

THE HARVESTERS



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NUMBER 5

What You May Expect At The Florida School of Preaching

By
Jackie M. Stearsman

Anyone contemplating attending a school has a right to know what is expected of them as well as what to expect from the institution. In view of this I wish to reflect upon some things a student may anticipate who attends the *Florida School of Preaching*.

Respect for the Bible

Any school proposing to prepare men to preach the truth must have a profound respect for the Bible. You may expect the Bible to be taught, memorized and defended.

We know full well that a variety of views are provided with most any verse or idea in the Bible. Truth (what does the Bible teach), and not a variety of opinions is our goal. We know the Bible teaches that God's ways and man's ways are not always the same. "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts*" (Isa. 55:8-9).

Therefore, we are to "*Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding*" (Prov. 23:23).

As God is our helper we shall ever propose this as our guiding philosophy; the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Love for the Church

If we are to judge by the writing and actions of some in the church we must conclude that their attitude appears to be that of bitterness and ill will toward the church. With such persons we refuse to be associated.

We are concerned for the church that Jesus died to purchase (Eph. 5:25). We respect the Bible and know that it teaches that there is but one body (Eph. 4:4) and that

this one body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23).

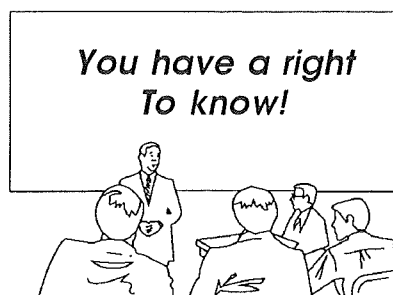
The church of Christ is unique. No other institution known to man has such a high and holy calling. To not know and identify with the church for which Jesus died is to make a decision with grave consequences.

Those who would teach that one church is as good as another, and that God and the Christ are as pleased when we are in man made Churches as they are when we are in His blood bought body, are being irresponsible teachers.

We can know the truth and the truth will make us free (John 8:32). We know the truth about the church and will not permit another to take us captive to his vain philosophy developed from the foolish imaginations of disobedient men (Col. 2:8).

Love for the Lost

Because of our respect for the Bible we know that men are lost without the good news (the gospel). Men sin when they disobey God. Men disobey God when



they fail to obey his word, the Bible. Men who disobey his word, the Bible need forgiveness. Men who need forgiveness are throughout the world. Wherever we find men the gospel is needed.

The training of preachers will be appreciated when we understand the need of men in sin. To close our minds to men in sin is not to love them.

Jesus said that one has no greater love than to lay down his life for a friend (John 15:13). We propose to make a sacrifice for others because we know his sacrifice for us. We propose to sacrifice for others because we seek to be His friend. He that loved us has called upon us to love others as he loved us "*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another*" (John 13:34-35).

Love for the Students

Students should expect the school to have a godly interest in them. We desire for them to be the best they can be. The best they can be in the service of their King. Their king is not satisfied when they are indifferent to His Word and His cause. We are concerned for them and for all that they may teach in the future. We propose to have the same loving interest in the students that Paul had for the brethren in Corinth (II Cor. 11:1-3).

Great joy is realized when you are able to observe the growth of those that you love in the Lord. The Apostle John stated that it was the greatest of his joys (III John 4).

Fellowship

Students attending the school are viewed as fellow travelers in the cause of truth (III John

8). We see ourselves as fellow workers and fellow helpers for the cause of the Christ.

Because of the concern that fellow travelers have there is a bond of love and unity that develops among us. As we part company at graduation time the fellowship that has been established will go with each of us on our journey.

When the traveling days are over we rest assured that in His fellowship we shall ever abide. The fellowship that is developed at school will last forever.

