen Webster and Wade Webster in the recent loss of their father after a lengthy battle with cancer. Funeral services for Milton Webster were held on Wednesday, Oct. 20th, at Jacksonville Church of Christ with Chuck Webster and Matthew Vega officiating.

Our sympathy is also extended to Dusty Wilkes (MSOP 95) in the loss of his son, Michael Timothy Wilkes, on Tuesday, Oct. 19th.

MSOP STUDENTS TAKE PART IN FOUR GOSPEL CAMPAIGNS

Billy Bland

Zacchaeus was chief among the publicans, a rich man, and yet, a man who was little in physical stature. He so desperately wanted to see Jesus, but could not because of the crowd that had gathered. Not to miss such a wonderful opportunity, Zacchaeus ran before and climbed a sycamore tree. The Bible states, “And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully” (Luke 19:5-6). People murmured that Jesus was gone home to be guest with “a man that is a sinner.” However, neither Jesus, or Zacchaeus were deterred by the prejudices and criticisms of others. Zacchaeus repented of wrongdoing and offered restitution of anything he had taken wrongfully. “And Jesus said unto him, this day is salvation come to this house, forso much as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:9-10).

What a great and encouraging statement – The Son of man is come to SEEK and to SAVE that which was LOST. **Any Gospel preacher, who is not interested in seeking and saving the lost, is one who is not following Jesus.** The Bible states: “And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Mat. 4:19). Consequently, in addition to the intense studying of God’s Word, the students who attend Memphis School of Preaching are trained and encouraged “to seek and to save” the lost. Part of this training is done by conducting campaigns, which consist of door-to-door evangelism during the day and preaching the

Gospel each night. People are invited to have someone come into their homes and conduct individual Bible studies with them. If that opportunity is rejected, they are offered a free Bible correspondence course, and invited to hear the Gospel during the evening services.

Recently, students of the Memphis School of Preaching conducted four campaigns. October 21-23, the students, as well as some members of the **Forest Hill Church of Christ**, went into the neighborhood, inviting people to a Gospel Meeting. Thousands of homes were personally contacted which resulted in the establishment of twenty-nine Bible studies and several Bible correspondences. Brother Matthew Jones, (associate evangelist for Forest Hill, and MSOP graduate), did the work of mapping out the area, ordering Bible materials, and designing handouts for the community, etc. Brother Mark Lindley (graduate of MSOP and evangelist for the Chapman church in Ripley, MS), did an excellent job preaching the Gospel during the meeting.

The week of October 31st through November 4th, the students conducted three more campaigns. One of these campaigns was with the **congregation in Rogers City, Michigan**. Brother Dale DuVerney (MSOP graduate), is the local evangelist for the congregation and also did the preaching in this campaign. Two thousand and sixty-six homes were contacted by door knocking. This resulted in twelve Bible correspondence courses established, and many additional contacts made for further opportunities.

In a campaign with the good church in **Marshall, Texas**, there were two thousand three hundred homes contacted that resulted in six individual Bible studies and eighty-one Bible correspondence courses. Brother Jerry Martin (Dean of Students at MSOP), did the preaching in this campaign. Some of the students (Clifton Angel, Caleb Jacobs and Phillip Patton) also were afforded the opportunity to preach by means of radio during the campaign.

The fourth campaign was conducted with the **Pickwick Church of Christ located in Pickwick, Tennessee**. The Gospel preaching was done by some of the current students (Adam Wright, Trent Childers, Torrey Clark, Byran Hatcher, Will Anderson, Kyhemia Alexander, and Bruce Hatcher). These brethren, along with other students, contacted nine hundred thirty-three doors, which resulted in fourteen individual home Bible studies, twenty Bible correspondence courses, and one baptism. The local preacher for the Pickwick congregation is brother David Lambert.

We are thankful to God for the open doors He has given unto us. There seems to be a renewed interest, even by the commercial world, in the advantages of “door knocking.” We also are grateful to the congregations, as well as to all the campaign workers, for helping these campaigns be a great success. “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

ENDURING GRIEF

Grief is an emotional experience that has engulfed mankind since creation. All share in the “gut-wrenching” pain of separation and all know how “awkward” grief is to endure and to face or share with others. Grief is a loss. (To a small extent, every time one loses anything there is a bit of grief, even when one misplaces car keys! How frustrating it is when a thing cannot be found!) However, what about when one “loses” a mate, child, or friend? Grief over death takes many forms, all of which are unique to the one grieving.

There are two terms used by folks when someone dies that are often used interchangeably, but in reality differ somewhat.

Bereavement and grief differ in that the former refers to the state of loss and the latter most often refers to one’s reaction to a loss. Researchers in recent years have “moved away” from so-called conventional views of grief as having certain stages and similarities (en.wikipedia.org) and are opting for the idea that the reactions to grief are varied. In other words, how I react is as personal as my personality, background, character, and spiritual nature.

