

# The Laborers Together Newsletter

"For We Are Laborers Together With God . . ." (1 Cor. 3:9)

**M.S.O.P. Alumni Association**

Mike McDaniel, Editor

Wayne Rodgers, President  
Rick Lawson, Recording Secretary

Joey Davis, Vice President  
Keith Mosher Sr. Treasurer



Volume 18, No. 1

February 2023

## LECTURESHIP ANTICIPATION

*Wayne Rodgers, President*

We are excited as March approaches! Memories of lectureships past come to mind with some of our heroes of the faith preaching the Word powerfully and skillfully convicting their audiences with Divine Truth.

With great anticipation, we look forward to the last Sunday of each March kicking off another study of God's Word, sitting at the feet of those who have thoroughly researched and studied their assigned topics.

This year's theme, "Who Is Wise?" will be covered by 39 speakers, with 8 classes for ladies, a youth day on Saturday, March 25th, and fellowship none sweeter this side of Heaven.

This is a timely subject to be discussed. Every generation has had those who claim to be wise but became fools (cf. Rom. 1:21-22). James posed the question: "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out

of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom" (Jam. 3:13). He, then exposed the world's version of wisdom versus that Divine wisdom from above, calling us to greater service and a greater love of God and man.

"But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace" (Jam. 3:14-18, KJV).

Let's come together March 26-30 for the Fifty-sixth Annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship. For more info visit: [www.msop.org](http://www.msop.org).



## From The Director: B. J. Clarke



Greetings and gratitude from the Memphis School of Preaching! We love you with the love of the Lord, and we are truly blessed to partner with you in the indispensable work of training men to preach the saving gospel of Jesus Christ!

We are just weeks away from the reunion that is the annual Memphis School of Preaching lectureship. Our theme for this year is "Who Is Wise?" Beginning on Sunday morning, March 26th, and continuing through Thursday evening, March 30th, there will be a total of 61 presentations from God's Word, designed to point us to Divine revelation as the source of true wisdom. This world is so confused, and the wisdom of God is needed more than ever in our country!

In this issue of the Laborers Together Newsletter, you will find the lectureship schedule. In addition to the general lectures, there are weekday lectures for young people, designed to teach them how to be wise according to God's Word. Also, there are 8 messages that will be delivered to ladies only, by godly Christian ladies.

Another highlight of the lectureship is the good singing. There will also be periods of congregational singing each night before the evening lectures. It will be edifying and uplifting!

On Monday, March 27th, at 4:15 p.m., there will be a retirement dinner for Ted J. (T.J.) Clarke. We will enjoy a great meal and celebrate his influence and life's work as a gospel preacher and Bible teacher for 50 plus years!

On Tuesday, March 28th, at 2:30 p.m., there will be a Preview for Prospective MSOP Students, and supporters. Because the preachers of this generation will someday be no longer able to preach, we need to train the next generation of preachers. Why not bring a prospective student with you to the lectureship and bring them to the seminar? We hope to see you there! Thank you so much for your support!

---

### **CHILDCARE INFORMATION**

The MSOP student wives are pleased to provide classes and childcare for children 0-5 years from 9:00-11:50 a.m. and 1:30-4:15 p.m., during the daytime hours of the lectureship. Due to space and staff restrictions, they will not offer classes for children over the age of 5 years old. Online registration allows parents to bypass registering upon arrival the week of the lectures. It will also give the teachers a better idea of how many students to expect. Please use this link.

<https://msop.org/lectureship-childcare/>



## FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL LECTURESHIP

March 26 – March 30, 2023

### GENERAL THEME

### "WHO IS WISE?"

Conducted By:  
Memphis School of Preaching

3950 Forest Hill Irene Road • Memphis, Tennessee 38125 • Telephone (901) 751-2242 • www.msop.org

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

9:30 - 10:20 A.M. One Who Applies God's Wisdom Literature  
..... Keith A. Mosher, Sr.  
10:30 - 11:30 A.M. "Who Is Wise?" (James 3:13-18) ..... Scott Cain  
4:30 - 5:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
5:00 - 6:00 P.M. "Wisdom Is The Principal Thing" (Prov. 4) ... B. J. Clarke

#### MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

8:30 - 9:00 A.M. CHAPEL: "Who Is Wise?" (Hosea 14:9) Joshua Alexander  
"Be Not Wise In Your Own Eyes" (Prov. 3:7) Kaleb Nelson  
9:05 - 9:55 A.M. "But Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?" (Job 28)  
..... Daniel Cates  
10:00-10:50 A.M. Will The Real Wise Man Please Bow Down?  
..... Wayne Rodgers  
LADIES ONLY\*\*\* The First Woman's Foolish Attempt To Become Wise (Gen. 3)  
..... Melissa Cain  
11:00-11:50 A.M. One Who Thinks Before He Speaks ..... David Lemmons  
\*Rm 405 School Bldg One Who Behaves Himself Wisely In A Perfect Way  
..... David Dixon  
11:50 - 1:30 P.M. LUNCH  
1:30 - 2:20 P.M. Who Is A Wise Parent? ..... Tim Fuqua  
LADIES ONLY\*\*\* The Wise Mother: Teaching And Training Young Children  
God's Way (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-17) ..... Laura Boyd  
YOUTH\*\* "Hear, My Son, And Receive My Sayings". Michael Clarke  
2:30 - 3:20 P.M. "Is There Not A Wise Man Among You?" (1 Cor. 6:5)  
..... Cory Orr  
\*Rm 405 School Bldg One Who Knows The Holy Scriptures ..... Clifton Angel  
3:30 - 4:15 P.M. One Who Chooses The House Of Wisdom  
..... Bobby Liddell

