



Laborers Together Newsletter

Memphis School of Preaching Alumni Association

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

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Another Successful FOUNDATIONS

B. J. Clarke

The fourth annual FOUNDATIONS training camp for young men was conducted on the MSOP campus from June 25th - July 1st, 2011. Interest in the camp has grown each year, and this year we reached a record enrollment for FOUNDATIONS. Forty-seven young men attended this year's event.

These young men, from California, to Wisconsin, to Virginia, to Florida, came together to learn how to be better servants in the Lord's church. As they stayed together in the apartments on the MSOP campus, these young men bonded together in friendship and learning. As they worshipped together each morning in chapel, they grew closer to the Lord and to one another. As they attended classes each day from 9 to 2, they received instruction in everything from how to prepare a

sermon, to how to become an elder or a deacon in the church someday. As they conducted the services at Forest Hill and Highway 77 church of Christ, they developed their abilities to lead God's people in worship. As they delivered their sermons on Friday, they gained valuable confidence and experience in preaching.

If you know of a young man that would like to be a part of this tuition free training, let them know about the 5th annual FOUNDATIONS training camp, which will be conducted June 23-29, 2012. Applications are available online at www.msop.org.

[*Editor's Note:* We are thankful for every sound effort to provide such training for our young people and are appreciative to brother Clarke and all who assist him in such a marvelous way.]

MSOP Welcomes GBN To Memphis

GBN, Gospel Broadcasting Network, now under the oversight of the faithful eldership of the great Southaven Church of Christ (MS), has announced its plans to move to the Memphis area and to build a facility on land next to the facilities of the Forest Hill Church of Christ, home of the Memphis School of Preaching.

The new building will house the offices and studio of GBN and will also serve as a classroom and a training center for the Memphis School of Preaching. We are excitedly anticipating having the ability to utilize the state of the art facilities of GBN in preparing MSOP students for the technological challenges and worldwide opportunities of preaching the gospel in this century.

In the new building, GBN will record gospel programs that will reach millions, and MSOP will be training men for preaching to “all the world.”

In addition to our two-year program, MSOP’s World Missions Program, starting January 2012, will include training in media work and broadcasting and will require a suitable

facility. We believe, through God’s good providence, our joint efforts with GBN will serve both works well, and will also mean less expense for both.

Brother Don Blackwell, Executive Director of GBN and 1996 graduate of MSOP, understands well how both works operate. We have great confidence in him and in his leadership, and we are happy to be working with Don and all the brethren at GBN.

We know there are brethren who want to accomplish the will of the Lord, brethren who are compassionate about souls, and who want to do all possible in order to reach the lost with the good news of Jesus Christ. We know also that good brethren will open wide their hands in order to support good, sound, faithful works. Thus, we very optimistically look forward to obtaining the necessary funds for this milestone endeavor. Please help NOW if you can. Mark your contributions “For GBN Memphis Studio,” and send to: Gospel Broadcasting Network, 3969 Cloud Springs Road, Ringgold, GA 30736.

MSOP BEGINS NEW SCHOOL YEAR

MSOP will soon begin its Fall semester of a new school year. We are excited to announce that all of the beautiful apartments are filled again with students and their families who are studying at the school. Other applicants are still being processed at this time. MSOP continues to need support for

its operating expenses, and these new students are needing monthly support for their living expenses.

Also, the World Missions Program begins January 23, 2012. Interested applicants need to contact brother Bobby Liddell at MSOP. Go to www.msop.org for information.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

The MSOP Alumni Association conducted its annual board meeting on March 29, 2011. Thirty-three officers and board members were present. We are grateful to all who were able to attend.

It was decided that the money taken up at the collection of the Alumni and Friends dinner would be used for the World Missions Program.

We changed the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association concerning Article IV and the Election of Officers and Directors to read that the President and Vice President of the graduating class would serve as board member and alternate until the next election of board members.

Sister Janey Bright was given a plaque at the Alumni and Friends Dinner in honor of the Brights' work with OABS.

Sister Annette Cates and brother David Sain were selected as Honorary Alumni.

A new display is to be purchased for the Alumni Association.

Lee Davis was selected as our new Vice-President, and Mark Reynolds was selected as the new chairman of our Awards and Recognition committee.

New board members were elected at the dinner, and they will serve until March 2015. If no one from a class gave us an update concerning board members at the dinner, the board member remains the same.

