

THE HARVESTERS



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May Graduates

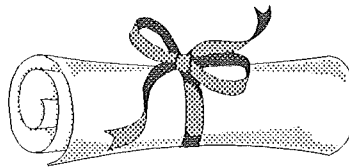
CHARLES A. AUSTIN

Charles is twenty-nine, married with one child. He attended Mulberry High School, Mulberry Florida.

He worked in Warehouse before coming to the *Florida School of Preaching*. Following graduation Charles plans to work with a congregation full time preaching the gospel.

Charles writes, "I truly can say that the *Florida School of Preaching* has greatly contributed to my growth as a preacher. The teachers have the utmost love for the Bible and the students. Those who support the school should realize that the school has all been possible because of your love and funds."

It has been a joy to see the progress Charles has made. We feel that the congregation which has Charles and his family working with them will be



blessed.

BRITISH CARLTON

British is thirty and he grad-

uated from Bullock County High School in Union Spring, Alabama. British has served six years in the armed forces. He also worked three years in pool construction in Wauchula, Florida before entering the *Florida School of Preaching*.

British is presently serving as the minister of the Oakland Church of Christ in Haines City, Florida. When he finishes school he plans to continue his work with this congregation.

British writes, "Thanks to all the congregations and individuals who have sacrificed to support the school. Your support to the school is not in vain. I have profited a great deal from the school, but without your support it would have been impossible for me to attend. Thanks to all who have made this possible. I would also like to thank all of the teachers, especially brother Carr."

British has made great progress



Front Row, left to right:

Charles Austin, British Carlton, Willie Holton,

Back Row, left to right:

Brian Kenyon, Graham McDonald, John Strachan, Jr.

in his studies at the school and we believe that the brethren at Oakland are fortunate to have him.

WILLIE HOLTON

Willie was born in Ashburn, Georgia, April 26, 1952. He grew up in Miami, Florida. Willie is married to the former Barbara Bouie and they have three daughters.

He graduated from Lindsey Hopkins Vocational School. He has served in both the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army.

Willie states that his zeal to save souls prompted him to enroll in the *Florida School of Preaching*. Following his becoming a Christian in 1986, Willie was active in preaching and spreading the gospel in Miami, Florida, Bainbridge, Georgia, Tacoma and Seattle, Washington. He is now preaching for the Hargrove Church of Christ in Arcadia, Florida.

Willie states that the *Florida School of Preaching* has been a real challenging experience. "Being a student has prepared me for the preaching of the gospel. I have grown spiritually and feel that I can sufficiently guide others to enjoy the truth."

"I wish to think the supporters of the school. It is your support that makes the school possible. I am especially thankful for the Coconut Grove Church of Christ, Miami, Florida for thier support of me while in school, and for the assistance given my family by Thomas and Tillie Fluellen. A very special thanks is due to my wife Barbara and our children who have stood by me every step of the way."

We feel sure that much and lasting good will come from Willie and Barbara as they continue to serve the Lord.

BRIAN R. KENYON

Brian is twenty-seven, married with two children. Before entering the *Florida School of Preaching* he worked as a commercial diver. He graduated from Bayshore High School, Bradenton, Florida and received the A.S. from Florida Institute of Technology.

Brian plans to preach the Gospel and is interested in continuing his

education in Bible related subjects if his work will permit it.

Brian states that attending the *Florida School of Preaching* has given him confidence in teaching and upholding the revealed truth. "Brother Carr and the instructors have contributed greatly to the practical aspects of preaching, an education one cannot get from books. I am thankful for all those who support the school. They need to realize their funds and prayers are the very backbone of the spreading of the Gospel in this area and abroad. Without them many men would not preach and many souls would never have the promise of eternal life found only in the gospel."

We believe that Brian and his family are destined to be a great asset to the cause of the Lord.

GRAHAM MCDONALD

Graham is twenty-three and is single. He is a native of Scotland and was educated there. He completed the "higher" standard in Scotland and finished a one year training course in retail skills.

Graham worked as a salesman for four years selling televisions, videocassette recorders, photographic and computer equipment.

Graham came to school within eighteen months after becoming a Christian. Relative to the *Florida School of Preaching* he writes, "It has been instrumental in completing my grounding as a Christian and has provided me with an excellent source of material for my mission work in Scotland.

"The supporters have greatly encouraged me by their dedication to this school. I have seen, by your actions, a true love for God and the souls of all men which shall be with me always. Thank you!"

