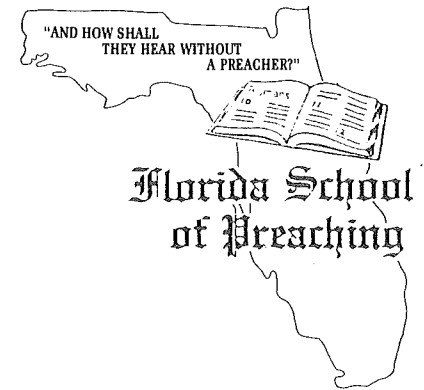


THE HARVESTERS



VOLUME VIII

APRIL 1990

NUMBER 9

ACTIVITIES OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Periodically staff and students are involved in the cause of the Lord other than teaching classes or attending classes. We list the following activities that you may have a better understanding of many of the activities of those involved with the school.

B.C. Carr

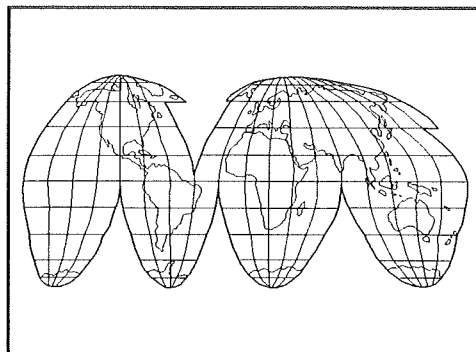
Brother Carr appeared on the Lectureship in Cape Coral, Florida, February 24, 1990. He spoke on the Mt. Dora Lectureship, March 19, 1990. He was in a gospel meeting in Sebastian, Florida, March 4-6, 1990. He will be on the Bellview Lectureship in Pensacola, Florida, May 1990. He will be a part of the Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship, March 25-29, 1990. He will be on the Spiritual Sword Lectureship, October 1990.

Marrice Davis

Brother Davis is a part time instructor and a member of the board of directors. He preaches for the Sixth Street Congregation in Lakeland. He will be a part of the Fourth Annual Greater Kanawha Valley Lectureship in St. Albans, West Virginia. He has meetings scheduled in Florida at Daytona Beach, Orlando and Miami, in Adel, Georgia, and in Houston, Texas.

Clifford Newell, Jr.

Brother Newell was on the Cape Coral Lectureship, February 24, 1990. His topic was "The New Age Movement." He will be in Scotland July 27 through August 15, 1990. While there he will preach in East Kilbride, Peterhead, Glenrothes, and Cumbernauld.



Jackie M. Stearsman

Brother Stearsman preaches for the North Lakeland Church of Christ. He will be a part of the Seventh Annual Virginia Bible Lectureship. This is in Christiansburg, Virginia. The dates are May 23-25, 1990. He will speak for Home Coming Services, July 1, 1990, at the Madisonville Church of Christ where he obeyed the gospel and where his father and one sister and her family are members. August 7-10, 1990, he will be a part of the Fourth Annual Greater Kanawha

Valley Lectureship. This is in St. Albans, West Virginia. He plans to be in a gospel meeting with the Eagle Lake Church of Christ, Eagle Lake Florida, later in the fall.

Gene Stilwell

Brother Stilwell is a part time instructor and is a member of the board of directors. He preaches for the Midway Congregation in Sarasota, Florida and recently was in Guyana. The following letter is from River Road Church of Christ Bulletin, March 18, 1990.

Dear Brethren

I wish to take the time to thank you all so much, again for your kindness and support for the work in Guyana.

You might like to know a church was started in Suriname. Fifteen obeyed the gospel in Suriname and sixty-five in New Amsterdam came to Christ. Some were restored. Your support helped buy at least 1,000 Bibles and money was left to buy more when needed.

I do have slides of the work there. I will show them Wednesday evening to the congregation at Midway. If you would be interested in the slides to show your congregation, just let me know. If you want anymore information, let me know that too.

It is good to know brethren

want to help with the mission work and we love you for it.

Sincerely,

Gene Stilwell, Minister

JAMAICA

Students are planning a second visit to Jamaica through the efforts of the Central Church of Christ, Clearwater, Florida. Those attending school now who plan to make the trip include: Charles Austin, Michael Dykes, Willie Holton, Brian Kenyon, Neil Lopez, and Henry Patterson. Former students who will be visiting Jamaica to work in evangelism include Robert Lindsey, Robert Lupo, Harold Rodriguez and Larry Williams.