Conclusion

These are some of the things that a prospective student may expect when attending the school. If these things appeal to you why not make the essential adjustments in life that they may become a reality. If we can assist you in becoming a student at the *Florida School of Preaching* please let us know. Send for a catalogue and information to:

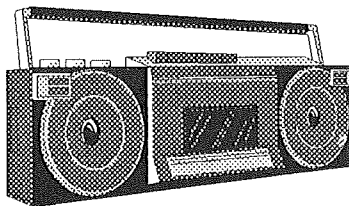
Florida School of Preaching
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803

Assistance Needed

By

Joseph Sejour

[Brother Joseph Sejour is a native of Haiti. He has preached for a number of years in the denominational world. He has become a member of the church of Christ and is in his second year at the *Florida School of Preaching*. He is an excellent speaker and is trying to reach



those of his background by means of a radio broadcast. This work is under the oversight of the West Orlando Church of Christ. If you can assist this noble effort we would encourage you to do so. All correspondence should be directed to BACK TO THE BIBLE, West Orlando Church of Christ, P.O. Box 15962, Orlando, Fl. 32808. editor]

Preaching the gospel to the religious world is a necessity today. It was about two thousand years ago. Jesus said to his disciples. Then saith he unto his disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few" (Matt. 9:37). If Jesus cares for the lost souls, we also must care.

I have a great desire to reach through the radio thousands of Kreol (Creole) speaking people living in central Florida. The radio program that I have every Saturday morning on WVCF brings good feed-back. Questions that have been asked proves to me that the thinking about the church of Christ is changing, and this motivates me to try to stay on the air. For example: After a lesson on the importance of water baptism in the plan of salvation, a 60 year old Catholic man called and said, "If what the Bible says about water baptism is so, I am lost because I have never been taught that way."

I do need support to continue this program. A one hour program will help me to have 30 minutes for questions and answers

[Continued on Page 4]

The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

Florida School of Preaching

1807 South Florida Avenue; Lakeland, Florida, 33803

Seventeenth Annual Lectureship

January 20-23, 1992

Theme - *"Does The Church Need Changing For The Coming Century?"*

Monday — January 20

- 9:00 "Preaching for the Next Century"
Winford Claiborne, Henderson, Tennessee
- 9:45 "Changing Our Attitudes Toward Money"
V.P. Black, Chickasaw, Alabama
- 10:45 "Preaching the Gospel and Leaving Others Alone"
Jim Ezekiel, Folkston, Georgia
- 11:30 Lunch
- 1:30 "One Gospel For All Men"
Gilbert Miller, Ft. Myers, Florida
- 2:30 "Abuses of Worship in Song"
W.D. Jeffcoat, Gainesville, Florida
- 3:30 Open Forum
Flavil Nichols & Jackie Stearsman
- 4:30 Dinner
- 7:00 "Attitudes Toward Evangelism"
Robert Lindsey, Brooksville, Florida
- 7:45 "God's Unchanging Hand"
Wendell Winkler, Montgomery, Alabama

Tuesday — January 21

- 9:00 "Preaching For The Next Century"
Winford Claiborne, Henderson, Tennessee
- 9:45 "Changing Our Attitudes Toward Money"
V.P. Black, Chickasaw, Alabama
- 10:45 "The Changing Role of Women"
Wendell Winkler, Montgomery, Alabama
- 11:30 Lunch
- 1:30 "Are We Ignoring the Qualifications of Elders?"
Bobby Duncan, Adamsville, Alabama
- 2:30 "Is Truth Relative?"
W.E. Wardlaw, Huntsville, Alabama
- 3:30 Open Forum
Flavil Nichols & Jackie Stearsman
- 4:30 Dinner
- 7:00 "Changing Our Moral Values"
Gene Hill, Auburndale, Florida
- 7:45 "Changes I Have Seen In The Last 50 Years"
V.P. Black Chickasaw, Alabama

