



# YOKEFELLOW

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June, 2004

**Co-Editor's Column**  
**THE GRAHAM-SHELLY**  
**CRUSADE**  
 Garland Elkins



**Billy Graham Preached in a Nashville Crusade in June, 2000**

*Yet the date and place mean little.* Graham preached the same message in June, 2000, that he presented the last time he was in Nashville, and the time before that—the same message as in every other city. Billy Graham has been consistent. We knew what to expect. We knew there would be many “decisions for Christ.” We knew that men and women would be counseled to “pray the Sinner’s Prayer.” We also knew that the command to “**be baptized...for the remission of sins**” (Acts 2:38) would not be heard!

**Graham Crusade Counselors**

Everyone who applied to be a counselor signed an application form stating that he understood that “**Only Crusade counseling materials are to be used.**” The official counseling materials prescribed that the one being counseled was to “ask Him to take away my sin...Then I’ll be a part of God’s family.” “**You cross the bridge into God’s family when you prayerfully ask Jesus to come into your life.**”

This was all carefully planned. It has always worked effectively. It has achieved the purposes of the *Billy Graham Evangelistic Association*. As expected, many evangelical Protestant churches supported the Crusade. Billy Graham was preaching their message.

**The Shelly Connection**

But in this Crusade there was something new—an inexplicable phenomenon—an utterly unaccountable occurrence: **Rubel Shelly joined the Billy Graham Crusade!**

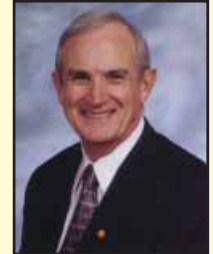
**Who is Rubel Shelly?** Shelly preaches for the *Woodmont Hills Family of God* in Nashville. When he began his association with this church in 1978, it was called the Ashwood Church of Christ.

**Additional Background:** Shelly became a Christian more than forty years ago. He heard the gospel, believed, repented, confessed his faith in Jesus as the Son of God, and was baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of his sins. On that day, the Lord added Rubel to His church (Acts 2:47).

Like many others in the *Woodmont Hills Family of God*, Shelly was blessed as a young person with the advantage of being taught the pure gospel of Jesus Christ. In sermons, in Sunday School classes, at home, over and over, repeatedly, the plan of salvation was impressed at every opportunity — **that every accountable person must...**

1. **Hear** the gospel (Romans 10:17)
2. **Believe** in Jesus (Mark 16:16)
3. **Repent** of sins (Luke 24:47)
4. **Confess** faith in Jesus as the Son of God (Romans 10:10)

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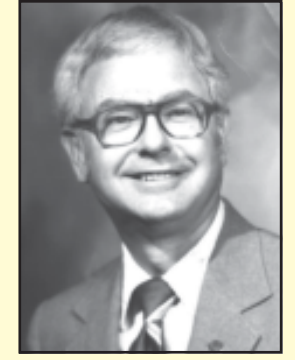


**From The Director**

**A MEDLEY OF MATTERS**

**KENNETH GOSSETT TO ADDRESS THIRTY-SEVENTH GRADUATING CLASS**

The Memphis School of Preaching will graduate its thirty-seventh class of gospel preachers on Sunday, June 20th. Brother Gossett, of Jonesboro, Arkansas, will deliver the sermon and address during the evening assembly of the Forest Hill congregation. After the assembly is dismissed, the graduation procedures will take place. Twenty-one splendid, qualified, educated preachers will be graduated, twenty from the intensive two-year program and one from the third-year graduate level program.



Brother Gossett is a long-time good preacher and excellent student of the Word. Retired from full-time preaching, brother Gossett is one of the splendid elders of the Washington Avenue Church of Christ in Jonesboro. He also speaks regularly in gospel meetings and lectureships. He and sister Betty are dear friends and encouragers of Forest Hill and the MSOP, as is the Washington Avenue church. Brother Kenneth has much wisdom to deliver to the graduating class and to the others who are present.

