



## Laborers Together Newsletter

### Memphis School of Preaching Alumni Association

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

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## Paul's Prayers For The Kingdom

*Mike McDaniel*

Jesus taught his disciples to pray “thy kingdom come” (Mt. 6:13). We rejoice that this prayer has been answered! The kingdom came with power (Mk. 9:1) when the Holy Spirit came (Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:6-8) and the church was established in Acts 2. Beginning with the Day of Pentecost, we find the church spoken of as a reality (Acts 2:47) while prior to Acts 2, it is spoken of as yet future. The same is true of the kingdom of Christ. Colossians 2:13 says that the Colossians had been translated into the kingdom. In Hebrews 12:23-28 the text states that all who composed the church of the firstborn ones had also received the kingdom. When they received one, they received the other; when they entered the church, they entered the kingdom.

While there are those who teach that the church is not the kingdom, the truth is that the Bible often uses those terms synonymously. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18-19, “And I say also unto thee, That thou art

Peter, and upon this rock I will build my **church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the **kingdom of heaven**: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” The church of Christ and the kingdom of heaven are used synonymously and interchangeably in these verses. Jesus promised to build his church and to give Peter and also the rest of apostles (Mt. 18:18) the keys or terms of admission into the kingdom. When God gave the keys of the kingdom to the apostles, He was giving them the apostolic authority to open the doors of the kingdom or church to others. He did not build one institution (the church) and give the keys to another (the kingdom). Rather, He used the expressions “church” and “kingdom” interchangeably in this passage.

The kingdom for which Jesus taught the disciples to pray has now arrived.

Brother J. W. McGarvey in his commentary on Matthew and Mark wrote, “We must omit the petition, ‘Thy kingdom come’; for in the sense of the petition, the kingdom has already come, and it is improper to retain the words and yet attach to them a sense different from that in which Jesus employed them.”

How then should we incorporate this element of praying for the kingdom in our prayers? It occurs to me that looking to the apostle Paul and his prayers for the kingdom after it had come ought to be of great help in this area. Recently, I spent several hours studying the prayers of Paul for the kingdom that had come into existence in his lifetime. A book by brother Delmar Owens on *The Prayers of Paul* was helpful. It was a profitable exercise for me, and I commend it to you for your spiritual growth. Perhaps one of the greatest prayer tips I can give you along this line is to use the prayers of Paul as inspiration for your prayers for the kingdom or church. Here are fifteen prayers of Paul for the kingdom.

1. Paul thanked God for the citizens of the kingdom (Rom. 1:8-10; 1 Cor. 1:4; Eph. 1:16; Phil. 1:3-4; Col. 1:3; 1 Thess. 1:2-3; 2 Thess. 1:3).

2. Paul prayed for their wisdom and knowledge (1 Cor. 1:5; Eph. 1:17; Col. 1:9).

3. Paul prayed that they might live in unity (Rom. 15:5-6).

4. Paul prayed that they might be filled with hope (Rom. 15:13; Eph. 1:18).

5. Paul prayed that they might have peace (2 Thess. 3:16).

6. Paul prayed that they might be strengthened by the power of God (Eph. 1:18-19; 3:16; Col. 1:11).

7. Paul prayed that they might abound in love toward one another (Eph. 3:17; Phil. 1:9; 1 Thess. 3:13; 2 Thess. 1:3-4).

8. Paul prayed for their righteousness, purity, and holiness (2 Cor. 13:7; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23-24).

9. Paul prayed that they might be fruitful in every good work (Col. 1:10).

10. Paul prayed for them to comprehend the four-dimensional love of God and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge (Eph. 3:18-19).

11. Paul prayed that their good examples of faith might be spread abroad to others (Rom. 1:8; 1 Thess. 1:7-8).

12. Paul prayed for their patience and faith while they were undergoing persecutions (2 Thess. 1:3-4).

13. Paul prayed that the Godhead might be glorified in them (Rom. 15:6; 2 Thess. 1:12).

14. Paul prayed for opportunities to preach and minister to them (Rom. 1:10-12; 1 Thess. 3:9-11).

15. Paul prayed that they might be filled with God’s fullness and that Christ might dwell in their hearts by faith (Eph. 3:17,19).