4:15 - 6:30 P.M. T. J. Clarke Retirement Dinner  
(FELLOWSHIP HALL)  
6:30 - 7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
7:00 - 8:00 P.M. One Who Praises God For His Goodness And Understands  
The Lovingkindness of the Lord (Psa. 107:43)  
..... Dan Winkler

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

8:30 - 9:00 A.M. CHAPEL: God's Wisdom vs. Wisdom of Tyre  
..... Caden Mallory  
God's Wisdom vs. Wisdom of Babylon .Shadrack Oppong  
9:05 - 9:55 A.M. "Because The Preacher Was Wise..." ..... Allen Webster  
10:00-10:50 A.M. One Who Builds His House Upon The Rock  
..... Jerry Carmichael  
LADIES ONLY\*\*\* "She Openeth Her Mouth With Wisdom" ... Brooke Tate  
11:00-11:50 A.M. One Who Numbers His Days/ Redeems The Time  
..... Joey Davis  
\*Rm 405 School Bldg How To Become Wiser Than Your Enemies .Ryan Manning  
LUNCH  
11:50 - 1:30 P.M. The Wisdom Of Solomon. .... Michael Wyatt  
1:30 - 2:20 P.M. The Wisdom of Jesus In Asking Questions  
..... Teresa Hampton  
LADIES ONLY\*\*\* Who Is A Wise Child? ..... Daniel Webster  
YOUTH\*\* One Who Embraces The Precious PROMISES of God  
..... Paul Sain  
2:30 - 3:20 P.M. "Your Faith Should Not Stand In The Wisdom Of Men"  
..... David Paden  
\*Rm 405 School Bldg (1 Cor. 2:1-5ff.)  
SEMINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS/  
SUPPORTERS (CATES CHAPEL)  
Student Speakers. .... Drake Pogue / Eli Sales



Clifton Angel



Billy Bland



Laura Boyd



Jonathan Burns



Melissa Cain



Scott Cain



Jerry  
Carmichael



Dan Cates



Peter Chin



B.J. Clarke



Michael Clarke



Joey Davis



Rebecca Davis



John Deberry



David Dixon



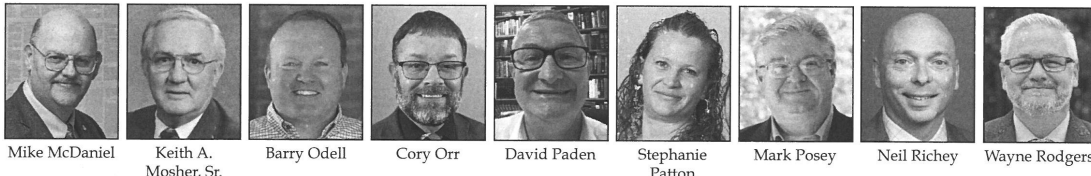
Victor Eskew



Tim Fuqua



Eddy Gilpin



3:30 - 4:15 P.M. "Christ, The Wisdom and Power Of God" (1 Cor. 1)  
 ..... **Peter Chin**  
**4:15 - 6:30 P.M. ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DINNER (FELLOWSHIP HALL)**  
**6:30 - 7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING**  
**7:00 - 8:00 P.M. One Who Wins Souls ..... Gary Hampton**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023**

8:30 - 9:00 A.M. CHAPEL: "Woe Unto Them Who Are Wise In Their Own Eyes" (Isa. 5:21) ..... **Ben Williams**  
 God's Wisdom vs. Wisdom of Egypt ..... **Caleb Bennett**  
 9:05 - 9:55 A.M. Wise Fools ..... **Victor Eskew**  
 10:00-10:50 A.M. The Wise Builder's Hall Of Fame ..... **Barry O'Dell**  
**LADIES ONLY\*\*\*** The Wise Woman Builds ..... **Rebecca Davis**  
 11:00-11:50 A.M. "Great Men Are Not Always Wise" ..... **Kaleb Hall**  
 \*Rm 405 School Bldg The Poor Wise Man That Saved A Little City Against A Great King, And Yet No One Remembered Him ..... **Ben Wright**  
**11:50 - 1:30 P.M. LUNCH**  
 1:30 - 2:20 P.M. Wise Men Still Seek Him (Matt. 2:1-16) .... **Tom Wacaster**  
**LADIES ONLY\*\*\*** One Who Makes God Her Refuge In Times Of Trouble ..... **Stephanie Patton**  
**YOUTH\*\*** One Who Walks With Wise Companions .. **Evan Manning**  
 2:30 - 3:20 P.M. "Professing Themselves To Be Wise They Became Fools (Rom. 1:22ff.) ..... **Eddy Gilpin**  
 \*Rm 405 School Bldg One Who Turns Away Wrath (Prov. 29:8-9) ..... **Steve Vice**  
 3:30 - 4:15 P.M. "O That They Were Wise, That They Understood This, Their Latter End" (Deut. 32:29) ..... **Cody Westbrook**  
**4:15 - 6:30 P.M. INTERMISSION**  
 6:30 - 7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
 7:00 - 8:00 P.M. The Church—The Manifold Wisdom of God. **John DeBerry**