The activities of the day include a reception in honor of the graduates and their families from 2:00 until 3:00 Sunday afternoon, in addition to the evening service at 6:00 until 7:00 P.M., with graduation to follow. Our appreciation and congratulations are expressed to the graduates and to their families, as well as to those congregations and individuals who made their education as gospel preachers possible.

We thank the graduates for studying in the School and pray for their success in their careers of faithful service in the Lord’s vineyard.

**BILLY BLAND, DEAN OF STUDENTS, HONORED BY SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

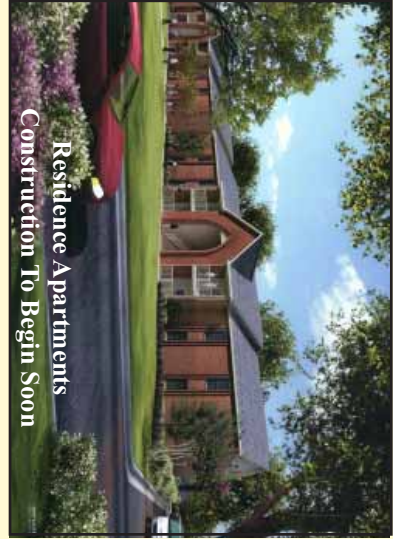
Two teachers in the MSOP were graduated “with distinction” with the Master of Arts degree from SCU in the 2004 graduating class, **Billy Bland** and **Daniel F. Cates**. Brother Bland received an additional honor; he was the recipient of the “*Great Commission Award*,” and he is very worthy of this honor. Incidentally, both Billy and Dan were named to **Who’s Who In American Colleges And Universities**. For

(Continued on Page 2)

**Memphis School of Preaching**



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**Attend The Annual MSOP LECTURES**  
 Which Begin the Last Sunday of March and Continue Through the Following Thursday.

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

**NEWSLETTER from MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING**  
*Under the Oversight of the ELDERS*  
**FOREST HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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 Harold Mangrum  
 Leonard Watson

**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, 164 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

(Cates: Continued from Page 1)

more than ten years, brother Bland has taught the School's courses in personal evangelism and world evangelism. He has, additionally, during this time, headed up the very successful campaigns of the School. Bland is also a great example of carrying the pure gospel to foreign lands. He has made seventeen trips to Russia, helping pioneer the work in Murmansk and co-ordinating the work with Murmansk Bible College, an extension of the MSOP.

Brother Billy directs the Far East/World Evangelism work (formerly headed up by brother Ira Y. Rice, Jr), which is under the sponsorship of the splendid Coldwater Church of Christ, Coldwater, MS; and edits the **Far East/World Evangelism Newsletter**. He has made four evangelistic trips to Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, India, Thailand, et al., and is involved with works in these countries. He further serves as Chairman of the Board of Four Seas College in Singapore; the writer is privileged to serve as Co-Chairman of the College's Board of Trustees.

Most of the faculty members of the Memphis School of Preaching have made evangelistic trips both in the United States and in many foreign countries. The emphasis of the School is the preaching of the unadulterated Word throughout the world; the students benefit greatly from that Biblical mandate. We congratulate Billy Bland upon receiving this deserved recognition.

(Elkins: Continued from Page 1)

5. **Be baptized** for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38)

6. **Live the Christian Life** (2 Peter 1:10)

Yet, Shelly was committed to using only the prescribed counseling materials. **These said nothing about obedience in baptism being necessary for salvation!** How could Rubel Shelly, in good conscience, take part in a crusade where Jesus' command: **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"** (Mark 16:16) was not respected?