Why did Paul pray these kingdom prayers? Friends, he loved and was concerned about the church (2 Cor. 11:28). It is exhibited in his wonderful prayers. *Why not seek to incorporate these themes in your prayers for the kingdom?*

“I love thy kingdom Lord, the house of thine abode; the church our blest Redeemer saved, with his own precious blood. I love thy church, O God! Her walls before thee stand, Dear as the apple of things eye, and graven on they hand. For her my tears shall fall, *for her my prayers ascend*; To her my cares and toils be given till toils and cares shall end.” May our love for the kingdom be exhibited in our prayers.



# An Exciting Time

*B. J. Clarke*

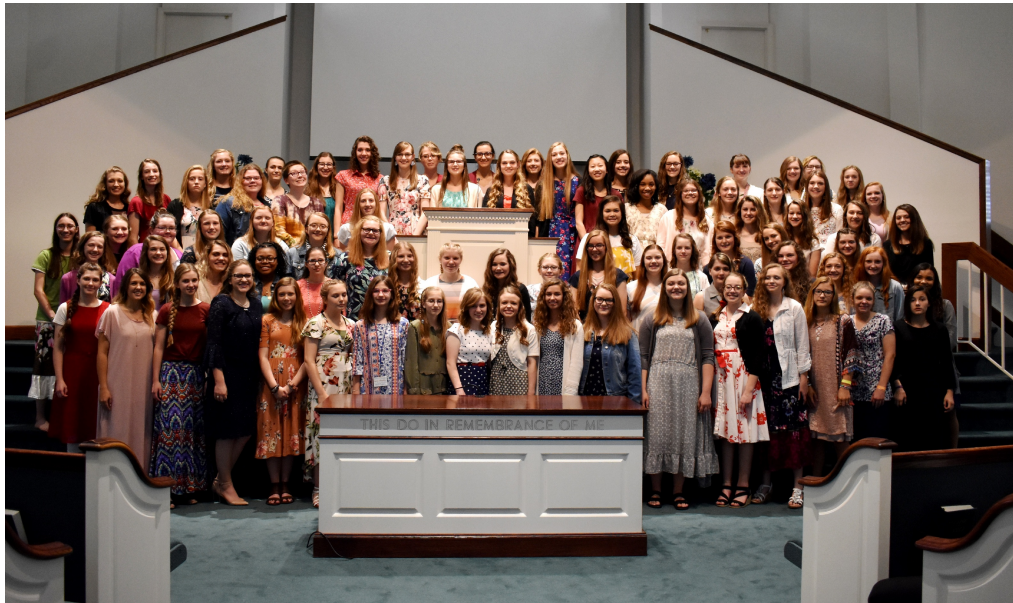
Greetings and gratitude from the Memphis School of Preaching! Summer time is an exciting time of transition. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of June, we celebrated the graduation of nearly two dozen students. Brother Tony Lawrence did a fantastic job of preaching at the worship service before the graduation. He presented a marvelous exposition of Ephesians 3:8. It was a very encouraging and uplifting service. One thing that is noteworthy about this graduating class is so many of the graduates have chosen to go to places where the church is not yet planted, or to places where the church may be small in number. They are not looking for something easy – they want to make a difference to the glory of God. For over 50 years, classes have come and gone, but that is the purpose of the School – to bring men in to train them to know the Book, and then to send them forth to preach the Word (2 Tim. 2:2; 4:2).

On the Saturday after graduation, we welcomed over 150 teenage boys and girls (ages 13-19) to the campus for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Foundations Training Camp. It was a tremendous week. In addition to the great classes, we had 4 baptisms and 39 responses to the invitation. This week has been a highlight for over ten years now, and a number of the students, who are graduating from the two-year program at MSOP, got their start at the Foundations Training Camp.

On the Monday after Foundations began, we also began the Summer School term for the MSOP. We had 25 students enrolled for the Summer School classes. There were three classes: Intertestamental Period, The Parables and Miracles of Jesus, and The New Testament Church. Then there was a break for about two weeks before the fall term of the new school year began on August 14<sup>th</sup> with additional students arriving. This is always an exciting time for us as a faculty/staff and congregation, because of the opportunity to get to know the students and their families. During the next two years we will study together and grow together in the knowledge of God and His Word (2 Pet. 3:18).