ALUMNI NEWS

Mac William deThierry (1994) was killed in an automobile accident in New Zealand July 6. He was 52 years old. He is survived by his wife, Sophie, four children, and eight grandchildren. Two of his sons-in-law are gospel preachers. Over 400 people attended his funeral in Palmerston North, New Zealand. This is a wonderful tribute to him. Mac served as an active member and part-time preacher for churches in Wainuiomata, Wanganui, and Palmerston North.

Joel Smith (1976), age 79, of Benton, KY, died Wednesday, July 20, in Paducah. He suffered a stroke due to complications from a severe bladder infection. He had preached the Gospel of Christ for 36 years. He was well-known for his beautiful tenor voice, was often in attendance at area singings, and was asked to lead singing at funerals. In fact, after he had led singing at one funeral, a lady requested that he lead singing at her mother's funeral.

He responded, "She'll out live me," and she did by one day. He is survived by his wife Trudy, and sons, Kevin (Tammy) of Murray, Karl (Debbie) of Murray, and Greg (Becky) of Grahamville, KY.

Adolphus Walker (1985), preacher for the Walnut Street church of Christ in Greenfield, TN, passed from this life on August 3. His granddaughter passed away on July 24, and Adolphus had preached her funeral. Alumni responded wonderfully to an e-mail request for funds to help bury her as they had no insurance. The elders of the Dorris Chapel church of Christ where Tim Fuqua (1985) preaches would like to thank everyone for their generous help. Remaining funds are now being used toward brother Walker's burial expenses. Brother Walker was a friend and fellow classmate who inspired us with his zeal for the Lord's work even in his final days when he was on dialysis.

We are also saddened by the death of **Fred Crowe (2011)** on August 2nd who had just graduated from MSOP in June. Brother Crowe was a student of mine at MSOP. He also inspired me with his zeal for Bible knowledge. We extend our sympathy to each of these families and ask that you please remember them in your prayers.

Sean Hockdorf (96) writes, "While some of you may be aware of our plans others may not yet be aware that, Lord willing, we will be returning to Tanzania in January of 2012. We are overcome with excitement and are working each day to gain the necessary support. Those familiar with mission work know that preparation for a move overseas is a logistical nightmare. Currently, we are going through the paces of arranging for container shipment, crating our possessions, getting work permits, etc. In addition to these concerns, the financial aspect of the work looms over us. We, probably like you, are very uncomfortable openly talking about and asking for support. When it comes to reaching the lost, however, we must quickly set aside our inhibitions and simply ask . . . Currently, contributions can be sent to: church of Christ c/o HOCHDORF MISSION FUND, 3029 Handley Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76112. If people are interested, our information can be found at: www.tanzaniamissions.com.

Apache Crying Bear (2010) writes, "We were blessed with the birth of our daughter June 30, 2011. Her name is Helaku Atsa Crying Bear. Her name means Sunny Day Eagle. We are still desperately in need of financial support here on the Reservation as our congregation is in much disrepair. Sadly, we lost a fellow soldier of the cross. Michael Joseph Lerro went on to his reward August 6, 2011 at the age of 38. He leaves his wife of 15 years, Larisa, and his children, Collin and Kathryn. He was a graduate of Freed

Hardeman and the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions . . . We here at Kin Dah Lichii Church of Christ desperately need your prayers and any financial help we can attain."

Jerry Manning (2006) writes, "I have been preaching for the Fayetteville church of Christ in Fayetteville, GA, since January 2011. I am in need of spinal surgery to prevent total paralysis and since I have no health insurance, my beautiful wife found a job with a company that offers full health and dental benefits. I know this is an answer to many prayers that were sent on my behalf. We have to wait 90 days for this to become active so continued prayers would be appreciated. My fifth son, Evan has just started his training at MSOP and we are forever grateful for all those involved in this effort. He loved his summer session and is quite excited about learning. My wife and I have only one child left at home, Daniel, and you should see him in two years. May God continue to bless us all as we labor in the vineyard."