SCOTLAND

Some students will visit Scotland to work in evangelistic activities. August 2-17, 1990 the following plan to be in Scotland: Edward and Florence Duffy; Graham McDonald; Jack, Maureen, and John Strachan; and Brian Kenyon. Clifford and Diane Newell will spend July 27 through August 15 in Scotland.

John Strachan, Jr.

John writes as follows regarding his summer plans: *During the Summer I plan to return to Scotland, my native country. I plan to be involved with three different congregations throughout central Scotland including my home congregation. These congregations are located in the "new towns" of Scotland where rapid growth in the population is taking place. The average age of one of the towns is twenty-nine years old with a population of 90,000 people. I plan to preach at every opportunity, teach classes and work with the Youth program. I will also help evangelize throughout the campaigns which Brother Newell will hold (distribute leaflets, door knocking, etc.). I will also be involved with our summer youth camp. This will be for one*

week in July. Young people from all over Great Britain will gather together for a week of fun, fellowship, Bible studies and devotion to God.

I look forward to returning to Scotland with others to share the things I have learned in The Florida School of Preaching. Pray for us that our efforts may be successful.

Graham McDonald

Graham writes as follows:

This summer, I will be returning to my home in East Kilbride in Glasgow, Scotland. I will be involved with the work at this congregation which is a mission field. I shall be involved with youth work, concentrating on the ages of ten through twelve.

Brother Jack Strachan of the Bell Shoals Church of Christ in Brandon, Florida, will be in a campaign in August and I will be distributing leaflets and doing personal work wherever I am needed.

I also hope to work with other congregations in Scotland such as: Cumbernauld, Glenrothes and Peterhead.

I am still trying to raise funds, and am \$350. short of my \$1,000. target. If anyone can help with a one-time donation, please forward any cheques (payable to Graham McDonald) to B.C. Carr at the Florida School of Preaching, 1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33803.



Brother Cotham will be here Monday through Thursday, 10:00 to 12:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

NEWS

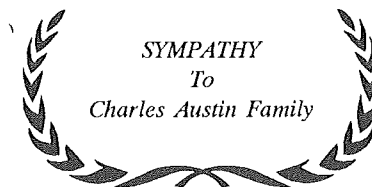
Steve Rosenzweig

Steve began preaching for the Bushnell Church of Christ while a student and became full time with them upon his graduation from the Florida School of Preaching.

Steve is going through a series of treatments for a throat condition and is showing signs of improvement. We are thankful for his recovery and want you to know about it. Should you wish to write Steve you may do so at: P O. Box 310, Bushnell, Florida 33513.

Jim Hickox

Full time student, Jim Hickox suffered a heart attack and has returned to classes on a part time basis. The doctors are permitting him to take two classes a week and to work back to a normal routine in the coming months. Jim says the doctors have given him the go ahead for his preaching trip to Jamaica. For these improvements we are grateful to a benevolent God. Should you wish to reach Jim his address is, 309 Ariana, Auburndale, Florida 33823.



Full time student, Charles Austin suffered a tragedy in his family in the death of his four year old son, Charles Austin, Jr. Charles, Jr. was hit by a vehicle Wednesday, March 14, 1990. Funeral services were conducted by brother John E. Terrell, Minister of the Bradley Junction Church of Christ, March 24, 1990.

If you wish to send a card or to contact the family the address is:

Charles Austin
P.O. Box 262
Nichols, Florida 33863.

The Harvesters

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1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33803
(813) 683-4043

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

THE HARVESTERS

By
Jackie M. Stearsman

It is significant that the title of this publication is *THE HARVESTERS*. We are committed to preparing laborers for the Lord of the harvest. In another section we have referred to some of the actions of student and staff in harvesting souls.

When consideration is given to the title of our publication the passages in the block insert come to mind.

When attention is given to these verses a number of lessons come to mind. Let us consider them in view of the School of Preaching and the challenge issued to us by the Lord.

Harvest

The success or failure of the harvest is dependent upon a number of factors. There is a world the Lord compared to a field. Here sowing takes place and a harvest will occur to remove all that are not faithful sons of the kingdom (Matt. 13:38-43). Consider what must take place before this harvest.

Seed

In the parable of the tares the good seed represents the sons of God and the tares are the sons of the Devil. The seed we sow will determine the sons we produce. The Devil sows his lies and produces his children. We must sow the pure word of God (Luke 8:11) that we might produce good seed (sons of God) for the judgement harvest.

Sowers

The Devil is vigorously sowing the tares. He will not be discouraged by a temporary setback. We too must be vigilant

in sowing for the harvest will depend upon sowing (Gal. 6:6-10). Is this not why Jesus called upon the disciples to pray for laborers into the harvest.

