

Important Announcement Concerning The 2020 MSOP Lectureship

From B. J. Clarke

The annual lectureship at MSOP is always a major highlight of the calendar year. Hundreds and hundreds of visitors, and alumni, from dozens and dozens of different places, travel to Memphis each year at the end of March to enjoy a wonderful week of fellowship, with each other, and in the Word. With the arrival of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) into the United States, I have agonized about the decision of whether to carry on with the annual lectureship, as originally scheduled for March 29th-April 2nd.

At the time of this writing, although there have been some confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Shelby County, TN, we have no known cases of the virus in the local congregation. None of our faculty, staff, or students have the virus. However, we cannot ignore the possibility that one or more of the hundreds of brethren coming to attend the MSOP lectureship might have been exposed to the virus, and might, unsuspectingly, pass it on to one or more of the brethren attending the lectureship.

Currently, the majority of those who have tested positive in the United States for COVID-19 are recovering, with most patients experiencing non-life-threatening symptoms, similar to the flu. However, as you know, COVID-19 has impacted older individuals more severely, as well as other age groups, who have diabetes, autoimmune diseases, asthma, and other underlying health problems. And therein lies a major concern--a large number of our hundreds of visitors to the lectureship, including some of our speakers, fall into one or more of these categories.

I have wanted so much to have the lectureship, because I know how much it means to all of us. I have waited to send this announcement out, as long as I did, because I kept hoping that the danger would diminish to the point that we could carry on as planned. However, after a sleepless night, and calling the elders to consult with them this morning, it is out of an abundance of caution, that we are postponing this year's lectureship until next year.

This year's scheduled theme, Magnify His Name, is a tremendous theme, and it will serve as our theme for next year's lectureship, to be conducted, March 28-April 1, 2021. Our goal is to use the same schedule next year, with the same speakers and topics. We also look forward to celebrating the life and work of Don Walker with the "Honor to Whom Honor Dinner," which will now be on March 29th, 2021 at 4:15 p.m.

Please note that, although the 2020 lectureship is cancelled, the Forest Hill church of Christ is continuing to assemble for regularly scheduled services. Check the website at foresthilcofc.org for the latest information on service times.

We have you in our prayers, and ask for your prayers as well. We will miss getting to see you in a few days, but we are already looking forward to seeing you, from March 28-April 1, 2021, to to study the theme: "Magnify His Name."

MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING, 3950 FOREST HILL IRENE RD, MEMPHIS, Tennessee
38125-2585, United States