THE HARVESTERS

"AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?"

Florida School of Preaching

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Summer Class Preachers Using Computers

By
Jackie M. Stearsman

In summer school this year we are having a special class on using computers in the work of the Lord. We will direct attention to the topics suggested in this overview.

1. Practical

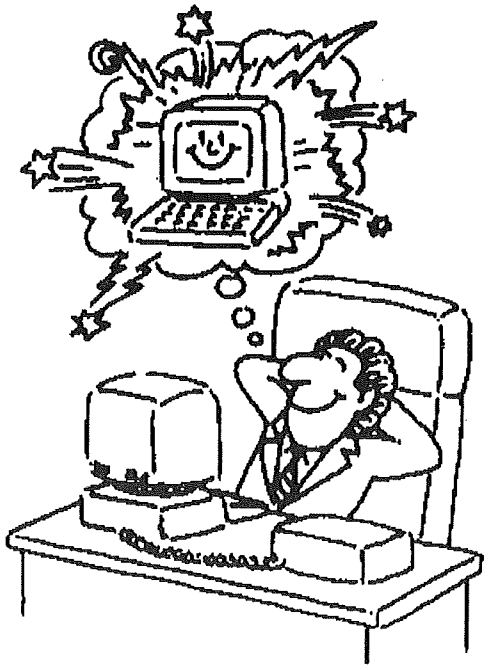
The class will provide practical information on computers. Those having no experience with computers may attend the class with profit. Those attending the class should expect to better understand such things as the computer, the keyboard, the monitor, memory, hard disk drives, printers et al.

2. Modems

Computers may send information over the phone lines. How may this be useful to you? Attend the class that you may know.

3. Computer Clubs

There are computer clubs that one may join and become familiar with computers. In some of these clubs there is software (free programs) that are provided that you may grow in a specific area of working with a computer. We will devote attention to this during the summer.



4. Desktop Publishing

Desktop publishing is a growing industry that uses computers. We will introduce you to this. The novice as well as the informed should have a better understanding of the potential for publishing church bulletins and lesson material by using desktop publishing.

5. Clip Art

Clip Art (like that used in this article) is becoming very popular. By having well drawn images or illustrations the publications you do may appear more professional looking.

We will provide you with some examples of this art and how you may purchase it. There

are programs that will enable you to try your own personal skills in drawing by using a computer.

6. Bookkeeping

Keeping records, financial and otherwise, is important in the work of the church. A computer may be of untold value by enabling you to provide well prepared financial statements or church budgets. There are inexpensive programs that can be of use in keeping your banking records balanced, printing checks, doing amortization schedules, et al. Those attending the class will be provided information in these capacities.

7. CD ROM

CD ROM is a new area in computers. These hookups enable a person to have access to an entire encyclopedia and a multiplicity of Bible translations at their disposal. We plan to have a person currently using this in his work to explain it to us.

8. Bible Programs

The Bible programs available today for computers are amazing. Some of these are free. All you need is to have the proper computer and the disk space required. With some of these you can have at a moment's notice all the references in the Bible to a special person, term, place, or thing. By the push of a button you may have Strong's Concordance reference to the original term and related terms. By the time you have read what is typed in this paragraph you could have all this on your computer screen. When this information is printed out you may have your special Bible Concordance on the topic of your choosing.

9. Mailing Programs

Mailing lists that contain the congregation's membership become so easy to do with a computer. Preparing mailing lists for large numbers of printed material for teaching is possible with a computer. All you need is the right computer with the essential programs to do the task.

10. Word Processing

Written documents can be more professional looking with a good word processor for the computer. We will show you some potentials in this field. There are English dictionaries, thesaurus and rhyming dictionaries that even the poetically inclined may use. The potential is almost limitless with the programs available on a computer. You feel that you could use some grammatical assistance? With the right set up you can use the computer to proofread your documents and to offer you suggestions for making your message less likely to be misunderstood. You have a spelling problem? Call on the computer with a word processor that has a speller that will check your documents for misspelled words. You can even create your own special dictionaries that will include Bible terms or personal names, etc.

11. Printers

There are a variety of printers available that will enable one to do most any type printing that is imaginable. This includes color printing and laser printers. Some of these are not beyond the price of most any ambitious person.

12. Journals

There are computer journals that will help an individual understand the computer market and to keep up with the developments in this rapidly changing field. We will have some of

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these for you to see and evaluate.

13. Purchasing Computers

The class will try to help you in understanding computers that you may shop for the right system to meet your individual needs. Computers may help you reach your full potential in serving the Lord whether presenting lessons with the printed page or in keeping records for the local congregation where you work.

