



Laborers Together Newsletter

Memphis School of Preaching Alumni Association

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

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Volume 8, No. 2

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June 2013

THE TELEPHONE POLE

Howell Ferguson

BVBID extension director, Bob Turner made this very revealing statement: “*Do we exert the majority of our efforts to teach the gospel to those who seemingly feel as if they do not need God because they have plenty in this life? Should we not spend more effort leading those who have little or nothing in this life to a greater understanding of what God has prepared for us?*” (“*The Leadership Fund*”, March 21, 2013).

What Bob said is exactly why men and women enter the mission field. I believe Bob said it so capably. In my first year of full-time preaching after graduating from preaching school, Ira Rice called and asked if I would help get permission from my elders to allow Tommy Alford to visit and speak about his plans to do mission work in Taiwan with Joseph Ruiz. The elders ok’d the request, and brother Alford came the scheduled Sunday morning.

I’ll never forget one of his illustrations as he was attempting to help us understand how American preachers/churches typically attempt

to fulfill the Great Commission. He said imagine fifty men are told to pick up a telephone pole. No big deal, right? Fifty men could surely do it. He said: imagine the telephone pole as the world of the lost and the fifty men as gospel preachers in our brotherhood. Fifty men all pile up on one end of the telephone pole to lift that end, but only one man is left to lift the opposite end.

Sounds ludicrous, doesn’t it? Yet, percentage-wise, that’s no exaggeration at all! I’ve also heard it said that 95% of all gospel preachers are preaching to 5% of the world’s population. Yet, we live in a world untouched by the billions who have never heard the simple truths of what you and I take for granted every day. If that doesn’t break your heart, I don’t know much else that will.

If you’re doing what you can in your corner of the world with courage, determination, and faith, and bearing fruit unto the Lord, may God continue to bless you! If not, maybe you need to get on the other end of the pole!

TOP 10 THINGS PREACHERS LOVE ABOUT PREACHING!

Jeff Jenkins

“The expectations of a preacher are endless. Some members expect them to be omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent. But different preachers are wired differently.” That’s the way Thom Ranier began his article dealing with ten things preachers don’t like about preaching.

So, with apologies to Thom for sort of taking his title I decided to write from a different approach. What do preachers really love about preaching? What aspects do they enjoy the most?

Some preachers may really enjoy and be fulfilled by counseling while another dreads even the thought of it. So, I did a little informal and very unscientific survey of a rather large number of preachers. We contacted a wide range of preachers (ages, length of time preaching, many different regions).

I asked them a simple question. “What do you like most about preaching?” It was an opened-ended question, and they were asked to give their top ten list. Some gave ten; others gave less than ten. They were all extremely helpful and insightful.

After a general reading with numerous answers here are the top ten things preachers like most about preaching with a comment from at least one preacher on each (they are in reverse order, you know David Letterman style)! Oh, and by the way, you may have your own list, and we would love to see what you would add?

10. Flexibility of Schedule. “Preaching gives me the opportunity to spend more time in study in view of serving full-time. Whether

it is study for sermons and lessons or personal study. I have more time to do these things than if I had a “regular” job. Ministry brings different challenges and opportunities. Days are different.”

9. That “aha” moment when somebody gets it. “That moment in the sermon when you utter the phrase you wanted, in the way you wanted, and by the reaction on at least one face, you KNOW “they got it”—clearly understood the point you were trying to make. I love hearing a member say, ‘I really needed to hear that today.’ I love to see folks turning pages and giving feedback because that shows that they are ‘into’ what you are saying.”

8. Growing closer to God. “I am thankful that my ‘job’ is to go deeper in the Word. It also strengthens me in the fact that I realize more and more as I study, and as I am called on to minister to a broken family, or asked to preach a difficult sermon, it is a reminder that I cannot do this alone, that I need God in my life. I love preaching because it makes me want to be better. Knowing God’s Word deepens my own personal relationship with God.”

7. How it affects my family. “The opportunity for my wife and children to hear and see my love for God and His Word. Giving your family a unique and joyous view of the bride of Christ and the work you do.”

6. Proclaiming God’s Word. “You get to tell the greatest of all stories and share the richest of all treasures all summed up in the name JESUS! It is tough to describe the rush I get by getting to preach God’s Word. I love standing in front of people and preaching.”