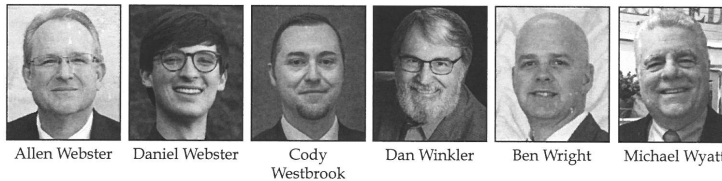
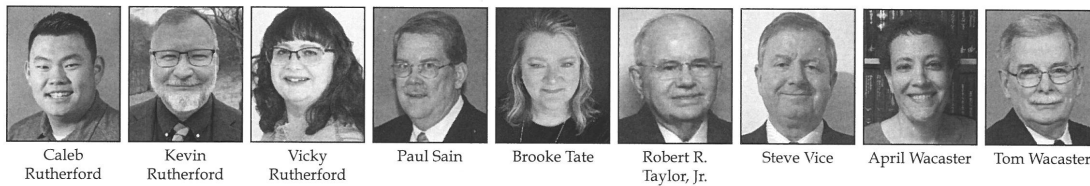
**THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023**

8:30 - 9:00 A.M. CHAPEL: God's Wisdom vs. Wisdom of Assyria  
 ..... **Savion Rayson**  
 God's Wisdom vs. Wisdom of Edom. .... **Mark Garner**  
 9:05 - 9:55 A.M. One Who Saves And Avoids Foolish Spending. **Mark Posey**  
 10:00-10:50 A.M. One Who Harbors Hope In His Heart. **Kevin Rutherford**  
**LADIES ONLY\*\*\*** "Consider Her Ways And Be Wise" (Prov. 6:6-11)  
 ..... **April Wacaster**  
 11:00-11:50 A.M. One Who Does Not Show Respect Of Persons (Prov. 24:23) ..... **Brian Kenyon**  
 \*Rm 405 School Bldg One Who Loves His Neighbor And Does Not Despise Him (Prov. 11:12) ..... **Russell Kline**  
**11:50 - 1:30 P.M. LUNCH**  
 1:30 - 2:20 P.M. One Not Deceived By Wine/Strong Drink  
 ..... **Michael McDaniel**  
**LADIES ONLY\*\*\*** The Wise Woman Who Saved A City .. **Vicky Rutherford**  
**YOUTH\*\*** "A Wise Son Makes A Glad Father" ... **Caleb Rutherford**  
 2:30 - 3:20 P.M. Who Is A Wise Ruler? ..... **Jonathan Burns**  
 \*Rm 405 School Bldg 4 Little Things That Are Exceedingly Wise. . . **Neil Richey**  
 3:30 - 4:15 P.M. One Who Humbly Receives Instruction/Correction  
 ..... **Billy Bland**  
**4:15 - 6:30 P.M. INTERMISSION**  
 6:30 - 7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
 7:00 - 8:00 P.M. The One Who Is Wiser Than Solomon  
 ..... **Robert R. Taylor, Jr.**

\* Classes In The School Building - Will meet in room 405

\*\*Youth Classes Will Meet In Cates Chapel

\*\*\* Ladies Classes (*Ladies Only*) - Meet In The Fellowship Hall



# Area Hotels

There are several nice hotels in close proximity to the Memphis School of Preaching campus.

**Hampton Inn** | 1280 W. Poplar Ave, Collierville, TN 38017 | 901-854-9097

**Hampton Inn** | 1680 S. Germantown Rd, Germantown, TN 38138 | 901-309-0555

**Hampton Inn** / 3597 Hacks Cross, Memphis, TN 38125/ 901-754-8454 MSOP Lectureship Deal: \$109 Standard King or Double Queen

**Fairfield Inn & Suites** | 9320 Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN 38138 | 901-757-9100

**Fairfield Inn & Suites** | 10290 Collierville Rd., Collierville, TN 38017 | 901-708-2440

**Hyatt Place** | 9161 Winchester Rd, Germantown, TN 38138 | 901-759-1174

**Courtyard by Marriott** | 4640 Merchants Park Circle, Collierville, Tennessee 38017 | 901-850-9390

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites** | 7784 Wolf Trail Cove, Germantown, TN 38138 | 901-309-6700

**Homewood Suites** / 3583 Hacks Cross Rd. Memphis, TN 38125 /901-758-5018/ MSOP Lectureship Deal: \$129 Studio King with Sleeper

**Whispering Woods Hotel & Conference Center** | 7300 Hacks Cross Rd, Olive Branch, Mississippi 38654 | 662-895-2941 MSOP Lectureship Deal: \$70 Standard King or Double Queen



Justin Beard (2010), Ronnie Gootam (2017), Kevin Thomason (1983), and Mike McDaniel (1985) record *A Bible Answer* programs on December 2, 2022





# Alumni News

## UPDATING YOUR INFO

Thanks to all who have updated their contact information on the website! If you have not done so and something has changed, please do so now. Just go to the alumni page of [www.msop.org](http://www.msop.org) and update your personal information. We really appreciate it!