14. Operating

There are congregations that purchase computer systems for their preacher and staff to use. At times these systems are not as effective as they could be. There are staff changes, or maybe it is due to those who could be using them are intimidated by what they do not understand. If your situation is like this you can especially be profited by this class.

15. IBM System

This class will be limited to the IBM type systems. This includes IBM clones. We will not have the expertise nor time to consider other type systems. If you are unsure what system you have call and we will try to help you in any way we can.

This class should be rewarding for all with interest in any way with computers in the work of the congregation. Why not plan to be a part of the class. We will be assisted by other men that have a specialty in the fields cited. We plan to have a computer set up to show the potential functions we have listed. Make your plans to attend this class. It could provide improvement to your work in the Lord.

It should be understood that **we are not selling computer systems or software programs**. We are not promoting anyone who does.

This class is practical all the way. We have one goal in mind for this class and that goal is to help preachers and congregations understand the potential the computer has for their work. It is possible that after attending the class you conclude that you do not need a computer. If this is true then the class could save you several hundred dollars—money you did not spend in order to learn that you do not need a computer. How can you lose?

Class Meetings
7:00–9:30 p.m.
May 26
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
July 14, 21

Guy N. Woods Appreciation Banquet

Most are aware that brother Woods has discontinued his meeting work. The Bell Shoals Church of Christ, Brandon, Florida has had brother Woods for meetings for a number of years. They invited friends of brother Woods to gather with them on Saturday, March 28, 1992, that we might honor him for his years of service to our great brotherhood.

It was requested that he be the main speaker, and that he focus on the Lord's church over the last sixty years. Brother Carr and I were asked to be a part of this occasion.

I was asked to speak of brother Woods' use of Logic and his scholarship. I never had an easier assignment nor a more privileged one. Brother Woods' scholarly logic will bless the brotherhood and those who appreciate true scholarship for years to come.

Sympathy To The Lavender Family

Sister **Fannie Lavender** was buried March 24, 1992, in Christiansburg, Virginia. Brother and sister Lavender have been some of our most loyal supporters. Clarence taught in the school and served on the Advisory Board of the school. Wherever he has been he has upheld our work.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family at this time.

Sister Lavender was a good and godly woman. She and her family have suffered much in recent years. We know that her passing will be felt deeply by her loved ones. We feel that they must be

relieved that the agonizing suffering she has endured is now past.

We draw strength from our fond memories of her faithfulness and by our common faith and hope. Editor.

The Children Question

May a man meet the qualification to serve as an elder if he has only one child and that child is faithful? Consider the term **children** and in the qualifications of elders as well as in the remote context of the Bible. The issue can be better understood if we know how the term is used. Do we ever understand the term "children" to refer to one child? If so when?

Passages

"Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their **children** and their own houses well" (I Tim. 3:12). **Question:** If a deacon has only one child does this passage teach that he must have control of that child?

"I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear **children**, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully" (I Tim. 5:14). **Question:** If the widow marries and bears only one child, is she unfaithful?

"If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful **children** not accused of riot or unruly" (Titus 1:6). **Question:** According to this passage, would a prospective elder have any obligation to have his first child faithful or would this passage only apply when the second and/or additional children arrive?

"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their **children**" (Titus 2:4). **Question:** According to this text must a woman love her child? Must she have a plurality of children before this passage has application to her?

"And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given **children** suck? for I have born him **a son** in his old age" (Gen. 21:7). **Question:** Is it not true that the term "children" is used in this passage when only a child is under consideration?

Contemporary Usage

As we prepare our IRS returns and are asked for the number of children we have, will we count a single child? If you apply for a job and the application ask for the number of children you have, would you include a single child if it were the only one you have? You are introduced to a stranger and you have your only child standing beside you. If the stranger asked you if you have children and you say no. How do you think the child would react to your reply? Should the stranger learn later that your child was standing there with you, do you think the stranger would consider you honest?

Application

"One that ruleth well his own house, having his **children** in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)" (I Tim. 3:4–5).

Are we not to understand "children" to be a general term that has reference to a single child and to a plurality of children in the contextual citings above? I believe the honest student of the subject will be forced to this conclusion.

I suggest that the number of children is not the important point. The important issue is how he rules his household. The very subject of children is not related to producing offspring but to having children that respect their parents and the Lord. The father that so demonstrates this with his children (child/children) has met this qualification. In the eyes of God as pertains to children he is prepared to make judgment decisions in the church [Editor].

Is it children
Or is it a child?

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