Bereavement, the state of having suffered a loss, puts one at risk if little family or church support is available. “Severe reaction to a loss may carry over into familial relations and cause trauma for children, spouses, and any other family members; there is even an increased risk of marital breakup following the death of a child, for example” (Ibid., 1). It seems that little study has been done concerning the stress of grief and I began dedicating part of my ministry to this area. I hold weekend seminars on enduring grief that go for about four hours on Saturday and two hours in Bible study and worship on Sunday. If interested, please contact me at keithmoshers@msop.org or at 901-262-4303 (cell phone) or 901-751-2242 (school). *Keith A. Mosher, Sr., Dean of Academics*

AN APPEAL FROM

AUSTRALIA

Patrick Swayne (MSOP 2005)

“Imagine no religion.” These sad words, made famous by John Lennon, are startlingly similar to the way that I often describe Australia to the inquisitive soul who asks, “What is Australia like?” I say to them, “Imagine America without the Bible.” Melbourne, Australia, the city which I have come to call home, is similar to Biblical Tarsus in that it is “no mean city” (Acts 21:39); it lacks in no modern comfort, technology, or material blessing, like the rest of Australia. However, the Land Down Under is certainly lacking when it comes to the greatest blessings of all: “The unsearchable riches of Christ” (Eph. 3:8).

AUSTRALIA: THREE SPIRITUAL SNAPSHOTS

When one searches for the Lord’s church in Australia, one uncovers three distinct, yet equally tragic pictures. The first is a picture of apostasy. When one sees a building marked “Church of Christ” in Australia, 99% of the time it actually belongs to a denomination known as the Associated Church of Christ. This denomination had its roots in the Restoration Movement, but departed from the restoration plea long ago, like the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ.

To find the Lord’s church, one must dig deeper. A diligent searcher will eventually find a group of churches that identify themselves as, “non-denominational churches of Christ.” However, many of these churches actually present an equally unsatisfying picture—that of digression. There exists among non-denominational churches of Christ what can best be described as a circle of fellowship united only by a common belief that Christianity is a journey rather than a destination. Some congregations in this circle neither teach nor practice any visible error; but fully tolerate and fellowship those who do. Others depart from the New Testament pattern in both doctrine and practice.

Thankfully, there is a third picture—that of untapped potential. There are roughly fifteen congregations in Australia that identify themselves as “non-denominational,” but do not identify themselves

with the digressive circle of fellowship that exists in Australia. These congregations range in size from house churches of only one or two families to congregations with fifty to a hundred souls in regular attendance. There is at least one of these congregations in each Australian state (there are six states and two territories); sadly, in some states like Victoria, where I live and work, there exists only one. What makes this picture truly tragic though is that in the entirety of Australia, there are only a handful of full-time workers for the Lord.

In mainland Australia (not including Tasmania), there are only two full-time, faithful workers—myself included. While there are other part-time/semi-retired men and many faithful brethren in Australia, this picture is indeed tragic and should be unacceptable to those of like precious faith in other places. Christians the world around should be asking themselves, “How can Australia hear without a preacher?” (cf. Romans 10:13-16).

AUSTRALIA: WHAT COULD BE

Thankfully, the tragedy of the third spiritual snapshot in Australia is indicative of what is, not what could be. A visiting preacher from the United States preached a lesson recently in Melbourne in which he encouraged us to, “Imagine True Religion,” rather than, “Imagine No Religion.” It was an interesting illustration that describes what Australian Christians both imagine and seek to bring into reality each day.

Australia is not a dead field, and the band of faithful Christians who live and work here each day are doing their best to unlock its potential. Australia is an English speaking society, which means American workers, like me, can preach and teach without the aid of a translator. Australia is a free society, which means that the gospel can be publicized and taught without fear of government oppression. Australia is an increasingly multi-cultural society, which means that even if the traditional Australian audience will not hear, there are many migrants who will (our congregation in Melbourne boasts souls from eight different countries). Australia is a spiritual vacuum—a land where there are great temptations in regards to materialism and worldliness, but where the foothold of Satan is not so established in terms of organized religion. When one considers what could be in Australia, one is awe-struck at the possibilities for our Lord’s Kingdom.

A CONCLUDING APPEAL

A discussion of what could be in Australia is not complete though without mentioning what could be with your help. I want to encourage you in two ways: First, support our Australian missionaries through prayer and financial support. I say this not to be self-serving, but to highlight the fact that Australian missionaries have a difficult time both surviving in a country where the cost of living is quite high and raising support for what many have dubbed an undesirable field. We ought not to support works based on the number of baptisms, but based upon the need to warn sinful men of their sinful ways (cf. Eze. 3:17-21). In that need, ALL fields are equal; yet, as indicated above, Australia is a land of great potential! Second, consider coming to Australia. Whether you could come on a short-term basis or to work full-time, your help is both desired and appreciated. There are opportunities to work with men already established in the work on a short or long-term basis, as there are opportunities for those mature in the faith to work with an already established congregation or plant a new one.

May the Lord bless all who read this, and may you seriously consider us in Australia and help us! Please contact me at Swayne@gmail.com, with questions or for more information.