**What startling insensitivity** toward those precious souls who, in sincerity, responded during the Crusade—only to be misled by the counselors into thinking they could be saved by praying the "Sinner's Prayer." They did not learn at the Crusade that they were to be **"baptized into Christ"** (Galatians 3:27). They were not told to "...be

**baptized and wash away thy sins..."** (Acts 22:16).

In the past, some have attempted to justify various highly questionable religious practices by saying that those things were "not salvation issues." For example, those who follow Shelly's lead said this about taking part in interfaith gatherings where musical instruments were used. **But this time**, what is involved is the very gospel plan of salvation itself. **This is the ultimate salvation issue!**

*Postscript:* Many people who now attend Rubel's church have had a background in the church of Christ. These people, too, have some accountability. Shelly could not lead if his elders and other members did not so willingly follow.

#### Questions Often Asked About Rubel Shelly

When did he fall away? What caused his apostasy? What makes him delight in evoking laughter from audiences of non-members as he makes fun of the church of Christ?

Does anyone have the answers? Does Rubel Shelly himself really know and understand what has happened to him?

**Shelly** has been the co-editor of a magazine called *Wineskins*. From the very first, Shelly's magazine was an example of irresponsible journalism. **The first issue** carried an article called "David Lipscomb's Middle Way." Lipscomb died in 1917 after serving fifty years as editor of the *Gospel Advocate*. Quotations, falsely attributed to Lipscomb, purported to show that Lipscomb believed salvation comes before and without baptism. Lipscomb devoted his life to teaching just the opposite.

**That magazine should have made its first issue its last issue.** Lying about the dead may be no worse than telling lies about the living. But the living, at least, can respond. The November, 1992, *Wineskins* was the most notorious of all. That was the one that included an article called "Christmas at Matthew's House." The article did not simply **deny** the virgin birth of Jesus. It reveled in speaking of the scandal surrounding Mary, calling her "another sexually questionable woman."

This is not to say that Rubel Shelly does not believe in the virgin birth. He does believe. But that is what makes his publication of such disgusting fiction even more reprehensible.

Shelly's influence has been far-reaching. No one in the history of Nashville—at least not since Jesse B. Ferguson 150 years ago—has been so divisive and so destructive to the church of Christ as Rubel Shelly.

By Garland Elkins and James McGill



## NEW TV PROGRAM, A BIBLE ANSWER, BEGINS!

Mike McDaniel

On May 31, 2004, a new television program began to air in West Tennessee and the Missouri Bootheel. A work of the Phillips Street Church of Christ in Dyersburg, Tennessee, the program is called **A Bible Answer**. It has a question and answer format.

Mike McDaniel, evangelist with the Central Church of Christ in Caruthersville, Missouri, and a 1985 MSOP graduate, is serving as the Moderator. Dustin Forthun, preacher for the Phillips Street Church of Christ, and a 1999 MSOP graduate, serves as Secretary/Treasurer. Rick Lawson, who preaches for the Gardner Church of Christ, and is a 1999 MSOP graduate, serves as Tract Coordinator. The program is under the oversight of the good elders at Phillips Street.

When **Searching The Scriptures** ceased to air at the end of 2003, after having been on various local stations since the mid-1970's, many people hoped that something might be done to fill in the gap. Many liked the question and answer format (which utilizes three different area gospel preachers each month to answer questions sent in by viewers) because it had proven to be successful. Fortunately, the elders of Phillips Street, a long time supporting congregation of **Searching The Scriptures**, foresaw the good which might be done by a continuation of the program.

In speaking with the elders at the Green Plain Church of Christ in Murray, Kentucky, the overseers of **Searching The Scriptures**, it was learned that they intended to begin a new program with a different format that would be seen in their local area and desired to retain the name. Thus, a new name was selected for our program which we believe suits it well.

Mike McDaniel and Dustin Forthun began working together to contact possible supporting congregations for a new program. Finally, enough money was raised to begin production in May.

The program is being produced in the studios of Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. It may be seen each Sunday on UPN 16 out of Jackson, Tennessee at 8:00 AM.; at 2:00 PM. on TCT 33 out of Dyersburg, Tennessee; and at 12:30 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. on Lion's Club Channel 7 in Caruthersville and Hayti, Missouri.

