

# YOKEFELLOW

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B. J. CLARKE, EDITOR

## YOUR YEAR END CONTRIBUTION CAN MAKE AN ETERNAL DIFFERENCE!

B.J. Clarke

There are so many good causes deserving of financial support. In the physical realm, the world owes its gratitude to all who contribute to medical research, in an attempt to discover cures for those who are so sick. Hospitals, like St. Jude's in Memphis, Tennessee, are dependent upon the generosity of contributors in order to function. I never would attempt to discourage anyone from donating to such life-saving institutions. These donations make a difference – a huge difference – in the lives of so many families.

Nevertheless, with no intent whatsoever to denigrate the importance of donations given to help those with physical/medical needs, it must be confessed that such donations do not touch the eternal part of man. If my contributions to medical research enable the researchers to discover the cure for cancer, what a wonderful donation that is! However, is it possible for someone to be cured of cancer and still be lost eternally because they have not been cleansed from sin by the blood of Christ? The answer, sadly, is an absolute yes! Thus, it is possible for my contribution to make a wonderful difference in someone's physical life, but that same gift would not necessarily make an eternal difference in the destiny of their soul.

Is there any cause to which I can give that would make an eternal difference to their soul? The ultimate life-saving institution is the church of our Lord, for it shows those who are dying in sin something more important than the extension of physical life, and that is the location of eternal life, which is in His Son (1 John 5:11)! It costs a lot of money to become a medical doctor, and I am grateful for those who have dedicated their time and resources to becoming a great doctor. Brethren, if the world is willing to invest so much money in training men to save and extend physical life, should not individuals and churches be willing to invest in training preachers to teach sinners how to find eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord?

Thankfully, if you cared enough to read this article you likely are contributing to our work, or some other brotherhood work that is seeking to save the lost (Luke 19:10). Thank you! Brethren like you have enabled us to carry on the vital work of preacher training since 1966.

For those who are able to do so, an end of the year contribution would help us to close out 2020 on a high note, and start off 2021 with great momentum! Of course, these gifts are tax deductible, but, most importantly, they are gifts that make an eternal difference by helping to train men to teach the lost about God's unspeakable gift of salvation through Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 9:15; Eph. 2:8-9)!



Turn the page for some exciting news about this 1986 graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching!

# MSOP WELCOMES ALLEN WEBSTER TO OUR FAMILY OF TEACHERS!

B.J. Clarke

The Memphis School of Preaching has been blessed throughout its history with a tremendous faculty! Since 1966, well over a thousand students have sat at the feet of knowledgeable and dedicated Christian men, to learn the Word, and to learn how to “Preach the Word” (2 Tim. 4:2). These instructors have been men who knew and understood the blessings and challenges of being a local preacher. They have been men of the Book! Throughout the history of MSOP, the combined faculty has dispensed, to each group of students, hundreds and hundreds of years of knowledge, wisdom, and local work experience. These teachers have left indelible impressions upon the minds of so many students, who, in turn, have gone to so many different places, and influenced so many different souls with the knowledge they gained from their teachers.

I wish so much that we could have preserved the health of all the great teachers of the past at MSOP, so that each new generation of students could be blessed by their knowledge and wisdom. Unfortunately, even quality MSOP instructors must “go the way of all the earth” (1 Kings 2:2). On the bright side, the legacy of those men who have gone before us lives on! The vast majority of our current teachers were educated by great MSOP teachers of the past, as well as other faithful and talented gospel preachers! Consequently, as our current teachers teach their classes, they are passing the torch of knowledge and zeal to this generation of students!

I would like to tell you that our current family of teachers will live forever and be at MSOP forever to carry on their excellent work. However, that would be naïve on my part. Because the mind and body cannot stay young forever, we savor every moment we have to teach, until we cannot teach anymore. Accordingly, because we cannot teach forever, we do our best to commit the truth to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2).

As Director of the Memphis School of Preaching, it is my responsibility, not only to maintain the legacy of the School, but also to strengthen its present, and to plan for the future. That is precisely why I am so thrilled to announce that students at the Memphis School of Preaching will be blessed now, and, hopefully, for years to come, to sit at the feet of our newest teacher, Allen Webster.