5. The fellowship of brethren. “Associating with some of the most incredible people in the world. I love the fellowship of brethren, those whose lives are also focused on living for God and serving Him. The blessing of being workers together with God.”

4. Helping people through difficult times. “Preachers get to share sacred moments in the lives of Christians – weddings, births, funerals, etc. Preachers are able to bring God’s comfort to souls who are hurting because of sickness and death, heartaches and disappointments, family problems, etc. I love the opportunities I’m given to help people in their great times of need. I enjoy being looked to for help and guidance. I love helping people.”

3. Association with other preachers. “I love the camaraderie of other gospel preachers. We may be the most automatic fraternity in the world. I love the opportunity I have as a preacher to associate with some of God’s most outstanding servants—my fellow preachers. The feeling of belonging to a

fellowship of greatness.”

2. The study of God’s Word. “Preaching allows you the blessing of immersing yourself in the greatest book on earth. The chance to plunge deeply into biblical study. I get to dig deeper in Scripture than most. I love being able to commit my time to studying. When I learn something totally unexpected from my study.”

1. Transformed lives. “There is nothing more important in this life than for someone to hear and obey the Gospel. We are able to witness the transformation that takes place in the lives of lost and broken people. Being engaged in God’s eternal plan. The privilege to provide hope. Preaching gives me the opportunity to make eternal differences.”

What would you add to this list?

Dear Father in Heaven, thank You for Your glorious Gospel. Thank You dear God for those who are involved in sharing that Good News with others. In the Name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

I HAVE HEARD THAT SERMON BEFORE

Mike McDaniel

As I made preparations recently to teach my class on History Of Christian Missionary Efforts II, I found the following story which illustrates how quickly a sermon can travel even in the days prior to the internet.

At the memorial service for missionary, Otis Gatewood, on September 21, 1999, Harvie M. Pruitt told the following story. In 1955, Norvel Young preached a sermon at the Broadway church in Lubbock, Texas, about the Prodigal Son. He had five unique points. Harvie Pruitt’s mother wrote down the five points and sent them to her son

in one of her letters. Harvie was in Germany at that time. He liked the sermon outline very much and used the same five points in a sermon to the English-speaking congregation in Frankfurt, Germany. Otis Gatewood was in the audience, and he also liked the five points. He made notes, and when he was visiting in Lubbock a few months later, he preached a sermon **with the same five points** to the Broadway congregation. They recognized it as Young’s sermon. When he got back to Frankfurt, Otis Gatewood said, “Why didn’t you tell me where you got that sermon?” Harvie Pruitt said, “My mother sent it to me.”

MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Larry Powers

What a great blessing it is to have received instruction at the Memphis School of Preaching. As alumni, we owe so much to the godly elders and faithful brethren of the Forest Hill church, to brethren Roy J. Hearn, Curtis Cates, Bobby Liddell, B.J. Clarke, the faculty, and the staff. As alumni, we should be excited about the future of the Memphis School of Preaching. The school continues to train men to "preach the Word" and to send out gospel preachers who are dedicated, effective, well-prepared proclaimers of the Truth. The Memphis School of Preaching Alumni Association was formed to help and support this great work. What do you know about the MSOP Alumni Association?

The Memphis School of Preaching Alumni Association was organized in 1969. The Constitution and Bylaws of Memphis School of Preaching Alumni Association were submitted and approved at the board meeting of March 31, 1992. These bylaws have undergone very little change since that time. The bylaws were amended April 1, 2008, March 30, 1999, and March 30, 2010. Article IV of the Constitution and Bylaws was changed in 2011 to read "that the president and vice-president of the graduating class will serve as board member and alternate until the next election of board members."