It is hoped that the viewing area might increase in an inexpensive way through the use of local access channels by other congregations.

In order to expand our capabilities, additional funds will be needed. If you, or the congregation where you are, can assist on a monthly or one time basis in this effort, please contact the Phillips St. Church of Christ, 912 Phillips St, Dyersburg, TN 38024. The telephone number is (731) 285-5666.

We are also in need of good Bible questions as they are the backbone of the program. Questions may be sent to the above address or e-mailed to [abibleanswer@oabs.org](mailto:abibleanswer@oabs.org).

We are indebted to the *Online Academy of Biblical Studies* and its good Director, Tom Bright, for allowing us space on their web-site. Just go to [www.oabs.org](http://www.oabs.org) and, after surveying all of the good things to be found therein, click on the block for **A Bible Answer**. That will take you to our web page where you will find our contact information as well as past programs archived for your viewing.

The first monthly taping included those closely associated with the program: Tom Bright, Dustin Forthun, and Rick Lawson.

The second taping of the program included Curtis Cates (MSOP Director), David Lemmons (Preacher at North Marshall in Calvert City, KY) and Larry Powers (preacher at Sharon, TN) as seen in the picture following.

Please keep **A Bible Answer** in your prayers.

## WITH YOUR HELP,

# MSOP Goes Forward!

Thanks to the thousands of brethren who encourage and support the very vital work of training preachers, MSOP continues in its thirty-eighth year stronger than ever.

- Enrollment has been high, and continues to be in 2004.
  - Already **twenty-five new students** have been accepted to begin (either in June or August), with more expected to enroll, and will join the **twenty-six second year students already here.**
  - More and more churches and individuals are providing the essential financial support, prayers, and encouragement needed to carry on this much needed work.
  - An ever increasing number of brethren are recommending young men attend MSOP based on its consistent, faithful, balanced stand for Truth as it continues to follow the course set in its beginning.
  - A splendid, safe campus, combined with the latest technology, provide a comfortable, efficient, well-equipped learning atmosphere.
  - Nine seasoned, proven, faithful men serve as the MSOP faculty with almost all holding the Master's degree, and some holding doctorates—from accredited schools. Most have been with the School for more than ten years, some for more than twenty years. Seven of the nine faculty members are MSOP graduates.
  - Courses in the intensive two-year program cover every book of the Bible and related subjects with an emphasis on preaching.
  - Campaigns (at least three within the two years of study), and courses in evangelism and missions prepare men to be soul winners.
  - The N. B. Hardeman Library has been a tremendous, valued addition to the learning process at MSOP.
  - Respect for God and His Word coupled with a proper attitude toward the life and work of a preacher are emphasized daily.
  - To insure husband *and wife* are prepared, classes for wives are a part of the program at MSOP.
  - The demand for MSOP graduates is high with most students accepting preaching positions months before graduation.
  - The annual lectureship sets new attendance records each year with almost 1,200 as the high attendance for 2004.
- Thus, we are thankful God has blessed us with so many opportunities and the ability, aided by multitudes of faithful brethren, to carry on this work. We could not do it without your help.
- Some ask, "Where is MSOP headed?" In the same direction as always—forward in faith, trusting in God, and seeking to do our best to serve Him. Consistency and constancy are watchwords of Memphis School of Preaching. Thanks, dear friends, for helping MSOP go forward to greater work—that God may be glorified (Mat. 5:16)! BL

## MSOP Book Order Form

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of the 2004 MSOP Lectureship books (2 Volumes--1,292 pages total): SIN AND SALVATION @\$25.00 per set. Add \$5.00 shipping for the first set and \$1.00 shipping for each additional set. Make checks payable to Memphis School of Preaching Bookstore. Clip this coupon and mail to: MSOP Bookstore, 3950 Forest Hill Irene Road, Memphis, TN 38125, or call (901) 751-9964.

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