### Moving

**Jason Moore (2019)** writes, “My family and I will be moving to Singapore to begin full time work with the Four Seas College of Bible and Missions this coming June.”

### Chimala Mission Work

**Howell Ferguson (1984)** writes, “Mary and I returned from a 7-week trip to Chimala and were with our son, Nathan and his wife, Kristi and their three children, Eden, Emmy, and Rowan over the Christmas holiday and New Year’s. We left the 15th of December and returned the 3rd of February. The Chimala School of Preaching resumed their second year with 17 students. The Chimala Mission Primary School and Herring Christian Secondary School began the new school year with over 500 students total. Nathan continues to preach and is a frequent speaker in morning chapels at the mission. He is also heavily involved in the farm program which is utilizing a large part of

the 700-plus acres of the mission for the purpose of helping the mission become a self-supported mission work. Baptisms are fairly frequent; in fact, Nathan just sent me a pic of two girls from the primary school who were recently baptized into Christ. The Chimala Mission Hospital continues to treat the sick and mend the broken. Newborns are nearly a daily event. Our new sterile operation theater has been completed. Our new morgue is nearly completed with plans to have a new 3-bay refrigerated mortuary unit shipped over sometime this year.”

### Family News

**Ben Vick (1976)** writes, “Lois, my wife, had a pacemaker put in yesterday (Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>). She is doing fine. Donnie and his family have moved to Indianapolis. When he gets settled, he will do some preaching for us at Shelbyville Road and other churches in the area. Shelbyville Road is planning a mission trip to Honduras in July if all goes well. I will not be able to attend the lectures this year.”

### Moved

**Donnie Vick (2009)** writes, “I’ve stepped away from full-time local work at Rome in Lebanon, TN to become a financial advisor (that position has been filled already). A number of reasons went into that decision, but a major one was

family considerations. We've moved back home to Indianapolis so we can be closer to Mom and Dad. Mom had a pacemaker put in yesterday (Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>). She seems to be recovering well at this time. Dad has had a time with his lungs the last couple of years but is doing well now. We're thankful for all the prayers."

#### **Books For Sale**

**James Hill Jr (1991)** writes, "I have boxes of religious books for sale. Will sell books individually or by the box."

#### **Moved**

**John M. Grubb (HA-2013)** has moved to preach for the church in Schertz, TX.

#### **MSOP Recruiting**

To learn of **Michael Clarke's (2016)** good work in recruiting for M S O P please go to : <https://michaeljclarke.substack.com>. You can subscribe so that his reports will be emailed to you!

#### **Looking For A Preacher**

The Mt. Zion Church of Christ has been meeting in the Brookhaven, MS. area since 1894. They are seeking a full-time minister who is sound in the faith, equipped to teach, and eager to serve others. They are a congregation of about 80 members. Contact Ronnie Lofton at 601-757-3632 or email him at [rlofton1979@gmail.com](mailto:rlofton1979@gmail.com).

#### **Family Sickness**

**David Stafford (2017)** writes, "Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the lectureship this year. My wife has suffered from migraines and has a history of passing out. She is somewhat better, but she is not completely well yet. She is unable to drive right now. I cannot leave

her without a way to get around. I am the only one who can drop off and pick up our children from school. Please keep us in your prayers. I will ask Ronnie Gootam if he can represent my class."

#### **The Manna Project**

**Josh Robinson (2008)** writes, "I started in September of 2022 with The Manna Project (Gage Coldwater, director) in a full-time position as the director of communications. We've almost raised our support (still looking for a little bit). I've already been to Nepal and will be traveling to Uganda in April. We are stationed in the states but travel overseas 5-6 times a year. Thanks for all the work you do!" Check out The Manna Project at [mannafarm.org](http://mannafarm.org).

#### **Moved**

**Jared Scaggs (2016)** is now preaching for the West End Blvd congregation in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

#### **Educational Achievement and**

#### **Upcoming Wedding**

**Hatton Allen (2019)** writes, "I will be graduating from Amridge University on May 19 with a Bachelor of Science in Ministry/Bible. I will also be starting on a Master of Arts in New Testament Studies in the summer from Amridge. I will be getting married on September 8 in Anna, Texas. Warmest regards to all the brethren!"

#### **Spanish Bible School**

**Marlon Retana (2017)** writes, "We have been blessed to do a lot of good work for the Spanish Bible School during our short visit in Texas as the courses on Galatians, Philippians, and Colossians has been recorded and will be available on the school website in the upcoming months. We were able to visit the Brown Trail

School of Preaching and spoke at the Spanish chapel service encouraging the students to keep up with their preparation as there is no better job in this world than proclaiming the good news. We keep getting emails from people around the Spanish-speaking world asking to study with us, but also some questions and compliments, such as this from a lady in Mexico: 'Let Glory be to God! I am thankful for your teaching, the effort, and dedication that you put into each class! Blessings! THANK YOU!' Our goal is to let people learn the Bible by what the Bible says, in a simple but at the same time in-depth way. Many of our Hispanic brethren do not have access to the sound and good resources that are available in English, and comments like the one above are one of the many reasons we are thankful to God for the blessing of serving Him in preparing and publishing these courses, videos, and other resources, as well as thankful to Him for having you as our fellow workers in this effort for the Lord."