Any person who has graduated from MSOP is eligible for membership in the Alumni Association. The MSOP Alumni Association is composed of a board of directors consisting of one member from each graduating class elected from the graduated classes by the members of that class present at the annual lectureship. The board of directors

meets annually on Tuesday of the annual lectureship. Board members serve for four years. The board of directors is to represent the association's membership. There is an Executive Committee consisting of the president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer, and recording secretary. All officers and directors are elected at the annual lectureship with the exception of the secretary/treasurer who is appointed by the alumni president. The president and vice-president are elected for a two year term and may be re-elected for only one additional two year term. The following men have served as president: James Thomasson (1969-70), Donald Rhodes (1970-71), Bobby Tillman (1971-72), Bill Crossno (1973-75), Emanuel Daugherty (1975-76), Calvin Barber (1976-77), Jack Coultas (1977-78), Bill Crossno (1978-79), Ray Peters (1979-80), Joe Nichols (1980-81), Jim Dearman (1981-82), Keith Mosher (1982-83), Jerry Westmoreland (1983-84), Bobby Wood (1984-85), Don Treadway (1985-87), Roger Jackson (1987-90), Bobby Knox (1990-94), Ron Gilbert (1995), T.J. Clarke (1996-2000), Larry Powers (2001-2004), Cliff Newell (2005-06), Mike McDaniel (2007-10) and Rick Lawson (2011-present). The president presides at all meetings of the association and at all meetings of the executive committee. He serves as liaison between the Alumni Association and the administration of the Memphis School of Preaching. The president is responsible for the execution of the bylaws of the Alumni Association. Brother Keith Mosher, Sr. has been the secretary/treasurer for many years. Preston Silcox is currently the recording

secretary. [Brother Powers served admirably in that capacity for many years. MM].

The Awards and Recognition committee is responsible for the selection of the Alumnus of the year. This committee is composed of those who have been selected as Alumnus of the year.

What has the alumni association been able to accomplish over the years? At the April 2, 1996 board meeting the MSOP Alumni Working Fund had a balance of \$893.25. At the April 1, 1997, board meeting there was a discussion concerning voluntary dues. It was decided that the voluntary dues would be \$25.00 per year. At the board meeting March 29, 2005 it was determined that a minimum of \$3,500.00 be kept in the Alumni Working Fund. The working fund has continued to grow over the years enabling the Alumni to help with several projects for the school. From the Alumni Fund, the alumni have been able to contribute funds to help with the shelving in the Library (2001), \$3,500.00 to help with furnishings for an apartment (2003), \$7,000.00 for power point projectors for the first and second year class rooms (2006), \$1,000.00 to the building fund (2008), \$3,400.00 to help with books and

software for the Library (2009), \$2,500.00 for books and materials for the World Missions program and \$500.00 for the World Mission program (2011). In 2013, it was decided to help with the modifications of one apartment for a handicapped student, and the work to help support the school continues.

Several of the alumni have passed from this life, and it was decided at the board meeting in 1999 that the Alumni Association would give a \$250.00 death benefit to the surviving spouse or family.

The MSOP Alumni Association has published several books with the proceeds of the sales going to help the school.

If you are one of the alumni of the Memphis School of Preaching, have you paid your \$25.00 voluntary dues? A PayPal account has been established to help in this. You may use this method of paying your voluntary dues at MSOP.org/alumni. This donation method is exclusively for alumni of the Memphis School of Preaching.

Every Alumnus of the Memphis School of Preaching is encouraged to become more active in support of the school and the alumni association.

Honorary Alumni

During the MSOP Alumni and Friends Dinner, two people were bestowed the honor of becoming Honorary Alumni: Racine Wilder, faithful preacher's wife and ladies' day speaker, and John Grubb, long time missionary. His work in Southeast Asia and on behalf of the Chinese people has blessed the lives of many people and brought them to Christ. We were glad both could be in attendance at the dinner.

In response, **John Grubb** wrote, "It

was a great surprise and honor to be named one of the 2013 Honorary Alumnus of Memphis School of Preaching. I am so thankful to be able to encourage the work being done by the school and to encourage those who graduate from the school to begin their concentrated work in the Kingdom. This good influence is being evidenced in the United States and many nations around the world. May the Lord continue to bless our efforts in the Kingdom."

ALUMNI NEWS

Recent Moves

Alumni President **Rick Lawson (1999)** has moved from Sunset church of Christ in Nashville, AR to Adairsville church of Christ in Adairsville, GA.

Charles Harris (2011) has begun working with the Pine Street church of Christ, which is located in Crossett, AR.

