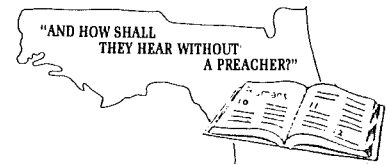


THE HARVESTERS



Florida School
of Preaching

VOLUME XI

April 1991

NUMBER 9



Each year the Board of Directors selects someone to be especially honored at our Annual Booster Club Banquet. This year our honoree is sister Jackie Marshall of Estero, Florida.

Sister Marshall has made the largest single gift to the school as of this date. It was her desire to honor her late husband Clyde C. Marshall by giving a parcel of commercial land, this land has been sold and the proceeds will go into a fund for the school, as payment is made over the next several years. The fund will be known as

The Clyde C. Marshall Endowment Fund

The Florida School of Preaching appreciates the generosity of sister Jackie Marshall.

It Is No Myth!

By
Jackie M. Stearsman

In *The Christian Chronicle*, December 1990, Bailey B. McBride writes under the caption "Education: Myths Conceal Value of Christian Colleges." I found that which is labeled the third myth to be of particular interest. It reads in part as follows:

A third myth that prevents many families from looking seriously at Christian colleges is the misconception that these schools exist to train preachers. . . . Actually, only about eight percent of the students in most Christian colleges are preparing for the ministry.

I have no way of verifying the percentage of students preparing for ministry but if this is true we need to think seriously about it. All in training for the ministry may not be training to be a preacher. In society today there are a number of "ministries" occupying the time and talents of individuals. We read and hear of ministers of counseling, ministers of youth, ministers of music, ministers of education, ministers of personal work, ministers of senior citizens, ministers of recreation, et al. With so many "ministries" we need to ask, "From where will our preachers come?"

The *Florida School of Preaching* exists for the specified purpose of training preachers. This is no myth.

Most know that to be proficient in any task training is essential. If our goal were to be a Medical Doctor we would not pursue training to be an Electrician. Were our goal to become an airplane pilot we would seek

training in aviation.

While education in a variety of fields may contribute to the over all understanding, general education alone will not properly equip one to faithfully preach the gospel. An individual may study to the highest academic level in the field of his choosing and still be ill prepared to preach the truth, the whole truth and nothing but



the truth.

There has never been a time since the first century when preachers were not needed. As long as man occupies this planet there will be a need for preachers.

Perhaps there are those who hold to the myth that preachers do not need to be trained. If this is the comprehension it is an exceeding great myth.

Paul the great preacher and apostle of the Lord wrote: *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and*

how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! (Rom. 10:14-15).

The Lord came as a preacher; called and prepared preachers. The Lord called upon the preachers he trained to understand the need for preachers. *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest (Matt. 9:36-38).*

The stability and prosperity of the church has always been in direct proportion to her preachers. If anyone is under the illusion that the cause of Christ may be advanced without faithful preachers, he has accepted a great myth. We must train preachers and this is no myth! Ω

The Harvesters

Published Monthly by the Florida School of Preaching
1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33803 (813)
683-4043

Editor:
Jackie Stearsman

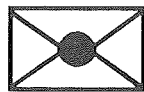
Associate Editor:
Clifford Newell, Jr.

Board of Directors

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| B. C. Carr, President | Glenn Lee |
| Paul Thomhill, Vice President | Wallace Maxwell |
| J. H. Blackman, Jr., Secretary | James Medlin |
| E. Robert McAnally, Treasurer | Gordon Methvin |
| Maurice Davis | Willis Pack |
| Paul W. Eubanks | Dale Spung |
| Kenneth W. Franklin | Jackie Stearsman |
| George K. French | Gene Stilwell |

TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

February 16, 1991



Dear bro. Carr,

Thank you and the church there for the privilege of having an exhibit in behalf of Tennessee Bible College at the recent Lectures. The Lectures are always of top quality and well-presented and the fellowship outstanding. Our special thanks also to the ladies who so graciously provided the food and drink which everyone enjoys.

We continue to be grateful for your stand for the truth of the Master and for the fine men you graduate from the school. May God continue to shower his blessings on you and we hope, the Lord being willing, to see you again next year.

Sincerely,

Ernest L. Bentley
Field Representative
Tennessee Bible College

March 10, 1991



Dear Bro. Carr,

As we make decisions in life, some affect only ourselves while others have far reaching consequences. One recent decision I have made is of the latter. In June, my family and I will be leaving the Canton congregation.

I have accepted the Lord's work in Tallapoosa, Georgia. Tallapoosa is located in west Georgia. This move will allow me to fulfill my goal in receiving my Bachelor's Degree in Bible from Alabama Christian School of Religion. Having already been accepted as a senior, I believe it

would be foolish not to accept this offer.