### **International Bible Teaching Ministries**

**Ron Gilbert (1973)** writes, "We continue to get good reports each month on the Gospel meetings IBTM is sponsoring in Africa at \$300.00 per meeting. We have had several baptisms in January from these meetings. We need more churches and individuals to sponsor these meetings so many souls can be brought to the Lord. We have sent funds in the past few weeks to purchase 11 more bikes for preachers. These men are seasoned Gospel preachers but were in need of a bike. The bikes in Zambia have gone up to \$300.00 each. The one high

price of fuel is causing many things to be expensive in Zambia. We are in need of more bikes for faithful Gospel preachers. We are sending funds to preacher schools to purchase more Bibles in local languages. These Bibles range in price from \$12.00 to \$17.00 each. We have ordered 3,000 English Bibles and New Testaments that we will be shipping to Africa at different locations in the next few weeks. We are working with preacher schools in 6 different African nations and Bibles are needed in different languages. For the past several months we have sent funds to different locations in Africa for food relief. In places in Zambia and Kenya the brethren have been suffering from droughts. In one area of Malawi, floods caused much damage to homes and ruined many crops. We have tried to send funds each month to help these areas. We continue to build new church buildings in Malawi and Zambia. Last year we were able to help build 8 church buildings. The local brethren do great work to help with these buildings. They make their own bricks and help dig the footers for the church buildings. They also help the brick layers with the mud and bricks and help set the trusses and put the metal on the roofs. We hope to be able to build several more needed church buildings this year in Africa. We have the next two locations ready to start soon. These buildings can be built for around \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 each. If you or your congregation would like to help build one of these buildings or even half of the funds to build a church building, we would greatly appreciate your help. Make checks to IBTM and mail to Rock Valley church of Christ, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN. 38506 and mark



for “Church building”. We will send you pictures as the building goes up and reports on the work and a financial report when the building is completed.”

#### **Looking For A Preacher**

Quent Herring, elder of the Lakeside church in Orange Park, Florida writes, “Please post the job description for the open pulpit minister position. Our search was suspended last November. We are restarting the search. The mailing address of the church building is: Lakeside church of Christ, 2539 Moody Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073. Email: [bulletin@lakesidechurchofchrist.com](mailto:bulletin@lakesidechurchofchrist.com). [www.lakesidechurchofchrist.com](http://www.lakesidechurchofchrist.com). Thank you for your help.

#### **New Book Published**

**Rod Rutherford (1974)** writes, “I published a book a few months ago. It is entitled “The Bridge Is Out: A Candid Look at Denominational Doctrines in the Light of the Scriptures.” It is an updated enlargement of my little spiral bound study called “Denominational Doctrines.” It is not in outline form, however, but full text. It has 185 pages. It has much new material including special attention to the Mormons. It was published by Amazon and is available from them in either print or Kindle eBook. The price is \$10.00. for the book. Brenda and I also have the printed edition available if you want to order from us (email: [rodrutherford@comcast.net](mailto:rodrutherford@comcast.net)). We (not Amazon) give discounts for those who order ten or more. Churches, schools and bookstores get extra discounts. There are 26 lessons with review questions at the end of each chapter. Therefore, it is useful for class work, personal evangelism, or personal study.”

#### **Short Term Australian Mission Program (STAMP)**

**Brett Rutherford (1996)** writes: “We are continuing to look for people interested in short term mission work in Australia – from a few weeks up to two years. The program is suitable for retirees, school of preaching graduates or any faithful Christian looking to get some experience in the foreign mission field. Accommodation is provided. If you are interested, please contact Brett Rutherford at [bjrutherford@bigpond.com](mailto:bjrutherford@bigpond.com).” Their website is: [www.merseybluffcofc.com.au](http://www.merseybluffcofc.com.au)

#### **India Mission Work**

**Ronnie Gootam (2017, 2018-WMP)** writes, “Shortly before I graduated from Memphis School of Preaching in 2018 (from the World Missions Program) the two elders of Hickory Grove Church of Christ, (Larry Wyatt and Marlin Pierce) agreed to oversee the funds for the family and some of the labors that we would subsequently do as the servants of the Most High. However, in December 2022, they both resigned (due to health reasons) from the role of serving as elders of the congregation of Hickory Grove Church of Christ in Almo, KY. They have asked me to find another congregation that is willing to serve as my overseers. Heeding to their request, I had approached a dear friend and an elder brother Tim Togami from 70 West Church of Christ, Hot Springs AR to see if they would like to consider filling that role for our mission labors. The elders have agreed to continue to receive the funds on our behalf and disperse them for us to further the gospel in India. Henceforth, it is my plea to you that you would continue to support us by sending your contribution to them at 70 West

Church of Christ, Attn: Drew Hudgens, 948 Airport Rd, Hot Springs, AR 71913. Please make a note on the memo saying, "India Missions: Ronnie Gootam." Please continue to pray for us as we pray for you all each day." "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee." (Num. 6:24).

### **Reminder of Dues**

MSOP Alumni Association voluntary dues are \$50 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. Funds are used to pay a \$250 death benefit to families when an alumnus passes away. They are also used to help fund special projects for the alumni association like the Roy J. Hearn flash drive, and to support MSOP in special purchases.

### **Seeking Financial Help**

In the past couple of years, the MSOP Alumni Association has made several large contributions to the security fence and gate surrounding the student apartments. It has now been successfully completed.