Jerry Martin (1979) writes, "It is great to hear from you. I greatly appreciate all you do to further the work being accomplished at MSOP and for keeping us all informed. I think you already have the changes in my personal contact information. However, just in case you do not have all the information I have posted it below. Jerry and Denise Martin, 1472 Old Federal Rd Shorter, AL 36075." Jerry is the new Dean of the School of Human Services at Amridge University. We appreciate the good work he did for the Lord at MSOP and wish him well in his new work.

Bob Horn (2006) writes, "We have now accepted the work at the Florence church of Christ in Murfreesboro, TN. My family and I moved here the first week of June and are now looking forward to working with the brethren here.

Chance Hicks (2007) is the new campus minister of Jacksonville State University under the oversight of the elders of the Jacksonville, Alabama, church of Christ.

Brad McNutt (2007) will be relocating to Oxford, Alabama, in August to become the pulpit minister of the Oxford church of Christ.

Eugene Jenkins (1980) writes, "Luvenia and I are presently in our fifth week in Jamaica. We have worked with several congregations, and will teach in Tydixon (St Mary) next week. We return home on July 1."

Josh Clevenger (2010) is moving to

Rockmart, Georgia, to work with the Rockmart church of Christ.

Surgery

Tim Wilkes Sr. (1981) writes, "You probably already know, but Clifton Angel, preacher at the Coldwater church of Christ, was diagnosed with Thyroid cancer. His surgery is to be Wednesday, June 19.

Mission Efforts

Tim Wilkes Sr. (1981) writes, "in July, I, my wife Lynn and older daughter, Ginger Bayless, will work with the Lord's church in Peterborough, England. They will teach a VBS, and I will preach a meeting."

Sean Hochdorf (1996) writes, "We are happy to report that the work in Arusha, Tanzania is going well. Our visitors from Alabama recently concluded an effective campaign in White Rose (a suburb of Arusha) spreading the gospel and handing out over 300 bibles. As a result, 20 have obeyed the gospel, and we are praying there will be more to follow. Our current visiting group from Oklahoma began their campaign on Tuesday in the village of Ngurdoto. With 20 visitors, and a large number of brethren from the community taking part, we are hoping that the Word will be sown in good soil and more will be added to the Kingdom. The congregation in Ngurdoto began last year when this same group conducted a study with a local Pentecostal preacher named Gaudence. Gaudence was converted as were several of the members where he formerly preached. He has since undergone strong persecution from the Pentecostal leaders but has continued to remain firm. This year's campaign is an effort to not only reach the lost but also to strengthen the brethren who face demanding challenges each day to remain faithful. In addition to

keeping the church in your prayers, please pray for the citizens of Arusha as well. Local elections are taking place and they have become quite heated. In the past three days we have had two bombings and a number of people have been killed. While we don't feel like we are in any immediate danger we certainly hope that the violence will come to an end soon and Arusha can get back to being the peaceful place it normally is. We will return to the states to begin our furlough in August. If you are interested in learning more about the work in Tanzania we would be glad to come and tell you all about it. Feel free to email us at: sean@tanzaniamissions.com. Our address is Sean Hochdorf, PO Box 14041, Arusha, Tanzania.

In his recent newsletter, **Ron Gilbert** (1995) wrote, "IBTM is reaching many souls around the world. Since our last Newsletter we have reported from our students that 3 new congregations have been established. Many times here in the USA we get sad news that congregations have closed their doors and no longer are meeting. It sure is wonderful news to hear that new congregations of the Lord's Church are being established around the world. We have also had 29 baptisms and 75 restorations reported. We have enrolled 3 new students in our preacher training program and have about 30 that will graduate from preacher training schools in Africa this fall. We are thankful to the Lord for this good news. We have been busy during the past few weeks getting materials shipped out to Africa. Within the past 2 weeks, we sent out 13 boxes of books, tracts, Bibles and Bible materials to 7 different locations in Africa. In this material, we also sent out 5,000 Gospel tracts printed in Swahili and 8,500 printed in English. We sent nearly 300 text books and 194 Bibles and New Testaments to 4 different preacher schools. We have also sent a box of books to 3 new