I have enjoyed tremendously working with the Lord's people here in Canton and will greatly miss their love and fellowship.

I am thankful for the support that you have offered the church in Canton over the last four years and pray that you will continue in whatever decision the men make in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Burch

IMPORTANT

Dear brethren,

Last year you graciously provided funds to help me return to Scotland to work with the church for the summer. I am again appealing to you for help.

I shall be graduating in May and shall be returning to Scotland to begin work with the Sighthill Congregation in Edinburgh. We have only twenty-four members and cannot support a preacher financially. This means I have to raise my own support and travel funds.

For the benefit of the lost souls in Scotland, I appeal for your help. I am in need of a sponsoring congregation, monthly support, and/or a one-time donation. Please help me in this venture to the glory of God.

The monthly support I am seeking is \$1,600.00.

Sincerely,
Graham McDonald

MONTHLY FOCUS

In this section each month we are citing the brethren with whom we have visited in the past month. It is good to visit among the brethren and to know of their progress in the Lord and to let them know of the ongoing work of the Florida School of Preaching.

St. Augustine

March 3, we spoke at the morning worship hour. This congregation is faithfully supporting the work here and increased their assistance this year. Brother Joe Riggs is the preacher here and we enjoyed his adult Bible Class. They were studying what we owe the local congregation.

North Lakeland

It was good to be able to be among "home folks" March 10. This congregation, though only a little over a year old, is supporting the school and they increased their support this year. I teach a Bible class here each Wednesday night.

Kissimmee

March 17 I spoke for the morning worship hour for this fine congregation. The Florida School of Preaching and this congregation have a history of working together. Brother Carr noted that before they had a regular preacher individuals from the school preached for them. Brother Charles Wright, the preacher, indicated that he knew of at least twelve (12) individuals that they had helped go to school. They are presently assisting two full-time

students as well as monthly contributions to the school. Brother Dave Spurlock, serving with brother Wright as an elder, was a member of the congregation where I preached in Warren, Michigan.

Kentucky

March 24 I preached in Madisonville, Kentucky. This is the congregation where I became a Christian and where I preached my first sermon. One of the elders of this congregation is my brother-in-law, Bill Simmons. My father is also a member here. They continue to support the school.

Winter Haven

March 31 I worshipped with the brethren at the **Central Church of Christ** in Winter Haven. Brother Bill Threet preaches for this congregation. They were studying the parables of Jesus in the Bible class and brother Threet's sermon was the parable of the sower.

Gospel Meetings

In addition to being at the above locations I visited a number of congregations which were conducting gospel meetings.

Sunday evening March 17, I heard **Alan E. Highers** at the **Central Church Christ** in

Clearwater; March 19 **Winford Claiborne** in **Eagle Lake**; March 21 **George Bailey** at **South Florida Avenue** in **Lakeland**; and March 28 I heard **Jack Strachan** at **Springhead** in **Plant City**.

Books You Must Have

Any preacher that does not secure and read good books is destined to be less effective in preaching the gospel.

When Paul was in prison toward the end of his life he desired that Timothy bring him "The books and the parchments" (II Tim. 4:13).



Sounding Brass and Clanging Cymbals is a book written by J.E. Choate and William Woodson. Its purpose is to consider the History and Significance of Instrumental Music in the Restoration Movement within the period of 1827-1968.

Brother E. Claude Gardner writes in the introduction: "The authors show conclusively that the church did not divide over sectional and cultural issues as is sometimes averred but rather because of the introduction of instrumental music, the missionary society and a liberal attitude toward the authority of the Bible. . . . Unless we today profit from our past history, we will be

condemned to endure the bitter fruit of another major rupture in the brotherhood. We earnestly pray that we will not move toward a division among churches of Christ which for the same reason tore and divided the Christian Church twice in fifty years." Order from

Freed-Hardeman University
Henderson, Tennessee.

Rightly Dividing The Word (Volumes I and II). Terry M. Hightower is the editor of these two volumes. Terry correctly states: "Elders, preachers, and other Christians need to awaken to the task before us by learning to (1) recognize the seriousness of the 'NH Movement', (2) identify the 'phrases and buzzwords' of it, and (3) 'contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints' (Jude 3)"

These two volumes on Bible Interpretation are a must for those who wish to be informed in much that is taking place in our brotherhood. The enemy we face will not be wished away. If we would avoid the divisions and errors of the Christian Church and her splits we must understand how to interpret the Bible.

Order these volumes from

Terry M. Hightower
Shenandoah Church of Christ
11026 Wuzbach Road
San Antonio, TX 78230.



FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING

1807 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE
LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33803-2653

DIRECTOR: B. C. Carr
Phone: (813) 683-4043

Address Correction Requested