It was an expensive project and funds are still needed to help cover the cost. There is a need to re-shingle the roofs on all four residence halls and to put siding on these buildings because the wood is starting to rot in some places. Also, the parking lot and driveways are being resealed and re-stripped. There is a great financial need presently for these important projects. Contributions to the general fund of the school would be a tremendous blessing at this time! What can you do to help? What can others you know do to help? Please give this matter your serious consideration. Remember that "many hands lighten the load."

### **Alumni Association Board Of Directors Meeting**

Class representatives will meet on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 12 PM in the second year classroom. Please go to the head of the lunch line and bring your food to the classroom. The President of last year's graduating class is the representative for their class this year. If you are not sure if you are your class's representative, please contact Wayne Rodgers, Rick Lawson, or Mike McDaniel. The list will be posted on entrance doors during the lectureship.

### **Alumni And Friends Dinner**

Our annual Alumni and Friends Dinner will be conducted on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:15 P.M. Alumni business will be announced, awards will be presented, and a specially selected speaker will encourage us in the Lord's service. *Tickets may be purchased in the office for the Monday or Tuesday dinners. The prices are \$12 for Monday and \$14 for Tuesday. Kids 10 & under are half price.*

# LORD, INCREASE OUR FAITH

*Joey Davis, Vice President*

One of my early jobs as a teenager, straight out of high school was with NIBCO (Northern Indiana Brass Company). NIBCO makes brass valves that are used in various residential and industrial applications. I was employed to assemble the seven parts of the main body and then pass that assembly down the line so that other assembly line members could: tighten it with the proper torque, install a handle, test the valve, and then package it for shipping. Immediately, it became evident that others could only work as fast as I worked, and we all got paid according to the amount of product we produced. For the first week or so, I was overwhelmed. I was cautiously excited. My hope was that I would catch on quickly and be able to keep up with the demand.

Though not a perfect comparison, I cannot help but think about life experiences such as this when I consider the overwhelming circumstances into which the apostles were rapidly introduced. These eager men were immersed into the most challenging and mind-straining teachings and demands of Christ-like discipleship. Jesus said to them, “It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones” (Luke 17:1-2). Clearly there are serious consequences for causing someone to stumble. The next few verses, challenge even more, “Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you,

rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him” (Luke 17:3-4). This, like so much of the teaching of Jesus, left the apostles with one solemn request, “Lord, Increase our faith” (Luke 17:5). Indeed, following Jesus was challenging and overwhelming. However, in time they matched the pace demanded and became knowledgeable, faithful instruments in the hand of God.

We are not apostles under direct tutelage of Jesus; but, we are Christians, called to keep pace with the demands of discipleship. We must die to self daily (Luke 9:23). We must crucify self, allowing our actions to reflect Christ living in us (Galatians 2:20). We must not conform to this world;

rather, we are to present our bodies (our all) as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1-2; Luke 10:27). Even though Jesus said that His yoke is easy and burden light (Matthew 11:30), being a Christian is challenging and at times overwhelming. Yet, it is not impossible—we can do it. Our daily interest should be similar, an increase in our faith. Then we should spend time with the one who called us, by drinking deeply of His Word. Jesus said, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). Recall that faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). It is able to build us up, equipping us for the work (Acts 20:32).

We should spend time  
with the One who called  
us by drinking deeply of  
His Word.

# Three Great Words That Save

## By J. A. McNutt

Intro:

1. The number three.
2. 3 that bear record.
3. 3 principles - Faith, Hope, Love.

### I. COME - Mt. 11:28 H.L.C. Jno.6:44


1. Come into place of safety. God's invitation to Noah. Gen. 7:1.
2. Come For Cleansing. Isa. 1:18.
  - From past sins. Heb. 9:22; Acts 2.
  - From evil heart. Heb. 10:22
  - Into Christ for Redemption. Eph. 1:7.
  - For Rest. Mt. 11:28.

### II. BECOME - Jno.1:12.

1. The believer is given the power to become God's Son.
2. Thus not a son by faith only.
3. God desires to save all men. 1 Tim.2:4.
4. All things become new. 2 Cor.5:17
5. Conversation or life that becometh Gospel. Phil.1:27

### III. OVERCOME - 1Jno.5:4.

1. Jesus said "I have overcome the world." Jno.16:33
2. Christians should overcome the world. 1 Jno.5:4,5.
3. Overcome evil with good. Rom.12
4. Overcome Satan. 1Jno.2:13, 14.
5. Those who overcome will eat of the tree in the paradise of God. Rev.2:7.
6. The victory belongs to those who overcome the world. 1Jno.5:4.



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.



Go to [www.abibleanswertv.org](http://www.abibleanswertv.org) for  
stations and viewing times for  
*A Bible Answer* in your area.

Please subscribe to our  
YouTube Channel!

<https://www.youtube.com/@abibleanswertv>



## **MSOP Ongoing Spiritual Training Memphis School of Preaching--Spring Semester, 2023**

**Dates:** Thursdays from February 9 through May 11, 2023  
(excluding MSOP lectureship Thursday, March 30)

**Location:** These 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:**  
Jeremiah and Lamentations (#612) 11:00 A.M.  
Kevin Rutherford  
Hebrews (#633) 2:00 P.M.  
Daniel F. Cates  
Isaiah, Part 2 (#611b) 6:00 P.M.  
Keith A. Mosher, Sr.