students." Ron wrote me not long ago and asked me to include this special request for help. "International Bible Teaching Ministries now has more than 8,000 students from 160 nations enrolled in the online Bible correspondence course program. Of these, a few are Christians wanting to grow in knowledge. Others have embraced denominational error and are not even aware they are lost. But most are simply seekers, looking for the way to heaven. IBTM also now has more than 100 teachers working in this study program - but we need more. The more teachers we have to teach, the more students that we can reach. Our volunteer teachers grade lessons, answer questions and encourage their students to keep studying God's word, all by email. It is a work that requires patience, commitment and a love for lost souls. But occasionally it is also a work that gives our teachers the joy of knowing that someone they have never met face-to-face has put on Christ as a result of their efforts. If this sounds like a work you want to be a part of, please let us know at WWW.IBTMinistries.org.

Birth

Congratulations to **Justin Paschall (2007)** and his wife Micah, on the birth of a son, Harrison James Paschall, born Friday, June 14. He weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 20 in. long. Justin says both mom and baby are doing well. Justin preaches for the Ripley church of Christ in Ripley, TN.

Our Sympathy

Gladys Bobbitt, widow of long time Forest Hill elder, James Bobbitt, passed away Friday, March 15. Faculty and students of MSOP attended her funeral at Memphis Funeral Home in her honor.

Ed Ballard (1971) passed away on the Lord's Day, April 21, 2013. Recently, he had

been living in Alamo, TN where he used to preach and was preaching at the Roellen congregation near Dyersburg, TN. He was an occasional panelist on A Bible Answer. I was able to go to his visitation and extend to sister Ballard the sympathy of the faculty and alumni of MSOP. His MSOP diploma was displayed on a table near the entrance of the Alamo church of Christ facility. Donald Rhodes and wife were also in attendance and perhaps others.

We extend our sympathy to **Eugene Jenkins (1980)** and family in the passing of his brother Hansel Jenkins, who died Friday, April 19.

We extend our sympathy to former Forest Hill elder, D.H. Kirby and family, in the passing of his wife, **Geneva Kirby**, who died Friday, May 31.

Additions To The Church

Nicholas Deiger (1971) writes, “Just a note of the small congregation for which I preach. We have been averaging about 20-25 on Sunday morning. In the last month we have had 5 baptisms and one sister restored to her first love. Oh, what power the Gospel of Christ has on the hearts of those seek a home with Him.” Brother Deiger preaches for the Morseville Church of Christ in Core, WV.

Educational Accomplishments

James Butler writes, “The work is going well at the Kingville congregation. I graduated June 8, 2013 from Amridge University with a Doctor of Ministry Degree. I began in 1994 after completing MSOP'S third year program furthering my education. I now hold an accredited BA in Biblical Studies from Southern Christian University, a Master of Divinity in Ministerial Leadership from Regions University, and finally, the Doctor of Ministry from Amridge. May God

bless MSOP where I began my studies!”

Graduation & Foundations

Barry Grider wrote the following concerning the MSOP Graduation and Foundations. “This past Lord’s Day, 23 men received their graduation certificates from the Memphis School of Preaching having completed the necessary requirements of the intensive two year program. Most all of these fine brethren have located places to begin their work. Of those who have not, we are confident the Lord will provide. Also, Adam Evans became the first graduate of our World Missions Program, and Timothy Wilkes, II received his certificate for completing the MSOP 3rd Year Program. It was especially rewarding to have as our speaker for this year’s graduation Sunday, Larry Acuff, elder and preacher from Lithia Springs, Georgia. Brother Acuff has preached for 52 years and is a seasoned veteran preacher of the gospel. He is known for being a great church builder and has a passion for souls. The congregation, students, and our many guests were richly blessed to hear the three messages he delivered. The school is taking a break this week; however, the summer session will begin on Monday, June 24. We look forward to seeing our returning students and many newcomers who are getting ready to take the challenge. God bless all of them.

The Forest Hill congregation well understands the charge to train men to preach (2 Tim. 2:2). In fact, we start the training early. Foundations, a week of specialized training for young men, will also begin next week here on the campus of Forest Hill and the Memphis School of Preaching. Brother B.J. Clarke, director of the Memphis School of Preaching, will, likewise, direct this program. About 60 young men are expected to participate.”