At Orientation, I explain to the students that MSOP is their job for the next two years. They will be expected to show up on time, put in a full day's work, and to do so every day, during and after class. In short, we will encourage them to do whatever they do with all their might, and to do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men (Ecc. 9:10; Col. 3:23).

Thank you so very much for your support of our work at MSOP! We know that we could not do what we do without supporters like you. It means so much, and it is making an eternal difference. We appreciate you!



**The Girls Who Attended Foundations 2019**



**The Guys Who Attended Foundations 2019**

# **MSOP Ongoing Spiritual Training**

**Memphis School of Preaching–Fall Semester, 2019**

**Dates: Thursdays from September 12 through December 12, 2019  
(excluding Thanksgiving, November 28)**

**Location: All classes may be taken at the Memphis School of  
Preaching (3950 Forest Hill-Irene Road in Memphis, TN)  
or on-line (live or archived) at [www.msopmost.org](http://www.msopmost.org) [many  
other classes are already archived there].**

**Course offerings with times and instructors:**

**1 and 2 Samuel (#605) 11:00 A.M.**

**Keith A. Mosher, Sr.**

**1 and 2 Corinthians (#628) 2:00 P.M.**

**Tom Wacaster**

**New Testament History (#662) 6:00 P.M.**

**Daniel F. Cates**

**For whom:**

**These classes are available for any who wish to attain a  
greater Bible knowledge!**

**Please consult the on-line FAQ ([msop.org/most-faq](http://msop.org/most-faq))  
if you have any questions.**



**OUR BEST WISHES TO GENE AND JAN KUEHN UPON THEIR RETIREMENT  
MUCH APPRECIATION FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF DEVOTED SERVICE!**



**Congratulations Also To Eugene  
Jenkins Who Won The 2019  
Alumnus Of The Year Award!**



4th Annual World Evangelism Seminar

# **PLANT AND WATER**

## **GOD WILL GIVE THE INCREASE**

3950 Forest Hill Irene Road, Memphis, TN 38125  
(901) 751-2242 RVs welcomed

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 2019**

- 6:30 PM - **Congregational Singing**  
7:00 PM - **God Gave the Increase in the First Century**  
Billy Bland

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2019**

- 9:00 AM - **The Seed Was Planted in North West Alabama**  
Jamie Long  
10:00 AM - **The Seed Was Planted in Iringa, Tanzania**  
Adam Evans  
11:00 AM - **You Can Plant and Water, God Will Give The Increase**  
B. J. Clarke  
12:00 PM - **Lunch Provided**  
1:00 PM - **Watering the Seed in Vietnam**  
Tim Hayes  
2:00 PM - **Using Available Technology In Planting and Watering**  
Jonathan Burns

**"I have planted, Apollos watered;  
but God gave the increase"**

(1 Corinthians 3:6)



**COME LEARN ABOUT EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITIES  
AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD  
DISPLAYS LOCATED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Death

We regret to inform you of the death of **Phillip Vanwinkle (2005)**. His wife wrote, "It was a peaceful passing, and we thank you all for praying that it would be. Our family thanks you for the love, care, and prayers during this difficult time. Your love was felt and will always be deeply appreciated. We rejoice in Phillip's victory and know that you will too." His funeral was held on September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Foothills church of Christ in Searcy, AR. His wife, Phuong, has a great financial need due to a lack of life and health insurance. The medical debt incurred is sizeable. *The eldership of the congregation where Phillip's father, Leslie Vanwinkle (1995), attends has agreed to oversee funds to meet these needs. For those wishing to give to this benevolent need, please send funds to Sparta church of Christ, P.O. Box 308, Sparta, MO 65753. On your checks put: Attention – Vanwinkle Fnnnd.*

## Death

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, **Donald Rhodes (1969)** called to inform me of the death of sister Nancy Winchester, wife of **Will T. Winchester (1968)** of Marion, North Carolina. Sadly, brother Winchester was in the hospital when his wife died. We extend our deepest sympathy to brother Winchester and the family.

## Death

We extend our deepest love and sympathy to **Mike (2013) and Jennifer Swims** in the loss of their young son, Cooper. His funeral was held on July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Central church of Christ in McMinnville, TN.