**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



**Collinsville, IL Campaign**



**Renn & Chloe  
Ferguson**

MSOP students conducted three door-knocking campaigns this past October. Mike McDaniel was privileged to preach in the Gospel Meeting at the church in Collinsville, IL in conjunction with one of the campaigns. A total of 1,516 doors were knocked. There were 12 potential follow ups, 10 prayer requests, 15 requested Bible Correspondence Courses, and 3 requested home Bible studies. The seven students who traveled to Illinois did a splendid job and worked very hard. It was an awesome learning experience for them. We enjoyed being with Renn Ferguson who is the local preacher there and his good wife, Chloe. They are doing a great work. We are indebted to the church at Collinsville for their kind hospitality!



# SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*Mike McDaniel*

***Editor's Note:** This sermon was preached by me in the chapel of the Memphis School of Preaching on September 8, 2022.*

Recently Taylor Swift announced that she is releasing a new album on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The album is called “Midnights,” which she describes as a “collection of music written in the middle of the night, a journey through terrors and sweet dreams.”

Her announcement reminded me of passages where God is said to give songs in the night. This thought is also included in one of our old great hymns called “Redeemed” (#544). The song enumerates some of the blessings available to those who have redemption in Christ. The third stanza says, “I know I shall see in his beauty the king in whose law I delight, who lovingly guardeth my footsteps, *And giveth me songs in the night.*” Then the chorus says, “Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; redeemed, redeemed, His child and forever, I am.” The hope of the redeemed is that when Christ comes, we shall see Him as He is (1 Jn. 3:1-2). Until then, we look to Him to guard or keep our footsteps (1 Pet. 1:3-5). And as we do, He gives us songs in the night.

## **(1) GOD GIVES SONGS IN THE NIGHT**

Two passages within the Psalms teach this thought. Psalm 42:8 says, “Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.” God’s lovingkindness supports us. Because of His lovingkindness in the daytime, we are able to sing at night in the difficult times. We can praise him in the

darkest of nights, even in unfavorable circumstances. Psalm 77:6 states, “I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.” He remembers the previous times when he sang in the night even in distress and in remembering, finds hope! F. B. Meyer thought that the “song in the night” was probably the equivalent of glorying in tribulation in the New Testament. As Paul said in 2 Corinthians 7:4, “I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.”

A third passage seems to allude to it as well. We read in Psalm 119:55-56, “Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage. I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy law. This I had, because I kept thy precepts.” Psalm 119 has one major focus: the word of God. It uses various synonyms to describe the Word, but almost every verse is about the Bible. To the psalmist, the Word provides his hope, assurance, comfort and light. He says, thy statutes have been my songs, and I have remembered thy name in the night. The psalmist found himself in a dark place, night surrounds him. Yet God gave the psalmist a song in the night. It is said that during World War I, it became impossible to import beautiful singing canaries from Germany. People still wanted these singing canaries, but they could no longer get them from the Harz Mountains in Germany. A dealer in New York decided to start a system of training canaries to sing. He had bird songs put on records, and these proved of value. But one day he made a real discovery which led to success. He found that if he covered

the cages with thick cloths, completely shutting out the light, the birds learned their song. It wasn't until their world became completely dark that the canaries really learned to sing. God sometimes teaches his children to sing in darkness.

Another passage outside the Psalms which teaches that God gives songs in the night is Job 35:10. At this point in the book of Job, Elihu, had taken over the conversation with Job. He realized the failure of Job's other friends to solve the problem. He thought he had a solution. Yet he failed to explain the cause of Job's sufferings. He did say some good things, and his statement in Job 35:10 is one of them. "But none saith, Where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night" (Job 35:10). Elihu says they are not crying with a faith that has God as His maker, the God who will respond with songs in the night. Out of the night of affliction, God can and will bring a blessing to the sufferers who look to Him for such. Only God is great enough to bring songs of blessing and joy out of such experiences. Brother George Dehoff wrote on this verse: "this is one of the loftiest passages in the Bible. This quest is not for one who ignores human needs, but, even in the midnight of sorrow, is able to put a song into the heart of man. That man should sing praises when in deep sorrow does not explain suffering, but it helps to overcome it."

Where there is no way to lay the burdens down, is there some way to be assured while carrying them? When problems have to be faced, and suffering has to be endured, can we find such meaning to life, and such faith in God, as to be able to adjust to them and to persevere? Can we find some song to sing in the night of despair, pain, bereavement, loneliness, frustration,

slander, ridicule, hopelessness, or rejection? Is there some way to be rejoice in the Lord even in such times? Nights like these can get mighty dark. It can seem as though the dawn will never come.

I believe Elihu hit a good note when he said, "God giveth songs in the night." Despite our troubles, God can give songs of peace, contentment, assurance, and faith to help us. He can give us a good conscience, peace of mind, and help us to adjust to whatever life may demand. Here are two passages which are precious to me. "Let your

conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto

me" (Heb. 13:5-6). "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16).

While on a short-term mission trip, a man named Jack Hinton was with a leper colony on the island of Tobago. A woman who had been facing away from the pulpit turned around. "It was the most hideous face I had ever seen," Hinton said. "The woman's nose and ears were entirely gone. She lifted a fingerless hand in the air and asked, "Can we sing 'Count Your Many Blessings?'" Overcome with emotion, Hinton left the service. He was followed by a team member who said, "I guess you'll never be able to sing that song again." "Yes I will," he replied, "but I'll never sing it the same way." God gives songs in the night!