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

According to our selected criteria, the Alumnus of the Year should be one who:

1. . . . is exemplary in Christian living (Rom. 12:1,2; I Thess. 2:10).
2. . . . faithfully proclaims the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27; II Tim. 4:1-4).
3. . . . has continued to demonstrate primary devotion to preaching for a period of at least ten (10) years (Acts 4:20; Jer. 10:9).
4. . . . is a fitting example of humble service (Eph. 4:1-3; II Cor. 10:18).
5. . . . has manifested fruitful labors whereby men may glorify God (Matt. 5:16).
6. . . . has demonstrated his willingness to make personal sacrifices for the cause of Christ [health, financial/deprivation, etc. etc.] (Phil. 3:4-11; II Cor. 11:23-28).
7. . . . if he is married, he has been supported in his work by a wife "faithful in all things" (I Tim. 3:11).
8. . . . if he is married, and has children, those children must respect their parents and revere God (Titus 1:6).
9. . . . has lent his moral support to MSOP (attended lectureships, etc.).

The chairman and committee members are ineligible for consideration as nominees. Our Committee chairman is Mark Reynolds. Committee members are past recipients of this distinguished award: Melvin Hampton (1989), Dewey Medlin (1990), Rod Rutherford (1991), Jim Dearman (1992), John Barcus (1993), Skip Andrews (1994), Bobby Gayton (1995), Nick Deiger (1996), Bobby Liddell (1997), Hermon Doss (1998), Dean Gittings Jr. (1999), Ted J. Clarke (2000), Don Rhodes (2001), Jerry Martin (2002), Billy Bland (2003), Bob Spurlin (2004), Gideon Rodriguez (2005), Anthony Hixson (2006), Jeff O'Dell (2007), Michael R. McDaniel (2008), and Eddy Gilpin (2009). Keith Mosher

(2010), Preston Silcox (2011), and Riley Nelson (2012).

Brother Barry Hatcher was bestowed the 2013 Alumnus of the Year award at the Alumni and Friends Dinner. He is certainly a worthy recipient. His work as a faithful missionary and in teaching the Fishers of Men course has been superb. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend. His son, Byran accepted it on his behalf, we were allowed to listen as the son called the father to tell him this exciting news. As B. J. Clarke said, "His reaction, via phone, was both humble, and priceless." Thanks to all of our past recipients who participated in the voting, to all of the alumni who nominated someone they regarded highly, and to Mark Reynolds who is the able chairman of the Awards Committee.

In response, **Barry Hatcher (1975)** wrote, "I wish to convey my appreciation to all who voted for me to receive the prestigious Alumni of the Year award for 2013. I am sorry I was not present to personally receive it, however, I am grateful my son, Byran, was able to do so on my behalf. It came as a total surprise to me. I never dreamed I would be presented with this award or any other for that matter. I am grateful to the MSOP for the founding knowledge it gave me. Some of the best years of my life were spent in school there. I am very glad the missions school has begun. I know it will prepare many men and women to go into the mission fields all over the world. There is a great need for more faithful brethren to lead hungry minds to the truth and mentor them to take up the work for themselves. Thanks to everyone preaching the gospel today, who continue to hold to the old paths. We are seeing a lot of change in the church and the world, and the pure gospel is the only thing needed. Thank you again."

MSOP ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Our annual meeting took place on April 2, 2013 in the second year classroom. Those present included the officers of the Alumni Association who are President Rick Lawson (99), Vice President Lee Davis (85), Treasurer Keith Mosher (75), Recording Secretary Preston Silcox (95), as well as the MSOP Alumni Liaison Mike McDaniel (85). Thirty board members representing thirty MSOP classes answered the roll call. There were seventeen classes *not* represented in the meeting by their representatives. They were the classes of 68, 70, 72, 73, 74, 79, 80, 81, 83, 84, 86, 89, 90, 91, 93, 03, and 06.