## Recovering From Surgery

**Mitchell Boyd (1987)** writes, "My sympathies for the family of Bro. Winchester. My name is Mitchell Boyd, graduate of

M.S.O.P., 1987. On Friday, August 9, 2019, I had triple bypass surgery at SWMRMC in McComb, Ms. I would like to request the prayers of the brethren. I am currently preaching part-time at the Summit church of Christ, Summit, Ms. Dr. said it will probably be 8 weeks before I can resume preaching. Thank you."

## Books Available

**James Hill Jr. (1991)** writes, "Greetings Mike, hope all is well with you and your family. I still have religious books for sale. I have 30 Truth for Today commentaries for sale @ 15.00 dollars each. Many of these commentaries are still wrapped in plastic and never been used. If anyone is interested, please call 662-722-8069 or send email to hillusmcf9395@gmail.com.

## Transplant Needed

**Greg Balentine (2000)** wrote on August 7<sup>th</sup>, "I had my appointment at Vanderbilt and we are waiting to hear about if I'll be put on the liver transplant list. It may be delayed or denied depending upon another visit to an oncologist. I need your prayers that the visit will be to my advantage and pray for the oncologist. Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support. Love you all," I asked Greg for an update and received this on September 17<sup>th</sup>, "They have found that my liver has three spots on it and determined that it is cancer. My only option according to them is immunotherapy. It's kind of a double-edged sword because it can take me off the transplant list forever or at least a few years. I'm in the process of getting a second opinion, and if it's unsatisfactory, my local doctor will send me to MD Anderson."



### **Moved**

On August 8th, **Jeremy Thornton (2014)** wrote, “Hey brother. Hope all is well. We have moved back to Marion AR and are working with the Hwy 77 congregation again. This has been a rough summer for us as I have been in and out of hospitals since June. Last month I had to have surgery at Vanderbilt and the recovery process has been very slow. Hopefully things will be back to normal soon.”

**Erik Harmon (2014)** writes, “Greetings Brother McDaniel, After almost 5 years, on April 11th, 2019, I stepped down from my position as the associate minister for the Lincoln Church of Christ in Lincoln, AL. I have left these brethren on good terms, and with much love for them in my heart. On April 14th, I began my new work as the full time preacher for the Ashville Church of Christ in Ashville, AL. These are good, spiritually minded brethren who actively are seeking to grow. Pray for us that our efforts in this community may be blessed, and that God will be glorified by what we do.”

### **Mission Work**

**Denton Landon (1983)** writes: “I traveled to Ukraine in late February teaching the book of Isaiah to the second year class. It was a great class, but a busy one covering the material in the allotted time. On Sunday I traveled to the town of Skivera with three students for worship and youth activities...In April there was the annual Spring staff meeting in Denver. Out of that meeting came an assignment to prepare the syllabus and class notes for two classes in the extension program: Isaiah and Language and Research. This is part of a plan to develop a unified curriculum so all the students in the extension program are receiving the same core classes. This is a time consuming project, although much of the work for Isaiah was already in

progress. In July there was a two week trip teaching the first Master’s level courses for the Trinidad School of Preaching. The school has existed for about 50 years. They contacted Bear Valley about working with them and bringing the Bachelor’s and Master’s programs. The teachers completed the necessary work to receive their Bachelor’s degree and are now into the Master’s program. I will teach Minor Prophets for the school in Guatemala, August 5 - 9; Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther in Ukraine, September 2 - 11; begin Master’s classes in Kenya, December 2 - 13. A recent change was made to the start of the Master’s classes in Ukraine from this October to June of 2020, so I am scheduled to travel and teach that class next year.”

### **Moving to Indonesia**

Brother **Barry Hatcher (1975)** is moving to Indonesia. The school there must move to Manado, North Sulawesi due to the rise of radical Islam in the province in which it is currently. He writes, “We continue to make appointments and report to brethren about the work of the Southern Sumatra Bible Academy (SSBA). We are grateful to everyone who has allowed me to visit with you and personally present the constant growth of the school and our great need to raise funds. We have already begun to receive special funds to move the school over two thousand miles from Lampung South Sumatra to Manado, North Sulawesi. We need at least \$450,000 for construction of the new school buildings and to move the contents of the existing school, dormitories and contents of three staff homes. I am also in need of onetime (\$15,000) and monthly (\$2400) support because I will need to move to Manado for up to two years. In order for the staff to oversee the construction of the new facility, the school would need to close