Watering

Paul looked upon his toil with the church in Corinth as tending a field (I Cor. 3:9). In this husbandry he said he planted, Apollos watered and God gave the

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. 9:37-38).

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap, that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours (John 4:35-38).

After these things the LORD appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest (Luke 10:1-2).

Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant (Jer. 1:9-10).

increase (I Cor. 3:6). True, it is God who gives the increase, but we must never forget that our sowing and watering (nurturing) souls will have an affect upon that harvest. Sowing alone does not mean the harvest will glorify God. There must be cultivation before harvest. We must have men to water and to sow.

Plucking Up

In the words of God to Jeremiah there is the necessity of plucking up what should not be and tearing down that which has no

divine right to exist. In the harvest contemplated in these verses we are reminded of the devastating effects of the false teaching and false teachers. To think we can sow without confronting opposition is to live in an unreal world. Much of the teaching of Jesus was directed to false teachers and their false doctrines. The harvest will be influenced by how well we have removed the stumbling blocks to belief (II Cor. 10:5, 12, 18).

Build

There is a direct bond between plucking up and tearing down; building and planting. The faithful are not merely in the wrecking business. They uproot and tear down with the goal always before them of building and planting.

Prodigals

Those who sow and labor in the Lord's vineyard must understand that some seed will go bad and it will not be the fault of the sower, the seed sown, nor the Lord of the harvest. In the chapter where Jesus discusses the wayward boy (Luke 15) he refers to the lost sheep and the lost coin. The lost sheep was sought and the coin was diligently pursued until found. With the wayward son it was different. There was no searching or pursuit made, why? Was it not because the boy knew full well his condition and that nothing could be done for him until he had a change of heart? The principles of sowing, watering and the harvest are larger than any individual or group of individuals. When men reject the message they must not be a hindrance to the harvest of souls. The harvesters

must seek the soil that will produce, shaking the dust of unbelieving souls from the feet, not casting pearls before swine (Matt. 10:14; 7:6).

Tares

There is a lesson for laborers in the message of Jesus regarding the tares. The field in this case is the world. The good seed are the sons of the kingdom. The tares are the sons of the Devil. The basic lesson to be remembered is that the Lord of the harvest reserves the right to make a final and ultimate disposition of those outside his spiritual family or kingdom. It is not the duty of the laborers in the Lord's vineyard to uproot by physical force those outside the kingdom. In the world-field good and evil will be together until the final harvest, the judgment. However, He does not permit good and evil to coexist in the spiritual kingdom (I Cor. 5:1-13).

Support

The Lord's people have mutual interest and responsibility in preparing for the harvest. Jesus taught the seventy, "*the labourer is worthy of his hire*" (Luke 10:7). John states that the ones who go forth sowing the seed of the kingdom, taking nothing from the Gentiles are to be received and assisted by the faithful (III John 5-7). "*We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow-helpers to the truth*" (III John 8).

Paul was appreciative of the Philippian brethren and wrote commending them for their "*fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; . . .*" (Phil. 1:5).

Jesus received physical assistance while he preached and so did Paul. We must have a greater interest in souls than we do in finances, but we cannot neglect financial responsibility. To neglect financial responsibility is to invite disaster and to place stumbling blocks in the harvest field.

Let all know that to assist those sowing the seed of the kingdom is a noble deed which will not go unnoticed by the Lord of the harvest. *He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward* (Matt. 10:41-42).

Conclusion

Fellowship in the furtherance of the gospel (Phil. 1:5); fellow-workers for the truth (III John 8); harvesting souls to the glory of God; what could be more rewarding. HARVESTERS--our task, our goal, our calling, may we make it sure.

1990 SUMMER SCHOOL SCHEDULE

There will be two classes this summer. Brother Newell will teach a class on the *Inter-testamental Period* and brother Stearsman will teach *Basic Logic*.

The sessions will begin May 29, 1990 and end July 26, 1990. There will be no classes the week of July 4, 1990. Each class will meet once per week, and each class will be in the evening. Classes will be from 7:00 to 9:30. *Basic Logic* will meet on Tuesday and *The Intertestamental Period* will meet on Thursday.

For further information or assistance please write or call the office:

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1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33803
☞ (813) 683-4043

RECRUITING

Many of our readers are very supportive of our work. One of the greatest expressions of appreciation you may offer is to put us in contact with men who are willing to prepare themselves to preach.

Have you sent us a preacher lately? If you do not feel qualified to talk with them let us know, we may miss an opportunity of eternal consequence.

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING

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