We look forward to hearing of great things from Graham's work in the Lord.

JOHN WEIR STRACHAN, JR.

John is twenty-two and unmarried. He completed his high school training in his native Scotland.

John worked eighteen months

as assistant bookkeeper and accounts clerk. He worked one year as sales-coordinator for a storage equipment company and has six months experience as computer operator for G.T.E. Communication Corporation.

John's family are members of the church. His parents have been involved in mission work in Scotland for over twenty years. They also worked with the church in Malta, Spain and Africa. He has an uncle and a brother-in-law who are preachers. John's father is Jack Strachan and he is now preaching for the Bell Shoals Church of Christ, Brandon, Florida.

John plans to return to Scotland for six weeks this summer to work with the church. In the fall he plans to continue his education in one of our Christian Universities.

He says that the studies in the *Florida School of Preaching* has helped him to expand his knowledge of the Scriptures. "I would like to thank those churches and individuals who contribute monies for the school; without these people we would not be able to train men to preach the gospel to a lost world!"

We hope John will continue to grow and be of service in the cause of Christ both here and abroad.

January Graduates

In addition to the six men graduating in May we had three to graduate in January. Joseph Charles, Michael Dykes and Jim Hickox. See January *Harvesters*.



The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

Deaconesses In the Church?

By
Marlin Kilpatrick

There is a growing effort among some brethren to give women a greater degree of participation in the work of the church. The appointing of women to the "office" of "deaconesses" is one such effort. How should we approach and respond to this growing problem?

It should be clearly understood that no right thinking Christian is opposed to women having as great a role in the work of the church as God's Word allows. Whatever the scriptures authorize not only should be, but must be practiced. Contrary to what some brethren think, brethren who demand a "thus saith the Lord" in their approach to any religious question, are not necessarily influenced by our "male-dominated society." It comes as no surprise that liberal brethren, who would restructure the church, if allowed, spend their time in making such an accusation. No sound thinking Christian believes that women are to have an inferior place in God's kingdom. Such claims amount to nothing more than a "smoke screen" that clouds the real issue—is it AUTHORIZED?

In our English Bibles, the word "deacon" is translated from the Greek, "diakonos," which means, "one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master; a servant . . ." (Thayer, p. 138). In a broad sense of speaking, anyone who, despite sex, is a "deacon," but this is far, far from saying that one who is appointed to the "office" of a deacon may, with Christ's approval, be either a male or female. We need "deacons" in the church, but only those who are scripturally qualified should be appointed.

There are only two (2) divinely authorized "offices" in the New Testament church—elders and deacons. (In the use of the word "office," in this context, we refer to the work that is to be done.) The qualifications of both "offices" are set out in I Timothy 3:1-31 and Titus 1:5-9. The very nature of



the qualifications of a deacon eliminates the appointing of women to this work. It is not whether a woman may do a better job than a man; sometimes she might, but the real question is, which (male/female) do the scriptures AUTHORIZE? A deacon must be, among other things, a husband with a faithful wife; having his children under subjection (I Tim. 3:10-12). Although the word "man" is not in the text, it is implied, seeing that the word "wives" is used. Unless one is prepared to argue (?) for "homosexual marriages," a woman, no matter how well otherwise qualified she may be, is not scripturally qualified to serve in a formally recognized position as a deacon.

Some have pointed to the case of Phoebe as proof that a woman may today serve as a "deaconess." In Romans 16:1, Paul describes Phoebe as a ". . . servant of the church which is in Cenchrea." Yes, as herein before suggested, Phoebe was a "deaconess," but only in the broad sense of using the word, a servant. Phoebe, still, was not a "deaconess" working under the oversight of the elders, as do deacons. If she was, where may we read of her qualifications?

Another question often raised by advocates of "deaconesses in the church," concerns the question of "usurping authority" over the man. Advocates of the growing trend know that they must somehow explain how a woman is not guilty of usurping authority over a man, while occupying the office of a deacon. The Holy Spirit, through the apostle Paul, wrote that a woman is not to usurp (exercise dominion over) a man (cf. I Timothy

2:12). How do they avoid this situation? The usual response is that if elders have given the woman permission for this work, or, her taking part in the public worship services in the presence of men, she is not violating the teaching of I Timothy 2:12. The fallacy of such reasoning is this: No eldership has the right (authority) to give her such permission! Christ has not done so! NO one, including elders, may, with Christ's approval, set aside the scriptures and do as he/she pleases.

