



## 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  
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Keith Dixon, Vice President  
Keith A. Mosher Sr., Treasurer  
*August 2016*

## Gerald Reynolds Receives Alumnus Of The Year Award

*Mike McDaniel*

We wish to extend our congratulations to Gerald Reynolds (1973) of Virginia Beach, Virginia who received this year’s prestigious Alumnus Of The Year Award. He greatly honored his wife, Pat, upon the announcement and gave the beautiful plaque to her.

We also congratulate brethren Johnie Scaggs, Jr. and Tom Wacaster upon being named as honorary alumni of the Memphis School of Preaching. Both brethren were greatly surprised and humbled by the honor. Brother Wacaster had been invited to be our speaker for the Alumni and Friends Dinner. He did an outstanding job.

The 2016 MSOP Lectureship was superb. Many alumni returned. We felt so blessed and uplifted. If you haven’t yet ordered your copy of the book and/or CD, you may do so by calling 1-800-782-8175.





## ***FROM THE DIRECTOR***

*B. J. Clarke*

Greetings from the Memphis School of Preaching! I trust that you have had a good summer and that all is well with you and yours. The Summer School term just came to an end on August 5<sup>th</sup> and our students will be on break until August 17<sup>th</sup>. A number of new students will be arriving to begin their time at MSOP in just a few days. Orientation is scheduled for August 17-18. The students will be introduced to the Forest Hill congregation on Wednesday evening, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday, August the 19<sup>th</sup>, the entire student body will travel to Sevierville, TN for the annual Polishing The Pulpit event. This is not a vacation for our students—it is a learning lab in another location. In fact, our students are required to attend a minimum of six hours of lectures during each weekday of PTP, and they are required to take notes of the sessions they attend, and submit them for grading. There are plenty of classes for our student wives, and their children as well. It is also a time of bonding together as a student body. Many of our supporters have given funds to assist our students in covering their travel and lodging expenses during the week of PTP. Thank you so much!

The students will drive home on August 25<sup>th</sup> and begin their first quarter, on campus, with classes the next morning. The wives will begin their classes on Monday evening, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Our World Missions Program students will also begin their classes. Incidentally, we have the highest enrollment in the World Missions Program we have ever had. Nearly half a dozen students are in this one-year program, a separate program from our regular two-year curriculum.

As for the two-year program, we have a good problem—the student housing is full, with more students trying to enroll in November of this year. We are exploring options to fix this pleasant problem. We continue to treasure your support of our work, and most of all, we request your prayers on our behalf!

# FOUNDATIONS 2016

*B. J. Clarke*

On June 19, 2016, twenty students graduated from the Memphis School of Preaching. On the Saturday after graduation, June 25th, we began the 9th annual Foundations training camp for young men and women, ages 13-19. Once again, we had record attendance, with 227 campers traveling from places all across the USA to be with us for the week-long training camp. We started the week with 124 girls and 103 boys. Unfortunately, a few of our campers

After chapel the boys and girls split up and went to separate classes, which studied extensively what it means to worship in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24). On Wednesday evening, the girls stayed at Forest Hill church of Christ and did a special program for ladies only. The boys were divided into 5 groups of approximately 20 each, and they conducted the services for Southaven, Coldwater, Collierville, Forest Hill and Highway 77 in Marion, Arkansas.



had to go home after getting sick. Our camp nurses were busy!

The overall theme for the camp was "Here I Am To Worship." After breakfast, each day began with a joint chapel service. The singing was amazing, and 46 young people responded to the invitation at these morning services.

The program ended with a banquet on Friday night, July 1st. The fellowship hall was packed with approximately 600 people, and ended on a high note! We are already anticipating June 24-30, 2017 for the 10th annual Foundations camp. Our theme will be "Are You Ready?" Thank you so much for your generous support of our work!

# ALUMNI NEWS

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Brother Garland Elkins turns 90 years old this Friday, August 19, 2016. May God bless him with more years of faithful service. There will be a come-and-go birthday celebration for him on Saturday, August 20, from 2:00 PM. unto 4:00 PM. Everyone is welcome. No gifts please. You may also send cards to them. The address is Christian Care Center, 6500 Kirby Gate Boulevard, Memphis, TN. 38119. His room number is 206. Sister Elkins has now returned home.

## Wedding

Congratulations to **Josh Townsend (2014)** and his new bride Kylie who were married July 29 in Madill, Oklahoma.

## Birth

Congratulations to **Clifton Angel (2010)** and his wife Lara in the birth of their son, David Charleston Angel, on May 9, 2016. He is growing and healthy, and they are thankful.

## Moves

**Corey Barnette (2002)** writes, "My family and I recently moved. I have agreed to work with the Cartersville Church of Christ in Georgia."

**Kelvin Pugh (2002)** writes, "I will be beginning a new work at the Collinsville church of Christ in Troy, IL on September 11th as the new pulpit minister."