for a period of time. Obviously, we do not consider that a viable option. In order to avoid closing the school, I will oversee the construction of the buildings. I also plan to stay for a while and teach in the school and help the staff to acclimate to this new environment. I have set February 2020 as a possible target to move, but it will depend upon me raising the necessary funds first...I will be able to continue to teach Fishers of Men while in Asia. I will be free on weekends to do this. The brethren in Singapore have already asked that I return for more classes. My hope and prayers are for everyone who has determined to contribute soon, that some unforeseen problem will not hinder your plans to do so...We have already started preparing our property in Manado for building the three buildings and moving the school next year.” Please contact brother Hatcher at [bhatcher2010@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher2010@gmail.com) for further information.

#### **Africa Mission Work**

**Ronald Gilbert (1973)** writes, “We are having great success with our printed BCC lessons that have been sent to Africa and other places around the world. One success story is in Malawi. The brethren there have been working at a local prison teaching Bible classes each week for many years. They had 20 prisoners doing the BCC lessons and last week 6 of them were baptized into Christ. We rejoice to hear this great news! We just recently got another 1,000 full sets, 12,000 booklets of our BCC courses printed and paid for; thanks to those who helped with this good work. We currently have BCC students near obeying the Gospel in Nigeria, Cameroon and Malaysia. In some of these areas, we are trying to arrange for Gospel preachers to do more Bible study with these students and hopefully baptize them. Please keep these in

your prayers. Our mission trip to Malawi and Zambia will be coming up soon. We are looking forward to this trip and the opportunity to preach the Gospel of Christ to many souls in Africa and to teach at 4 different preacher training schools. We have wired funds to preacher schools and are taking other funds in hopes of purchasing 800 Bibles this year in different African languages. This will be the most Bibles we have ever bought for one trip. Our thanks to brethren in different locations who gave these funds to purchase these Bibles. We also hope to be able to purchase around 50 bicycles for preachers in Africa this year. These bikes are very much needed for the students to use to go out each Sunday and preach, and they receive a bike when they graduate from the preacher schools. We have purchased 2 sets of Bible lands maps for 2 preacher schools to use in their classrooms. We made an appeal also for brethren who had Jule Miller DVD’s that they were not using to get them to us so we can send them to Africa and Malaysia. If you have these DVD’s and are not using them, please donate them for mission work or just consider purchasing a new set for us to send...The 2 new preacher schools in Africa are coming along very good. The one in Solwezi, Zambia is about completed, and they are getting a solar system in order to have power at the school. The one in Malawi has completed the dorm and bathrooms, and they have moved the students into the new building. They are currently putting on the roof and plastering the inside of the classroom and library building. We hope to be able to teach in this new building when we arrive there in August.”

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*If our Alumni would go to the alumni page of [msop.org](http://msop.org) and update their personal information, it would be greatly beneficial to us and help prevent bouncing emails.*



**[Editor's Note:** These are the comments of brother Marlin Retana during our Alumni and Friends Dinner last March. He posted them on his web-site.] Being the last one to speak will make it hard not to say something that was already said by my brethren. There is not enough time or space to describe what MSOP means to my family and me, but I will try to make it simple. It has a lot to do with love, and I will cover just three of those reasons.

**MSOP Means To Me – Loving The Service:** Our Savior Jesus Christ is the greatest example of a servant, He took the form of a servant (Philippians 2:7). Our instructors drive several miles to come to the school every day, they set a lot of their personal time to prepare what they will teach each day, and then drive back. We, as students, just need to walk during a couple of minutes from the apartments to the school.

I blush every time I hear brother Mosher quoting what I said once at the chapel, “I came to the school to learn how to be a preacher, and found out that what I

must be is a servant”. It was during my final chapel when the points of my sermon were “Meditate, Study, Observe, and Practice”, and when I sat, brother Mosher whispered to my wife and me, “I heard MSOP there”. Dear brethren, it is not only to get to know or memorize the Bible, but to put into practice all that knowledge.