## Brother Webster’s resume speaks for itself regarding his qualifications to train gospel preachers:

- 1. Educational Experience.** Allen Webster attended the Memphis School of Preaching from 1984-1986. During that time, he soaked up the teaching of brother Curtis Cates, and the other faculty members, and distinguished himself as an outstanding young man and student of the Scriptures. In the years since he was graduated from MSOP, brother Webster distinguished himself even more as a humble and competent student of God’s Word! He continued his education and cherishes the privilege he had to study under Wendell Winkler at Faulkner University, where he earned his B.A. in Biblical Studies, (1986-1988). Two years later, Allen was in the first graduating class of the Freed-Hardeman University Master of Ministry program (1989-1990). He also received his graduate diploma from the Memphis School of Preaching (1989-1991). Additionally, brother Webster has devoted himself to countless hours of personal study of the Scriptures. This self-education in the Word is evident in the fruits of his work.
- 2. Local Work Experience.** While a student at MSOP, Allen Webster worked with the church in Somerville, TN. Upon graduation, he worked as an Associate Minister in Oxford, Alabama (1986-1988). In 1989, he began preaching for the Tiplersville church of Christ in Tiplersville, Mississippi. It was in 1995 that Allen began working with the Lord’s church in Jacksonville, Alabama, and continued there until this year (2020). Allen’s work there was a blessing to the local church, and the church and Allen worked together to bless the brotherhood at large with the Word they sent forth from that place. The church at Jacksonville will continue to be a beacon of truth, and Allen will be at liberty to continue to share his talents with various brotherhood works. We are blessed indeed that MSOP will be one of those works!

3. **Preaching Experience.** Brother Allen Webster brings decades of preaching experience into the classroom. In addition to the sermons preached in local work, Allen holds about 12-15 meetings/lectures a year and has preached in about 20+ states/nations. As I walked into the classroom the other day, it was a joy to see brother Webster spontaneously sharing some sermon ideas with some of the students, even after the end of class bell had already rung.
4. **Writing Experience.** Perhaps Allen Webster is best known for his excellent writings. He is editor of House to House/Heart to Heart, a paper used by 1000 churches of Christ to reach two million families with each issue. More than 250,000,000 copies have been circulated since 1994. Furthermore, Allen has written about 500 tracts (five million in print). Look in the lobby of just about any meeting place of the churches of Christ, and you will find a host of these tracts. Perhaps not as well-known is the fact that Allen has also authored five Bible Courses, and three class books. Our students can learn much from him about how to write effective messages to the glory of God!
5. **Organizational Experience.** Allen Webster is a gifted administrator, as evidenced by his stellar contributions as one of the directors of the *Polishing the Pulpit* conference, which is attended annually by around 5000 Christians. He has also directed the annual *Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat*, conducted annually around Valentine's Day. This event continues to grow each year, with approximately 500 couples in attendance!
6. **Mission Work Experience.** Allen Webster has done mission work in Scotland, Great Britain; Aruba, Dutch Caribbean; Guyana, South America; New Zealand, Tasmania; Tanzania, Africa, as well as several U.S. cities and communities.
7. **Personal Life.** Allen Webster was born on April 25th in the same year that the Memphis School of Preaching was born (1966). During a gospel meeting preached by James Boyd, Allen was born again in 1978, on the same day as his birthday, April 25th. Allen is married to Melissa, from Munford, Alabama, and they have four children (Rosa, Daniel, David and Lois) and one granddaughter (Clara), born in 2019.
8. **An Humble Servant.** When I asked Allen to send me some biographical information to use in this issue of the YokeFellow, he honored my request, but made it clear that he was not seeking any fanfare. In fact, he said he preferred the following description: "Allen Webster is a minister of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world." The second option he sent was to introduce him as follows: "Allen Webster is just a nobody trying to tell everybody about Somebody who can save anybody." Frankly, it is this very mentality that enthuses me so about Allen Webster carving time out of his busy schedule to teach our students at MSOP! I know they will learn much from his lips, as he teaches them in the classroom, but they will also learn much by observing his life of humble service. I am thankful to God that Allen Webster, a minister of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, will be training men at MSOP to become ministers of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world!



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# WHAT IF?

- What if our students were fully supported but had no teachers to teach them?
- What if the students were supported but had only dark classrooms with no electricity in which to learn?
- What if there were no secretaries to assist our students and supporters?
- What if we had secretaries, but had no offices, or office equipment, or supplies?
- What if we had a library but could not afford to put any books in it?
- What if we had a library, but had no librarian or staff to assist the students?

When you contribute to the general fund, you are supporting the students in all of the areas mentioned above, and more! We are so appreciative for those who designate their contributions to a specific student for his monthly student support. However, we also appreciate/need contributions to the general fund because this helps us to offer support to all of the students in a variety of needed areas. If you would like to give specifically to the General Fund, please note that in the Memo section of your check. Thank you so much for your consideration!



*From All The Faculty, Staff, and Administration Of The Memphis School Of Preaching,  
We Wish For You*

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A GREAT NEW YEAR!**

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