**Ronnie Scherffius (2002)** writes, "I will be moving to Victoria, Texas (Sept. 1) to begin working with the MidTown Church of Christ. We have been at Glendale for 11 1/2 years! 5901 N Main St, Victoria, TX 77904, (361) 573-0030 (office).

**Howell Ferguson (1984)** has returned to the US from Tanzania and has accepted a position as Vice President and Director of

Extension Studies with World Bible Institute. Currently there are WBI extension schools in Africa, Haiti, Philippines, and Micronesia. Howell and Mary will reside in Jackson, TN as he works with WBI.

**Robbie Andrews (2015)** writes, "I would like to thank those who were kind enough to remember me in prayer before, during, and after my cancer surgery this past April. (A request was made via your Newsletter on my behalf.) I am happy to report that initial follow-up has been very encouraging. We intend to complete the evangelistic work we have been doing here in Dover, New Hampshire by mid-September and, the Lord willing, return to our work in North East Alabama. May God continue to bless you richly. Robbie Andrews, 89 Old Rochester Road, Dover, NH 03820. After mid-September, 740 Young's Mill Road, Lineville, AL 36255.

**Tim Burroughs (2004)** writes, "Robin and I have moved from the Looxahoma church of Christ in Senatobia MS after 12 years to begin work with the North Main church of Christ in Weatherford TX. I hope you can include this in the Newsletter. Truly appreciate all that you do in His kingdom and for the MSOP."

**Stephen Sutton (2005)** writes that he and his wife, Whitney, are getting settled in at the Bishop St Church of Christ in Union City, TN. They recently moved from Springville, TN.

**Jeremy (2014) and Jinnie Thornton** have moved from the Hwy 77 congregation in Marion, AR to the Looxahoma congregation in Looxahoma MS.

**Brock Edward Kendall (2014)** has moved to Jonesboro, AR to work with the

Nettleton Church of Christ.

### **Bible Lands Trip**

**Tony Lawrence (HA-2004)** writes, “I did not know if it was appropriate but would it be possible to include an announcement regarding my upcoming tour to the Bible Lands in the alumni newsletter? It will be Dec. 26 to Jan. 4. Here is a link to the brochure. [http://biblelandphotos.org/biblelandphotos/Welcome\\_files/2016HolyLandTour.pdf](http://biblelandphotos.org/biblelandphotos/Welcome_files/2016HolyLandTour.pdf)”.

### **Alumni Association Stickers**

**Lee Snow (2012)** writes, “You may remember last year I designed and sold some MSOP Alumni Association stickers that seemed to do really well, and we were able to raise roughly \$225, I believe, for the Alumni Association. I have since been selling shirts and have another \$50 so far. If you do not mind, please pass this link on to others. <https://teespring.com/MSOPAlumni#pid=2&cid=2122&sid=back>. [www.leemsnow.com](http://www.leemsnow.com)

### **Prayer Request**

Forest Hill secretary, **Janet Sanders**, is having medical tests currently. Please remember her in your prayers.

### **In Sympathy**

Our sympathy is extended to **Joey Davis (2004)** and his wife, Pam, in the recent loss of Pam’s mother.

### **Mission Work**

**John Grubb (2013)** writes, “I leave on August 24<sup>th</sup> for Taiwan and China to return October 10<sup>th</sup>.”

**Billy Bland (1977)**, Terry Bland, and Jeanna Wadsworth traveled to David, Panama June 17 - 25, 2016 with five teenagers from the Coldwater church of Christ, Coldwater, MS and conducted a VBS and Gospel Meeting for the Los Andes congregation. There was a good turn out, and it resulted in man being baptized into Christ.

**Wade Webster (1989)** wrote, “During my recent trip to Panama, approximately 260

Bible studies were conducted by the mission team of which I was privileged to be a part. We planted and we watered, and God gave the increase. There were nine baptisms and three restorations before we left. Hopefully, there will be more fruit borne in the days ahead. Studies that were set up while we were there are continuing to be conducted by the local preacher and the brethren in Penonome.”

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## **Have You Paid Your Alumni Association Dues?**

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](http://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. Please send your voluntary dues in today!

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### **New Commentary Now Available**

Last Saturday, brother **Robert R. Taylor Jr. (HA- 1989)** came to my office to teach his class for the Online Academy of Biblical Studies. I was so excited when he presented me with a copy of his new outstanding commentary on First Corinthians. I knew that he had been working on it for two or three years. It is a blue hardback book of 438 pages. There are questions at the end of each chapter. I am grateful to God that it has become a reality and would urge you to order the book by sending him a check for \$21 which includes \$4 for shipping. Mail it to Taylor Publications, P.O. Box 464, Ripley, TN 38063.

## **N. B. Hardeman Library Acquires The Bobby O'Dell Debate Collection**

Over 500 debate books and media were recently obtained from Bobby O'Dell and through the generosity of brethren who assisted MSOP in making it financially possible.

