

# YOKEFELLOW

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## END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Ever since the Memphis School of Preaching began in 1966, contributions made at the close of the calendar year have been vital to its work. MSOP receives no federal or state grants, or other governmental support, and charges no tuition or fees of its students. Instead, the School is supported by the Forest Hill congregation, and by other faithful brothers and sisters, individually and congregationally, who are convinced of the continuing need to train men to preach the Gospel of Christ.

The many hundreds of graduates preaching throughout the world tell us their training at MSOP was the hardest work they ever did—and loved! Equal to more than four years of college in two years (164 semester hours), the course demands that students learn discipline and diligence as they learn the Scriptures and the practical aspects of preaching.

These end-of-year gifts are very needed, and very helpful because of the needs of students, but also because of the needs of the School.

**We are especially in need of support for the ongoing, and ever-increasing costs of running a school.**

January enrollment of new students, anticipated lectureship expenses in March, costs for Foundations in June, and catching up with unanticipated expenses involved in the day-to-day operation of the School all require continuing inflow of funds.

Almost six decades of faithful service to the Lord, and to the Cause of Christ, have shown the School is worthy of the support of brethren. Your donations are needed, are fully tax deductible, of course, and they are a Godsend to the work of MSOP.

Please help if you can.

THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF  
THE MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING  
WISH FOR YOU AND YOURS

HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS  
AND A  
PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR!



## A TIMELESS WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE LATE CURTIS A. CATES, PAST MSOP DIRECTOR

Bobby Liddell

*While I served as Director, I asked brother Curtis A. Cates (1941-2013), who served as MSOP Director from 1983-2007, to write a word about why MSOP was worthy of support. In his usual excellent way, he wrote an article (printed in the Yokefellow, 34:7, Nov-Dec, 2007) whose words still live on. I have edited the article to bring some statements and numbers up to date. I know you will benefit from a careful reading of what our dear, lamented brother penned sixteen years ago. My editorial comments will be in italics, in parentheses, and noted with BL.*

### APPRECIATION, CONFIDENCE, AND A PRAYER

Curtis A. Cates

Dear fellow Christians, a tremendous work of the Lord dear to my heart is the Memphis School of Preaching. I will address this work in three areas: appreciation, confidence, and a prayer.

**In the first place**, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to you and to the other faithful brethren who for more than four decades (*57 years now, BL*) have supported the School in its invaluable work of educating capable, dedicated “men of the Book.” The approximately twelve hundred men (*as of 2007, BL*), with their dedicated families, have preached the gospel in countless foreign countries and throughout the United States. In addition, graduates are also involved in teaching, writing, directing, and/or otherwise working and serving in numerous schools, major periodicals, radio-television media, and lectureship series in the U. S. and abroad. Our Savior Himself stated, “Therefore by their fruits ye shall know them” (Mat. 7:21). I believe the Memphis School of Preaching, under the capable oversight of the faithful Forest Hill eldership, has brought forth good fruit and that the church universally has benefitted.

**In the second place**, I wish to express my deepest confidence in the School’s unswerving, determined dedication to the old primitive gospel. Absolute loyalty to the pristine, pure Word has been its “polar star,” under the directorship of Roy J. Hearn and Curtis A. Cates, and now under the capable directorship of Bobby Liddell (*I was Director when this article was written, B. J. Clarke is now serving, in a great way, as Director, BL*). Her graduates have always known “the Book,” and that powerful purpose and result continues— and shall continue! Thus, I feel very privileged and excited to continue with the MSOP and have every confidence in the elders, the director, and the faculty.

Consequently, **in the third place**, I wish to express my deep prayer. God is good. His Word teaches us that He hears fervent prayers of His precious children when those prayers are to His glory. Brethren, the Lord has blessed the School with a beautiful campus and great facilities, including the stately N. B. Hardeman Library. Now, through His marvelous grace and the vision and faith of so many, thirty-two wonderful three-bedroom apartments have been erected on campus, which are now housing over forty splendid future preachers [students] and their wives and children. How delightful to see them walk hand-in-hand to the church services, or to the Hardeman Library to do research, or to classes in the School! How delightful to see the closeness the students are building with one another, to see their children playing together! I wish you folks could be here to witness these tremendous blessings.