Another effort is sometimes advanced in support of such work for women in the church. This effort is absurd on the very face of it! The claim that Paul was simply a male chauvinist is appalling to those who take serious the scriptures. Paul wrote by inspiration of the Holy Spirit (II Tim. 3:16-17; I Cor. 14:37-38). The Holy Spirit deemed it proper to use only men in the administration of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church.

Brethren, when we abide within the confines of the scriptures, practicing only what is authorized, we will never be wrong. When we depart from this haven of safety, we will always be wrong. Let us always stand fast in the faith, so heaven will someday be our eternal home. [Brother Kilpatrick may be reached at 105 Robin Lane, Suffolk, VA. 23434.]

MONTHLY FOCUS

Mango

Sunday morning, April 7, I worshiped with the brethren at Mango and one of the elders, brother **Dale Larsen**, asked me to take some time from his Sunday Bible class to speak about the work of the School of Preaching. Brother Larsen has taught Marriage and the Family classes in the school and we appreciate him and the help given the school by brethren at Mango. Brother **Mark Hodges** is their preacher. It was also announced that two of our students, David Rushlow and John Strachan spoke there Sunday evening, April 14.

Brandon

Sunday evening, April 7, I visited **Bell Shoals**. Their services consisted in song practice. This congregation is served with three preachers. Brothers **Jack Strachan**, **Ken Franklin, Sr.**, and **John Terrell**. Brother Franklin serves on the Board of Directors of the *Florida School of Preaching*.

Tampa

Sunday morning, April 14, I visited the Manhattan Avenue Church of Christ. Brother **Wilford Heflin** is the preacher here. He taught the class I attended and also preached. These brethren have supported the *Florida School of Preaching*.

Lakeland

Sunday evening, April 14, I visited the Highlands congregation.

New Port Richey

Sunday morning, April 21, I taught a Bible class and preached for the River Road Church of Christ. Following the worship services we enjoyed a meal together in their fellowship room. **Chris Steele** is their preacher. Chris is a graduate of the *Florida School of Preaching* and is doing a great work with these brethren. They have a tradition of having one of the students preach for them the third Sunday of the month and are supporting the school as well. It was good to visit with these brethren and to see brethren we had know from other places some of whom are members here. We worshiped together in Clearwater.

High Springs

Brother Carr and students were

with the brethren in High Springs for a student day on April 21.

Brother **Gene Burgett**, graduate of *Florida School of Preaching* is the preacher here. These brethren are supporters of the school. They paid the travel expenses and gave each of the speakers a stipend for preaching.

Brother Carr introduced the students. Brother **Joseph Sejour** spoke at the Bible Study period and **Kevin Joy** preached at the morning service and **Brian Kenyon** spoke for the evening services.

Sanford

Sunday, April 28, I visited the brethren at Sanford, Florida. I was given an opportunity at the conclusion of the morning worship service to express appreciation to these brethren for their support of the school. Their preacher, **Tony Black** was away and **Everett Donaldson** from Mount Sterling, Kentucky spoke in his absence.

Just at the Right Time

Brother **W.E. Wardlaw** was here the week of April 28 for four days. He presented a special study to the students on personal work. It should prove helpful to those going to work in the field this summer, particularly those going to Jamaica.

Summer Specials

Angels and Demons

Teacher

Daniel Denham

This class will meet each Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 9:30. The first class will be May 27. The

last class will be July 22. The class will not meet the week of July 4.

Eschatology

Teacher

Jackie Stearsman

This class will meet each Thursday evening from 7:00 to 9:30. The first class will be May 30. The last class will be July 25. The class will not meet the week of July 4.

Appeal for Guyana

By

Michael Dykes

Recently I had the privilege to go to Guyana on a campaign. We baptized about 100 people in New Amsterdam. There is another campaign scheduled in May to establish another congregation near New Amsterdam. I plan to go back for three years.



These people need someone to assist them in their spiritual growth and I believe I can meet their needs.

I need help to go. I am in process of raising the support I need. Monthly support or a one time contribution would be greatly appreciated. If you can help, please contact or send support to:

Okeechobee Church of Christ

P.O. Box 958

Okeechobee, Florida 34974

I hope that you will help me put the training I received at the *Florida School of Preaching* to work. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Ω

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