At the time of the meeting, there was \$6006.21 in our account. We had recently paid the \$250 death benefit in memory of Walker Bill Crossno to the funeral home to help with his final expenses at his family's request. Money had been spent on plaques for awards and \$3000 previously authorized for the school use had not been spent. A proposal was offered to help with the modification of an apartment's bathroom to accommodate a handicapped student now attending. It was agreed to give anything over \$2500 to this special need and to add that to the Tuesday night collection for that purpose. *[A wonderful amount of \$9221.25 was collected at the dinner which may be a record and the Alumni Association gave an additional \$3500! MM].*

The motion was made and approved to bestow our Honorary Alumnus pins to Racine Wilder and John Grubb.

There was discussion concerning our alumni association dues. We were dismayed to hear Keith Mosher report that only 114 alumni paid their dues last year. Some may think we mention the dues too much. I am sure that they are among those who pay their dues regularly. However, the reality is that

while there is a core group who pay their dues every year, there is a multitude of alumni who do not. Our alumni association has done a lot in the past (see Larry Powers article) and could do so much more to help in the future if more alumni simply paid their annual dues each year. There was some discussion about raising the amount. However, it was felt that what is needed is raising the amount of contributors to the fund. To assist in this matter, Stephen Sutton, Preston Silcox, and Scott Baggett were appointed to a special committee to set up the paying of dues by PayPal at www.msop.org and to publicize the availability of such. Our dues are \$25 a year and may also be sent to the school in care of our treasurer Keith Mosher. Make checks payable to MSOP Alumni Association. If it is more expedient, just go to the alumni page of the web-site and pay using your PayPal account. Thanks to our web-master, Joey Davis, for his help in setting this up.

In our only election for this year, Lee Davis was re-elected as Vice President of the Alumni Association. Our thanks to all who were present for their good participation. It was a great meeting.

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PAYING YOUR ALUMNI DUES BY PAYPAL

Stephen Sutton

We enjoyed a fantastic week of lectures this year as we considered "A New Testament Christian"! On Tuesday, the Alumni Association Board met in the Second Year classroom to take care of some very important matters. Just a word of clarification: the Alumni Association is made up of a class representative from every class that has graduated from the Memphis School of Preaching since its inception. If you are wondering who your class representative is, you may ask Mike McDaniel. [The President and Vice President of a graduating class serve as the representative and alternate for that class until the next class election is scheduled to be held at the annual Alumni and Friends Dinner. MM]

In our meeting, we were informed of the association paying a \$250.00 death benefit for an alumnus of the school as well as various other business decisions. A decision we voted on was to more appropriately outfit the handicap apartment in the already existing MSOP Housing Unit. The Alumni Association voted to give no less than \$3,000.00 toward this project. [The contribution taken up at the dinner was also used for this purpose. MM] The current handicap apartment houses a handicap student. It is a very dangerous situation as it is, and the student has already hurt himself. This improvement will allow his bathroom to be completely handicap accessible. One might ask, "where does all this money come from"? It comes from "voluntary alumni association dues". Each alumni is asked by the alumni association to contribute \$25.00 annually to a special account which enables us to fund special "projects" for school needs. For instance, for the past two years the

Alumni Association took care of the special needs of the N. B. Hardeman Library. The Alumni Association has been in existence for many years, but, it may be the case that the graduates are not aware the association exists, nor are they aware of what this board does. We intend to pass the good word along!

It has been the case since we began serving on the Alumni Association board that a majority of the students did not even know the alumni association board meets on Tuesday of the lectureship. Also, many were not aware of the voluntary dues nor have they been sending their dues to our treasurer. Twenty-five dollars is only six cents a day - but it says so much more. It is a simple expression of our gratitude toward the exemplary education we received from the MSOP. It is helping our fellow brother's widow in a very difficult time. It is a fantastic thing!

In an effort to help facilitate the payment of these voluntary alumni dues, a Paypal account has been set up which will allow each alumnus to pay their dues directly into the treasury of the Alumni Association by going to: <http://www.msop.org/alumni.php>

We were tasked with getting this Paypal account set up and getting the link onto the website. Furthermore, we are endeavoring to communicate the good the alumni association does for the school as well as for the families of our fellow brothers in Christ.

We salute, respect, and appreciate the great work you are doing in the kingdom. Each of you are making an eternal difference for Christ and are an encouragement to us. Thank you and may God bless our efforts to serve Him. Scott Baggett, Preston Silcox, Stephen Sutton, Committee Members.