What is my prayer? (*Brother Cates made an earnest appeal for funds to pay off the School’s indebtedness for student housing—and, with God’s help, the indebtedness of \$3,500,000 was paid off soon thereafter, BL*). Brethren, I thank you for all you have done and continue to do. You can have every confidence in our continuing, unswerving loyalty to truth. Please allow me, then, to ask you. Will you join me in my prayer for this special need? (*He continued by asking for brethren to include the School in their budgets, and many did, BL*.) What a tremendous help to the cause of Christ...as we educate these students to preach thirty, forty, fifty, or more years! What a boost it would be to sending faithful laborers into the ripe harvest! (*And, it has been, BL*.) I pray that you can help. God bless you all. ~

*As brother Cates appealed for help then, so do we now. The Forest Hill congregation leads the way in supporting the efforts of training preachers at MSOP, contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to provide a place for instruction, a qualified faculty and staff, and all the many material things needed for quality instruction. We appreciate all who are ready to help support students! Can you help with a contribution to MSOP’s General Fund, providing the expenses associated with training Gospel preachers? We hope and pray you can!*

# ENCOURAGE MEN TO PREACH

**Bobby Liddell**

Many hundreds of faithful men have graduated from MSOP, and each one of them needed the encouragement of those whom they loved and trusted. We need to begin early to train boys, as did Lois and Eunice (2 Tim. 3:15), impress upon them positive aspects of serving the Lord by preaching the Gospel, and assure them we will be very pleased if they dedicate their lives to being God's heralds. Let us praise their initial, perhaps feeble, efforts when they stand at those make-believe pulpits, and deliver their first "sermons." Our commendation, and smile of approval, along with a hug of tender love may be just what these young men need in order to chart their courses for life. Never discourage a good man from preaching (2 Tim. 2:2).

## **Send Men To MSOP**

There are many good, faithful, dedicated brothers who are looking for the way to prepare themselves to preach, or who are wondering if they have what it takes to preach. Point them in our direction. Give them information about the School. Inform us of their contact information, and we will be glad to get in touch with them. Encourage them to visit MSOP. We will meet with them, show them around the campus, and allow them to sit in on classes. Your recommendation may be just what they need to get them on the road to a lifetime of preaching the soul-saving Gospel of Christ. Instead of lamenting sin in the world, and the shortage of preachers, send men to MSOP.

## **Support Men at MSOP**

Men who leave homes, families, and jobs—because they have committed themselves to two years of intensive, college level instruction in the Word of God, and in how to preach it with effectiveness—deserve your support (1 Tim. 5:18). With an increase in the cost of living, comes an increase in the amount of support needed to provide living expenses for students. These men need your help, and they are worthy; thus, they look to you, trusting in God, and depending upon the generous help which faithful, loving brethren, who have the vision to see the real need for Gospel preachers today, and in the future, will provide.

## **Support MSOP**

Almost sixty years of faithful service have shown the School to be worthy of your support. Your contributions have been a vital part of the School's training of men to preach (cf. Phi. 1:3-5). MSOP does not seek, nor would it accept, governmental support. It charges no tuition, or fees. As a part of the Bible teaching program of the Forest Hill Church of Christ, MSOP is supported by the Forest Hill church, and by faithful brethren who are convinced of the continuing need to train men to preach the Gospel of Christ. Your donations to MSOP are fully tax deductible, and will help save precious souls. Now is the time to begin supporting the training of men to preach if you have not, in the past, done so—or, to continue, and even increase your support if you have been helping in this worthy effort.

## **Pray For MSOP**

We trust our God hears and answers the prayers of the faithful (Jam. 5:16). He has commanded us to come before Him with our petitions, and He has promised to bless us with what we need, especially in our service to Him (Mat. 7:7). Pray that God will bless us with men who are committed to spending the rest of their lives in preaching the Word. Pray that our Creator and Sustainer will provide us the means to continue in this good work as long as the earth shall stand. Pray that our Heavenly Father will bless our efforts with much success—not for our glory, but for His. Together, we can train men to preach.

## **DO YOU WANT TO PREACH?**

Are you interested in preparing yourself to preach the Gospel? Or, do you know some faithful man who is? You can apply online at [msop.org](http://msop.org).

Next Enrollment Is: **JANUARY 29, 2024.**

Already, we have accepted a good number of quality students, and we hope you will be among the graduating class of 2026! There is still room and time to complete the admission process—but hurry.

Apply today! If you have questions, please contact Jackie at 901-751-2444.





## FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL LECTURESHIP

# RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS A NATION

March 31st-April 4th, 2024

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### IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES...

Please send us your change of address at [office@msop.org](mailto:office@msop.org). Let us know in time that we do not send, to your old address, an issue that will be returned to us. We are happy to send Yokefellow free of charge. Thanks for your help in keeping our costs low.

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