

# The Harvester



## Preparing Souls

## To Serve The Lord



Volume 32

December 2011

Number 5



### Jackson Bonnet Completing His Studies

Brother Bonnet is originally from Cayes/Torberck, Haiti, before coming to the United States in July 2008. He began training to become a Roman Catholic priest in 2004. He was converted to Christ February 28, 2009, less than a year before enrolling in the Florida School of Preaching. Not only did his conversion to Christ place him in harmony with the Lord's will concerning religious doctrine, it also put him in harmony with the Lord's will concerning marriage (Gen. 2:18)! He married Shantil, who was a member of the Dean Road congregation in Jacksonville, Florida on April 29, 2010. They have two children. His plans after completing his studies is to find a full-time preaching work. He would also like to help congregations in Haiti as opportunity presents itself. May the Lord continue blessing him and all who labor in the Gospel of Christ!

## “Do You Understand the Local Church?” A Preview of Our 2012 Lectureship Book

By Brian R. Kenyon

The church of Christ was established on the first Day of Pentecost following the Lord's resurrection (Acts 2:1-41). The word “church,” as it relates to the body of Christ, is used two ways in Scripture: (1) as the universal body of Christ, including all members in every part of the world (Mt. 16:18); and (2) as a local body of Christ, identified by its ownership (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:2), by its location (Gal. 1:2; Rev. 2:8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7), or by those of whom it consists (Rom. 16:4; 1 Cor. 14:33; Col. 4:16). This “local body” aspect of the church is the focus of this coming lectureship and book.

When studying the Biblical doctrine of the church (sometimes called “Ecclesiology”), it is often easy to overlook the church of Christ on the local level. There is great attraction (and value) in analyzing the rich and sweeping passages that paint the beauty of the universal body of Christ, such as that which Jesus promised in Matthew 16:18-19 or as Paul expounded in his epistles to the Ephesians and Colossians. However, a serious look at what the Bible has to say about the local church often falls through the cracks.

The church of Christ is the final manifestation of God's kingdom this side of eternity (Mt. 16:18-19, 28; Mk. 9:1; Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:1-41, 47 cf. Col. 1:13; 1 Thes. 2:12; Heb. 12:28; Rev. 1:9). Christ's universal church, or kingdom, will never die (Dan. 2:44; Mt. 16:8—“the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”). Unfortunately, however, local churches of Christ die or disband far too often. Why is this? Could it be that members of those churches do not understand the local church as God ordained and established it? Usually, if people know better, they will do better; unless, of course, they are completely apathetic for the cause of Christ. This lectureship and book seek to eliminate

the excuse of ignorance by pointing to Biblical principles and practical applications that will keep local churches living, active, and desirous of planting more local churches in view of eternity.

The majority of this book will contain the sermon manuscripts that will be preached January 16-19, 2012. The first section will focus on the local church as God brought it from his eternal purpose to an established institution upon this earth for the benefit of humanity. The second section will deal with practical aspects of how humanity is to function within the local church, beginning with the understanding of Christ's complete sovereignty over the local church, continuing with how that translates into fulfilling the various roles of functions within the local church, and concluding with a study of practical insights from some key congregations featured in the New Testament. The third section will contain our afternoon forums, which will examine functional issues and the local church; factors that can make local churches weaker or stronger; preaching and the local church; and local churches and evangelism.

This book will be a valuable source on an often overlooked subject, whose understanding or lack of understanding has serious ramifications both in this life and in the life to come. We urge each reader to seriously consider and study the material that will be presented so that we "be...not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" concerning the local church of Christ (Eph. 5:17). May the Lord bless all who will read and apply the God-given principles contained within the pages of our 2012 lectureship book!

**Mission work should never be thought of as some casual trifle that can be dropped when considered inconvenient. It represents the front lines of a war with an enemy that does not rest. Such a work cannot be done effectively without support for the workers. A missionary must have the funds and the tools he needs on the field. Do not expect him to make all the sacrifices. If he is worth anything, he is already making many sacrifices. If he has been on the field for any length of time, he has given things of which few are aware. He made sacrifices just in preparations to go into the field. Help from faithful brethren enables him to keep the work going as strong as possible. The battle continues to the end of time. The support must continue as well.** (excerpt from William Howard's "Taking the Gospel to the Masses")

**Appreciation Dinner to Be Held  
Tuesday, January 17, 2012**

The school will host its first annual appreciation dinner on the Tuesday night of our next lectureship. The school's board of directors decided that this would be a more expedient way to show our appreciation to our boosters as well as to let others know about the work of the Lord through the school. Please call or email the office today to RSVP! We will have genuine, Florida style Bar-B-Que, cooked by some of our very own! We are asking that participants make a donation of \$10.

**The Harvester**

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**Special Gifts:** Atlantic Christian Fund.

\*Our final deposit for the month is usually made on the last Wednesday of the month. All contributions received after that time are reported on the next month's financial statement.



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# Florida School of Preaching

1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803 ✦ (800) 320-9780

## “Do You Understand the Local Church?”

37th Annual Lectureship **Jan. 16-19, 2012** Brian R. Kenyon, Director



Joseph DeBose



Steve Vice

### MONDAY

9:00 The Local Church in Reality Teral Walker  
 9:40 The Local Church in God’s Purpose Jackie M. Stearsman  
 10:20 BREAK  
 10:50 Christ’s Authority Over Local Churches (Rev. 1) Sam Hester  
 11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Functional Issues And The Local Church

1:30 What Is Local Church Autonomy? Bruce Daugherty  
 2:00 Abuses of Local Church Autonomy David Stearsman  
 2:30 Church Cooperation and Autonomy Sam Hester  
 3:00 BREAK  
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
 4:30 DINNER  
 6:30 Congregational Singing  
 7:00 Insights from the Church at Jerusalem Keith Cozort  
 7:45 Revealing God’s Manifold Wisdom Eric Dawkins, Sr.