Eugene Jenkins (1980) writes: "Luvenia and I were a part of two successful Gospel campaigns to Jamaica in May and June. The first campaign consisted of eight team members working in Goshen (Clarendon). We covered the community and were able to have Bible classes in three schools. Classes were held for the members, and a two week Gospel meeting was held with the community in mind. We had six baptisms and one restoration. Word is that attendance has stayed high since our return home. The second campaign consisted of 18 team members in Bull Savanna (St. Elizabeth). The people of Bull Savanna are better off financially than Goshen, and they were not as receptive. We covered the whole area, and had many Bible studies, which resulted in two baptisms. The first week's nightly lessons

were keyed to challenging and strengthening members of the church, and the second week was keyed to non-members. We were asked to teach the members how to teach and enjoyed doing that. Since our return home, I have received word that attendance remains up 40%, and they have had one more baptism. It is possible that I will do a church growth seminar in Bull Savanna before the end of this year. **Bill Noblin (1982)** had successful triple bypass surgery. He is recovering well.”

Mac Ballard (1981) writes, “I moved in March to Winchester, Indiana, a mission work. I could still use some financial support if anyone can help with that.”

Stephen Law (1985) writes, “I have moved to Crossville, TN where I grew up. I am preaching for the "church of Christ in the Glade" in Fairfield Glade. I started on July 3.”

Jonathan Winchester (2007) writes, Gema and I have a new daughter, Ana Sofia Winchester; born 3-31-11. Also, we have just moved to Columbia, TN, and have taken a work with the Graymere church of Christ, working as their Missions/Evangelism Minister. As I work in missions, I have made several trips this year. In January, I did two weeks in Panama City, Panama, where we conducted the first ever Future Minister's Camp there with 28 young men attending as well as a VBS for about 600 children the next week; there were three baptisms as a result of these activities. In February, I was in Chennai, India for the National Bible College lectures and graduation. There were seven baptisms during this trip. In July I was in Panama for a medical/evangelism campaign in multiple locations. There were eight baptisms.”

Tim Wilkes II (2006) writes, “We are entering into full-time mission work with Open Door Ministry. Our last day working with the Bay Church of Christ in Bay, AR, will be September 25. We do not yet have the

support we need to do this work for the Lord, but we are stepping out on faith and praying and trusting that the Lord will take care of us. Our sponsoring congregation is Coldwater Church of Christ in Coldwater, MS (P.O. Box 321 Coldwater, MS 38618). Please call me for more information: 901-277-3577. Any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Peter Chin (2006) writes, “I am pleased to inform you that I have assumed my new role as President of Four Seas College of Bible & Missions here in Singapore since January, 2011. Bro. David Chew, the former President for the past 18 years, recently retired due to his poor health. Thirteen students have graduated in the last four years since I began teaching at this college in July, 2007. They are now labouring in China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Singapore. We currently have 14 students enrolled in the first year. They will graduate in 2012 and will return to preach the gospel in their respective homelands. *We are in great need for additional full time instructors to help teach in the college. If there are any graduates who might be interested in taking up this challenge, please visit our website of the college and contact us.* Singapore is a good place to live and work and there will also be opportunities to preach in neighbouring nations like Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Those interested will need to be able to raise their own funds. The upcoming 4th Annual Four Seas Lectureship is scheduled for Nov. 30th – Dec. 4th (Wed. to Sun). The theme for this year is “I Will Build My Church...Mt. 16:18.” Speakers from the U.S. include Billy Bland, Lee Davis, Tim Burroughs, Jason Hilburn, and Tim Hayes. Another alumnus speaking at the lectureship is Patrick Swayne, currently serving as missionary in Melbourne, Australia. I am also

pleased to announce my recent appointment as one of the two new elders for the Lim Ah Pin congregation in Singapore. This will greatly help the college in reaching out to more people to accomplish our objective in producing more preachers. The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few – Mt. 9:37.”

Denton Landon (1983) writes, “Thus far this year I have taught in Lima, Peru, twice in Guatemala City, Guatemala, Gorlovka, Ukraine, Chimala, Tanzania, and made a third trip to Guatemala to speak at the first graduation banquet and on their lectureship the following day. I have two more teaching trips scheduled for 2011. The first two weeks of October will be spent in Gorlovka, Ukraine and the first two weeks of November will be in Chimala, Tanzania. The trip to Tanzania is an unplanned one due to a cancellation. I need to raise the travel funds for these two trips and some additional monthly support.”

Byran Hatcher who hopes to graduate in 2012 writes concerning his father, “**Barry Hatcher (1975)** is working in Indonesia and is serving as the full-time international instructor for Fishers of Men ministry, of which **Tim Wilkes (1981)** is the director.”