## **(2) GOD GAVE HABBAKUK A SONG IN THE NIGHT**

"A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth" (Heb. 3:1). This chapter is

Out of the night of  
affliction, God can  
bring songs of blessing  
and joy.

a poem set to music. The word *shigionoth* refers to a wandering song, to praise with strong emotion. It is the praise that resists the trial, the darkness, and spirit of heaviness. You will also notice the word *selah* in verses 3, 9, and 13 which is believed to be a musical pause and reveals that this prayer was designed for public worship. In this prayer/song, Habakkuk (1) recalls God's past actions of power, (2) prays for speedily deliverance, and (3) expresses confidence in the unchangeableness of God. It is a rich manifestation of faith.

Please notice the ending in Habakkuk 3:16-18- "When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops. Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." It is difficult to rejoice when you are in difficult circumstances. When the prophet had been confronted with the reality of the impending Babylonian invasion, he was sick. He knew the devastation that would soon occur. He knew that would be the end of the crops and the flock and herds. In this midnight hour he would say, "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." He would continue to rejoice in the Lord even in times of grief.

Friends, joy is an inward quality of choice. It does not depend upon external circumstances. It is grounded upon our relationship with God. When we are struggling with the justice of God, we cannot divorce ourselves from human emotions, any more than Habakkuk could, but we can determine that those emotions are not going

to dominate us. Isn't this what Paul taught from a jail cell in Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Life has its ups and downs, but the just live by a faith that will see them through. Habakkuk 2:4 says "but the just shall live by his faith." That is why Habakkuk could conclude his book the way he did. "The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places" (Hab. 3:19). Habakkuk emerges at the end of this book victorious, as one whose faith had been tried. Yes, God gave Habakkuk a song in the night.

### **(3) GOD GAVE JESUS A SONG IN THE NIGHT**

Our Lord sang at the last meeting with His disciples before His death. "And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives" (Mt. 26:30). We are not told anything concerning the beauty of our Lord's voice, but it must have been a touching joy to have been present on that occasion. The last thing Jesus and his disciples did in the Upper Room was to sing.

Some believe they may have sung the traditional Passover hymn based on Psalms 115-118. These group of Psalms are called the *Hallel*. *Hallel* is the Hebrew word for praise. It is the root word for *Hallelujah*! The *jah* part is the short form of God's name *Yahweh*. Put together, it means "praise the Lord." The last of these prayers and songs of praise honors the God who has become our salvation. Notice Psalm 118:21-24, "I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." This passage refers to a rejected stone that became a cornerstone (v 22). The very stone, the Christ, which the Jews disallowed or rejected as of no useful

purpose, has been made the very head of the corner. The "builders" of the Jewish religion rejected the Christ, the chief cornerstone. Jesus applied this statement to them in the parable of the householder in Matthew 21:33-45. Later, Peter used this same illustration to convict those very Jews. "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. *This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.* Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:10-12). Thank God for the cornerstone of the church! They would reject Christ, but the Lord turned it into something marvelous!

What is the day mentioned in Psalm 118:24 when the psalmist says, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it?" While most apply that verse to any day God gives us life, in actuality that is referring to the first day of the week, the Lord's day, the day of Pentecost, when Christ was made the chief cornerstone of the church of Christ. When the Holy Spirit came, so did the power, and so did the church or kingdom. No wonder then that God made the first day of the week His day, the Lord's day, and we must rejoice and be glad in it! I wonder if part of this psalm may have been sung by the Lord and His disciples as they departed for His betrayal in Gethsemane? That is speculation on my part. Yet, what it foretold was about to come to pass. Regardless, imagine our Lord singing when the cross was only a few hours away. God gave Him a song in the night, and it may have been a song about Him!

#### **(4) GOD GAVE PAUL AND SILAS A SONG IN THE NIGHT**

In Acts 16:22-24, the magistrates at

Philippi had stripped Paul and Silas and commanded them to be beaten. Upon being imprisoned, they were put in stocks by the jailer. This prevented them from having any relief that a change of position might have afforded them. They were surely concerned with what would happen to them next. It was probably of this very experience that Paul wrote in ". . . we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi" (1 Thess. 2:2). Yet Acts 16:25 says, "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them."

How a man responds to suffering is a real index to one's character and faith in God. What an outstanding example Paul and Silas set before us! God gave them songs in the midnight hour. They prayed unto God and sang the gospel, and men who would not ordinarily listen to a sermon, heard the gospel in song. How much did their example in suffering, their rejoicing even in times of affliction, move the Philippian jailor to obey the gospel of Christ? Did that not play a part in his saying, "Sirs what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). Surely it did. *As young preachers, what impact can your example have if you can learn to sing at the midnight hour?*

Charles Spurgeon said, "Any man can sing in the day. It is easy to sing when we can read the notes by daylight; but he is the skillful singer who can sing when there is not a ray of light by which to read."

The Lord gave songs in the night to Habakkuk when faced with a devastating enemy invasion, to Jesus just before He went to the cross, and to Paul and Silas in the prison in Philippi. I am grateful that God gives us strength to bear our burdens and a song to sing while doing it.

---

**To friends Gary Colley and Lee Davis  
is this issue dedicated in loving memory.**