### TUESDAY

9:00 The Godhead’s Role in Local Churches Steve Atnip  
 9:40 Apostles and Prophets in First Century Local Churches Earl D. Edwards

10:20 BREAK  
 10:50 Christ’s Complete Knowledge of Local Churches (Rev 2-3) Brooks Boyd  
 11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Weaker Or Stronger Local Church?

1:30 Elderships and Shepherding the Flock Johnie Scaggs  
 2:00 Scriptural or Unscriptural Practices? Bruce Daugherty  
 2:30 Stable or Unstable Members? Eric Dawkins, Sr.  
 3:00 BREAK  
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
 4:30 DINNER  
 6:30 Congregational Singing  
 7:00 Insights from the Church at Antioch British Carlton  
 7:45 The Local Church in Three Figures Jimmy Clark



Chad Tagtow



Logan Summers



Jackie Stearsman

### WEDNESDAY

9:00 Each Member’s Role in a Local Church Joseph DeBose  
 9:40 Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers in the Local Church Today Earl D. Edwards  
 10:20 BREAK  
 10:50 Christ’s Demands for Local Churches to Repent (Rev. 2-3) Jimmy Clark  
 11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Preaching And The Local Church

1:30 From Where Do Preachers Come? Rick Kenyon  
 2:00 Taking Heed to Self and Doctrine Mike Elledge  
 2:30 Preaching What Is Profitable Freddie Clayton  
 3:00 BREAK  
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
 4:30 DINNER  
 6:30 Congregational Singing  
 7:00 Insights from the Church at Corinth Benjamin L. Radford, Sr.  
 7:45 Importance of Local Church Membership Billy Lambert

### THURSDAY

9:00 Deacons Serving Well Chad Tagtow  
 9:40 Women in Local Church Development Billy Lambert

10:20 BREAK  
 10:50 Christ’s Promises to Local Churches Who Overcome (Rev. 2-3) Melvin Otey  
 11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Local Churches And Evangelism

1:30 Evangelistic Insights from Paul Jackie M. Stearsman  
 2:00 Personal Work in the 21st Century Steve Vice  
 2:30 Taking the Gospel to the Masses William Howard  
 3:00 BREAK  
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
 4:30 DINNER  
 6:30 Congregational Singing  
 7:00 Insights from the Churches of Galatia Logan Summers  
 7:45 A Local Church with Proper Direction Melvin Otey



Earl Edwards



Mike Elledge



Sam Hester



William Howard



David Stearsman



Johnie Scaggs



Ben Radford, Sr.

concerning the local church is beneficial in any climate. Study and learn about these important topics among others who love God, His word, and the fellowship we have with one another. Understanding the local church will help us better glorify God!



Melvin Otey



Billy Lambert



Rick Kenyon

**Broadcast Live at [www.fsop.net](http://www.fsop.net)**

Come join us for this important study! Central Florida is a great place to be in January! Not only is the weather usually nicer than elsewhere in the country, but even more importantly, a study of God’s word

Obtain a copy of our 2012 book: **Do You Understand the Local Church? . . . . . \$16**

A new CD containing all our lectureship books (1994-2012) plus other FSOP works will be available by January. Reserve your copy for \$35 by emailing ([fsop@fsop.net](mailto:fsop@fsop.net)) or calling the office (800) 320-9780!



### Previous Lectureship Books Still Available:

- Do You Understand the Biblical Value of Women? ('11)
- Do You Understand Expediency? ('10)
- Do You Understand Restoring the Erring? ('09)
- Do You Understand the Biblical View of Man? ('08)
- Do You Understand the God of the Bible? ('07)
- Do You Understand Restoration? ('06)
- Do You Understand Church Growth? ('05)

**Each Is Just \$16.00**  
postage included!

**Early Lectureship Specials: entire set of 15 available books \$100 or buy any 3 books and get 1 free!**

*Join us in January for this beneficial study! We must take seriously our role in strengthening the local church of which we are members! This study is a crucial step in that direction!*

# Spring 2011 Semester Begins Jan. 2

Register on-line, by calling the office, or by selecting classes from this form and mailing it to the office with your name, address, and phone number!

## Great Selection of Classes! Enroll Today, Full or Part Time!

Day	Time	Lakeland Classes	Instructor	Credit
Monday	__ 8:30-12:00	Life of Christ (117)	Davis	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	English II: Composition (125) (first year students)	Kenyon	3
		Greek II (223) or IV (272) (second year students)	Kenyon	3
Tuesday	__ 8:30-12:00	Denominational Dogmas I (131)	Stearsman	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Cults (252)	Bauer	3
Wednesday	__ 8:30-12:00	Preacher and His Work II (108)	Stearsman	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Holy Spirit (250)	Kenyon	3
Thursday	__ 8:30-12:00	Marriage and the Family (254)	Kenyon	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Missions I (255)	Wheeler	3
Friday	__ 8:30-12:00	Psalms (268)	Wheeler	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Isaiah and Jeremiah (113)	Elledge	3

Extension Classes				
Thursday	__ 6:00-8:30	Gospel of John (227) (Orange Street church of Christ, Auburndale)	Bauer	2.5
	__ 7:00-9:30	Minor Prophets (246) (Wesconnett church of Christ, Jacksonville)	Atnip	2.5

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