Brother O'Dell wrote, "One of the parts of this printed debate collection that is nearest to my heart is the section that contains extremely rare first edition volumes from the 1800's. This debate collection has a full set of all 6 of Alexander Campbell's Debates in 1st edition leather. This includes the extremely rare 1st edition Campbell-Skinner Debate. The collection includes all 7 of Benjamin Franklin's debates from the mid-1800's. Although often the most rare and hardest to find, the collection of debates from that century involving our brethren is nearly complete in these holdings. Many of these will be housed under glass for display and for use with special librarian permission. With many of these books, the volumes now held at the N.B. Hardeman Library at MSOP are the only ones known to exist any longer."

As brother Garland Elkins wrote, "This rare and valuable collection of books and manuscripts is the largest of its kind in the brotherhood . . . This collection provides students opportunities to research, learn, and articulate crucial and often misunderstood Bible topics."

A locking glass cabinet was purchased for the rarest of the debates. To be consistent, all debate books located on the second floor were moved to the first floor and shelved together by subject. Labels are color-coded to identify the multiple collections involved.

Relocating and re-labeling several hundred debate books required much time and



**Librarian Annette Cates With The Rare And Precious Debate Books**

effort from the Library staff. Our thanks to Annette Cates and Jan Kuehn for all their work.

You may be interested to know that the total number of items on the shelf in the Library is 26,403. Come by and visit the wonderful N. B. Hardeman Library!



**MSOP and World Missions Program Graduate Angelo Munoz Selects A Debate Book To Peruse**



# Memphis School of Preaching World Evangelism Seminar

*“Preaching The Gospel To Every Creature:”*

**OCTOBER 14-15, 2016  
FRIDAY NIGHT**

6:30 – 6:50 PM	Singing	Andy Ratliff
7:00 – 8:00 PM	“Preaching the Gospel To Every Creature”	B. J. Clarke

## **SATURDAY**

9:00 – 9:50	Lifting up our Eyes: In Taiwan	John Grubb
10:00 – 10:50	Preaching the Word: In China	Billy Bland
11:00 – 11:50	Fields White Unto Harvest: In India	Mark Reynolds
11:50 – 1:10	Lunch Provided/ MSOP World Missions	B. J. Clarke
1:10 -2:00	Bearing Fruit: In The Pacific Islands	Robert Martin
2:10 – 3:00	Elders and World Evangelism	Steve Vice
3:10 – 4:00	Visit Displays	

**DISPLAYS LOCATED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15)**

# BENEVOLENT NEED DUE TO DEVASTATING FLOODING IN LOUISIANA

**[Editor's Note:** The following information from Mark Lance was forwarded to me by brother Clifton Angel. As I was finalizing this issue of the Laborers Together Newsletter, I received an email from James Eaves stating their urgent need. I delayed this issue for a day so that I could have his letter, which has been approved by the elders there, included in this issue. You may have seen pictures over the last few days of people suffering and wondering "What can I do to help?" Here are two options to do so among many others which will no doubt arise. Also, please remember them in prayer in their benevolent efforts. **Mike]**

**Mark Lance (1998)** writes, "The Chalmette congregation in Louisiana was not affected by the recent storms, but several other congregations have been. The Chalmette congregation will be collecting funds to help those who have lost everything they have. Many of these are members of the church. We went through the same thing in 2005 when hurricane Katrina hit. We now want to offer help to those who are suffering. Once the flood waters go down, they will be in need of volunteer groups to go in and gut houses. It is too early for that right now, but if you would like to bring a group in the near future, it would be a great help to these people and an opportunity to spread the gospel. We will be working with the Zachary congregation and some other sound congregations in the faith. If you would like to make a contribution to help, send it to the address below marked for flood victims. If you would like to organize a group to come and help with clean up call me at (504)-250-8492. Our address is Chalmette Church of Christ, P.O. Box 1165, Chalmette, LA 70043."

**James Eaves (2002)** writes, "Brother McDaniel, We have experienced a lot of flooding down here in Ascension Parish. Many of the neighboring cities have been greatly affected as well. In our congregation, where we average 120 in attendance, we have at least 8 families with flooded houses. Several of them have lost 2 or more vehicles. Many of the homes were not in flood zones so they were not required to carry flood insurance. Many have been contacting me over the last few days asking what they can do to help. We have many supplies coming in over the next couple of days and a very limited space to store those supplies. At this time, we believe that it is best to send funds to assist these brethren. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact us with the information below. Anyone wanting to send funds to aid in the recovery can send them to the address below. Be sure to write "Flood Relief" in the comments on the check. If you desire to bring supplies you can find a list of things on our Facebook Page: Gonzales Church Of Christ. Our address is Gonzales church of Christ, 1225 S. Purpera Ave., Gonzales, LA 70737. [www.gonzalescofc.com](http://www.gonzalescofc.com). E-mail- [gonzalescofc@eatel.net](mailto:gonzalescofc@eatel.net). office: 225-644-5824.

**2017 MSOP Lectureship Theme:  
"Build Your Hopes On Things Eternal"**