Patrick Swayne (2005) writes: “On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, I have been teaching at Four Seas College of the Bible. As I write this, the students there have just completed their semester and finished up with their finals. All told we had 13 students take the final, but during the course of the class there were another 4 that audited for a week or more. Teaching the book of John to them was a joy, and a learning experience for me as well as for them...On Tuesdays, as I have mentioned in previous newsletters, I teach CRE (Christian Religious Education) at a local elementary school...The kids have been giving some interesting questions lately.

“How do we know that Jesus is real?” and “Does the Bible say that homosexuality is wrong?” were two questions that came up recently (I’m actually hoping that my answer to that last one doesn’t get me kicked out!). These kids often come to the classes with either no knowledge of the Bible or a very warped denominational perception of the Bible. It’s great to be able to teach them some things that I hope can impact their future . . . We’ve received news over the past two months that a new Christian family from Argentina is likely to be moving over. Carlos, Victoria, and Gabby Cabrera are from Columbia originally and are coming to Australia to make a better life for themselves. As of this moment, their visas have been approved, and they have made plans to come in September. They will be staying with us when they arrive. Please keep this family in your prayers.”

[**Editor’s Note:** Sometimes elderships are looking for good mission works to support. Brethren, please make a copy of this newsletter for them. There are a host of excellent mission works listed here and many of them are needing financial support. Let us see in these difficult economic times if we cannot all work together as MSOP alumni to get those congregations with some financial ability together with our faithful brethren who are zealous to do the Lords’ work around the globe.]

**Please View The World
Missions Program
Informational Video At
WWW.MSOP.ORG!**

MORE PREACHERS IN THE FIELD

Mike McDaniel

On June 19, 2011, I was blessed to be able to attend the Commencement Exercises in honor of the 2011 graduating class of MSOP. Brother **Stephen Sutton (2005)** from Maury City, TN, was present to lead the singing during the worship period. **Keith Dixon (1980)** of Luverne, AL, father of graduate David Dixon, gave the invocation. James Watkins from Lewisburg, TN, was conducting a Gospel Meeting at Forest Hill and gave the sermon and address that night. Brother Dennis Gullede of Mablevale, AR, and father of graduate David Gullede, led the closing prayer.

Following that wonderful period of worship together, brother Keith A. Mosher Sr, Dean of Academics, presented the graduation class. Director Bobby Liddell presented each graduate their well-earned diplomas. Forest Hill elders: Anthony D. Callahan, J. D. Crowe, F. M. Hayes, Gregory D. Mangrum, Harold D. Mangrum, Keith B. McAlister, and Leonard Watson extended their congratulations to the students. Class President David Dixon expressed the gratefulness of the graduates to the congregation. Then, Director Emeritus Curtis A. Cates bestowed the class awards. Phillip E. Patton received the True Yokefellow Award. Kyhemia J. Alexander received the Most Improved Award. David Dixon received the Most Outstanding Student Award. Congratulations to each of them! Following two additional songs, brother Fred Rhodes from Newton, IA, father of Jared Rhodes, led us in the benediction.

Brethren Jeff Brown and Fred Crowe graduated from the Third Year Program.

Kyhemia J. Alexander, Roy Trent

Childers, Anthony L. Clay, David Alan Dixon, David Garrison Gullede, Charles J. Harris, Bruce P. Hatcher, Jonathan C. Jacobs, Tyler J. Kirkpatrick, Jared Michael Rhodes, Steven D. Rogers, Jon Chance Steen, and Donald Adam Duane Wright all graduated that night. Torrey Clark, Scott Collins, Jarrod Harp, Phillip E. Patton, and Russell M. Swafford all went through the line but will actually complete their work in January of 2012.

This was an outstanding class with a group of men that were a joy to teach. They have a lot of ability and several of them had places to preach well in advance of graduation. It is not easy to enter the field. There is excitement and eagerness and turmoil and trepidation at the same time. We would ask that you remember these men in your prayers that God would bless them in their new works, that they might have many years of fruitful service, and that God might be glorified by their efforts.

Please Send Your Dues

Members of the MSOP Alumni Association have yearly voluntary dues of \$25. This money goes to our association fund and is used to pay a death benefit to widows of our members as well as special projects to help the school. Please make out your checks to MSOP Alumni Association and send them to the school and to the attention of our treasurer, Keith Mosher Sr.