Wednesday — January 22

- 9:00 "Preaching for the Next Century"
Winford Claiborne, Henderson, Tennessee
- 9:45 "Changing Our Attitudes Toward Money"
V.P. Black, Chickasaw, Alabama
- 10:45 "Must One Be Member of Church of Christ To Be Saved?"
Jack Tittle, Rocky Mt., North Carolina
- 11:30 Lunch
- 1:30 "Shall We Reject Pattern Religion?"
Jim Laws, Memphis, Tennessee
- 2:30 "Wolves in Sheep's Clothing"
Wayne Coats, Mt. Juliet, Tennessee
- 3:30 Open Forum
Flavil Nichols & Jackie Stearsman
- 4:30 Dinner
- 7:00 "Rules For Christian Living Never Change"
Samuel Roney, Tampa, Florida
- 7:45 "What Preachers Can Do To Preserve The Faith"
Winfred Clark, Athens, Alabama

Thursday — January 23

- 9:00 "Preaching for the Next Century"
Winford Claiborne, Henderson, Tennessee
- 9:45 "Youth Problems In Our Changing Society"
David Macy, Blue Ridge, Georgia
- 10:45 "Changing Attitudes Toward Fellowship"
Marlin Kilpatrick, Port Charlotte, Florida
- 11:30 Lunch
- 1:30 "Changing Attitudes Toward Controversy"
Bobby Liddell, Pensacola, Florida
- 2:30 "Courting The Favor of Denominations"
Winfred Clark, Athens, Alabama
- 3:30 Open Forum
Flavil Nichols & Jackie Stearsman
- 4:30 Dinner
- 7:00 "Changing Attitudes Toward The Bible"
Gene Burgett, High Springs, Florida
- 7:45 "The Roll of Elders in Preventing Apostasy"
Bobby Duncan, Adamsville, Alabama

Lectureship Director — B. C. Carr — (813) 683-4043

and 30 minutes for Bible study.

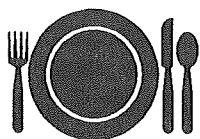
The harvest truly is plentiful. Anyone who wants to work with me in this labor, to reach the Kreol speaking people who are erring in the false doctrines of the denominationalists, please send your support to:

**BACK TO THE BIBLE
WEST ORLANDO
CHURCH OF CHRIST
P.O. BOX 15962
ORLANDO, FL 32808**

Let us labor together to bring subjects into the Kingdom of our Lord.

Appreciation Banquet For Elders and Preachers

November 4, 1991, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the school, students and staff hosted an appreciation banquet for elders and preachers and their wives. For those congregations that did not have elders it was requested that four representatives be selected to attend.



The ongoing progress of the school is depending on the support received from faithful congregations. Brother Carr

provided information about the school and a fine meal was catered by brother J.H. Blackman and those who assisted him.

In addition to the information provided by brother Carr others spoke commending the school. This included present and former students, and members of the board of directors and elders from congregations. Participating were: Joseph Sejour (second year student), Chris Steele (graduate, preacher), Harold Rodriguez (graduate, preacher), Willis Pack (elder, preacher, board member), and Gordon Methvin (elder, board member).

Brother Stearsman presented some humorous insights in appreciation for the role of elders and for their many difficulties.

Individuals were in attendance from the following churches:

**Apopka
Bell Shoals, Brandon
Central, Clearwater
Central, Haines City
Hill Street, Rocky Mount, NC
Lake Placid
Mango
North Lakeland**

**North Jackson Street, Bartow
Oklawaha
Osprey Avenue, Sarasota
River Road, New Port Richey
South Florida Avenue,
Lakeland**

Brother Maurice Davis, a graduate, preacher for the Sixth Street Church of Christ, Lakeland, due to previous commitments was unable to attend. He wrote brother Carr in part as follows: *It is my judgment, that the continuance of the school is vital to training men to do the work of the Lord. Especially is this true in regards to many of my fellow black men who have neither the time, finances nor the academic requirements to attend many of our Christian Colleges. Please let everyone know that it is my ceaseless prayer and plea for the continuance of the Florida School of Preaching, and that this year's banquet will be the best yet.*

We appreciate those who hold up our hands in training preachers. The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few (Matt. 9:37; Luke 10:2).

**Funds Toward the Computer
Are Appreciated
More Later!**

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING

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Address Correction Requested