**MSOP Means To Me – Loving The Mission:** Brother Evans did an outstanding work yesterday when he spoke about “Purity in Missions”. Missionary work is more than just going to a “mission” field, our purpose is to give every soul the opportunity to hear the message of salvation and become a Christian. Being part of the World Missions Program helped us greatly in the work that we are doing in Panama. I have spent almost half of my life in Panama, but I am Costa Rican, and the culture shock is big even when we are neighboring countries. The Mission Program gives us the tools to research and prepare in every area that might become a potential challenge or threat to go “into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”

(Mark 16:15).

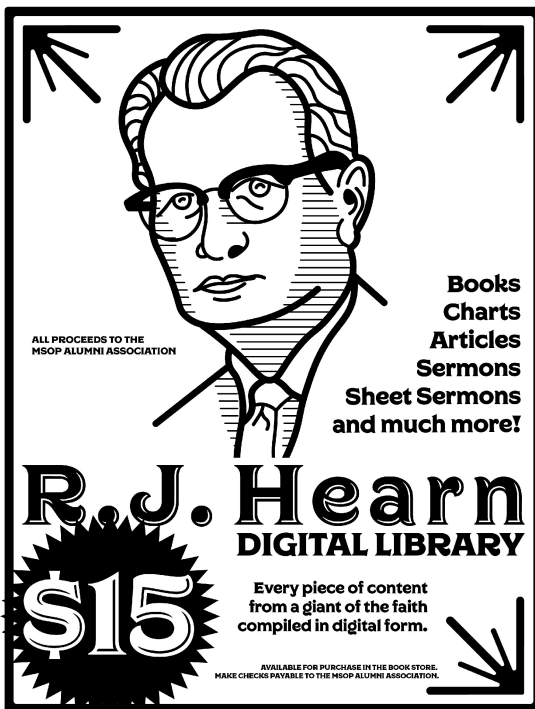
Our instructors are mission-minded, they have the experience, and they love the mission and those involved in it. Please, keep missionaries in your prayers, and, if possible, support their work, not only with money but also with encouraging words. WE NEED YOU.

MSOP Means To Me – Loving The Family: That is what we are, not just any family, but the family of God. We are all here, together, not only for the food, but for the fellowship, the friendship, the memories, and the love we have for each other. We traveled more than 3000 miles but as soon as we arrived, it was as if we never leave. The love, encouragement, and care we receive since our arrival is only understandable within Christians, whether

we are new students or graduates who are visiting. This is our Philadelphia (Hebrews 13:1).

We are in the same boat, having the same goal, the same purpose, the same passion. We do not preach MSOP, we preach Christ crucified, but we are thankful that MSOP has helped and equipped us in so many ways to preach the Word, to be instant in season and out of season, to endure afflictions, to do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill our ministry (2 Timothy 4:2-5).

Let us love the service, the mission, and the family that being part of MSOP means to each one of us. May God bless all of us today and always.



ALL PROCEEDS TO THE  
MSOP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**Books  
Charts  
Articles  
Sermons  
Sheet Sermons  
and much more!**

**R.J. Hearn**  
**DIGITAL LIBRARY**

**\$15**

Every piece of content  
from a giant of the faith  
compiled in digital form.

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE BOOK STORE.  
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE MSOP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

## **Please Pay Your Yearly Dues**

MSOP Alumni Association voluntary dues are \$35 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 voluntary dues support special projects as well as death benefits for deceased members.



# MSOP SEMINAR

## SPEAKERS

**AARON COZORT**

**COLLIERVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**AARON GALLAGHER**

**GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK**

### THURSDAY

9am - Facing The Competition: The Devil Uses the Internet Too

10am - Tools for Local Evangelism: Using The Internet

11am - The First Impression: The central need for a local congregation is an up-to-date website

Lunch Break

1pm - Hands On Lab #1: Have your website online in less than 40 minutes.

2pm - Hands On Lab #2: Implement a Design that Encourages the Purpose

3pm - Technology Q&A

### FRIDAY

9am - The value of live-streaming: How to live-stream with almost no budget to reach new contacts (Aaron Gallagher)

10am - Hands On Lab #3: Your most powerful tool online.

11am - Change the way you think about a website

Lunch Break

1pm - How to Use a Website to Help You Land a Job when you Graduate

2pm - Additional Questions and Answers and Lab time

**TOPIC THE INTERNET AND LOCAL WORK**

**DATE SEPTEMBER 19-20**

**WATCH LIVE**

**WWW.MSOP.ORG/SEMINARS**



