

**MBC RADAR**

FEBRUARY 12, 2007

**MBC ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION  
OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

STEVE SHAPPLEY

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

SHANE MEREDITH

**TREASURER**

JOHNNY BECKWITH

**SECRETARY**

LES FERGUSON, SR.

**GREETINGS TO ALL ALUMNI**

Happy New Year to all our alumni! Well, it is a new year and it has started out with a bang. We have a new vice-president, Shane Meredith and a new secretary of the association, Les Ferguson, Sr. Johnny Beckwith will remain as the treasurer of the association. We are excited about the plans that have been discussed at the last meeting of the officers and you are a big part of those plans! We desire that every alumni be an integral part of the association and that we continue to work in the unity and spirit that has characterized us in the past. We need your input on how we can make this the best alumni association possible. You may ask, How can I help?

First, you can log on to the

Magnolia Bible College website at [www.magnolia.edu](http://www.magnolia.edu) and click on the Alumni section. There you will find a form to fill out about yourself. Please do this so we can update all the information that we have about our alumni. It will take only a few minutes and this information will help us in locating you. This is a valuable means of reaching out to our alumni - especially those who live far off from Kosciusko. You will also find a lot of information about the school on the website. This could be helpful if you direct a prospective student to MBC.

Second, come to the meetings of the alumni association. We plan on having an open meeting of the association around the time of the

benefit dinner in April and we also plan to have a meeting of all the alumni at the Lecture-ship in October. We value your input and this would be an ideal opportunity to give it. I will give you the dates and times of those meetings very soon.

Third, you will receive a letter in the mail soon about our scholarship fund and nomination for alumnus of the year. Please take the time to fill these items out and return them to us ASAP. I think the scholarship fund is one of the most promising and practical things that we can do to help MBC that we are doing. What better way to help the school than by helping to fund a scholarship for a deserving student at MBC? SLS

**THINGS I SHOULD MARK ON MY CALENDAR**

There are two upcoming events that you will probably be very interested in. One is the monthly preachers' meeting that is being held in Kosciusko, MS. This is open to all interested preachers and is currently being held on campus the last Monday of the month. However, for the month of Feb-

ruary the meeting will be held on the 19th which is the third Monday of the month. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. in the church building at South Huntington and finishes around 2:00 p.m. There is a guest speaker and lunch is provided. Make your plans to attend now. You will surely enjoy this time of

fellowship with brethren. Also, do not forget to mark on your calendar April 27, 2007. That will be the date for the 26th Annual Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction for MBC. Willard Scott will be the featured speaker and it will be a great time to catch up on all the news from around our alumni world.



*For the message of  
the cross . . . is the  
power of God.*

1 Cor. 1:18

The following article was printed recently in *The Magnolia Messenger*. It is by Travis Brown, Director of Admissions at MBC and one of our alumni. It is printed here in a condensed version with his permission. You can reach him at 662-289-2896 or at [tbrown@magnolia.edu](mailto:tbrown@magnolia.edu).

## What Happened To The Timothy Classes?

One of the things I enjoy about my position at MBC is getting to visit various congregations while seeking potential students. I often find myself talking with concerned Christians about the current status of the church. I witness those who are struggling to hold on. I hear about more and more congregations in need of preachers. I read of congregations closing their doors and no longer meeting. (The 2006 edition of Churches of Christ in the United States lists Mississippi as losing 5 churches since 2003. Alabama is listed as losing 7 and Louisiana is listed as losing 3 in that same 3 year period). Not just MBC, but all of our brotherhood colleges struggle to find students who wish to go into the ministry. What contributed to the current situation? What can be done to begin turning the trend around?

In my humble opinion, here is what I believe to be a major contributor. It seems to me that we have gotten away from encouraging and utilizing our young men the way we once did. I ask many of the churches I visit if they remember the days of the Timothy classes. I ask them if they remember how almost every adult in the church encouraged the young men to lead a song, lead a prayer, or help serve at the Lord's Table. I ask them if they remember those who used to say to the young men, "*You need to be a preacher one day.*" Sadly, they then nod their heads and reply, "*Yes, we remember when we USED to do that.*"

Could it be that we have overlooked some of the greatest assets we have in securing a strong, thriving church for the future? Could it be that in our pursuit of having "professional" preachers, teachers, and song leaders we have failed to use bright young minds in practical service during our worship services?

The Bible certainly has much to say about teaching, training, equipping and preparing our young people. Two well-known passages concerning this are Deut. 6:4-9 and Prov. 22:6. Two NT examples of the teaching and training of young men are Jesus (Lk. 2:41-50) and Timothy (2 Tim. 3:15). Though parental responsibility is cited or implied, the principle remains that there should be an emphasis on religious education. If the church does not provide this encouragement and opportunity, who will? How many more churches will close their doors in the next 3 years, 13 years, or 30 years?

To those who are concerned about the present status and are even more concerned about the future of the church, maybe it is time to re-think the Timothy class. Though a little dated, Jack Exum's book, *Let's Have A Timothy Class*, from Star Bible Publications still gives some practical suggestions and incentives for such a class. Whether modeled after the one in the book or one developed by the congregation itself, such a program can have effects that will echo through eternity.

To my fellow alumni, may God bless you in your endeavors in the Kingdom. May you be a beacon of brightness in a world of darkness. To my preaching friends, may you always proclaim with all boldness and compassion the whole counsel of God. In addition to your work in the pulpit, perhaps you can have the determination to help bring up those young people in your congregation to be the church of tomorrow. Pray for them. Use them. Encourage them.

Help us at MBC to continue to give that which you have received – a sound Bible education. We truly need students who can be prepared to enter some of those pulpits that are emptying out. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the opportunities that MBC has to offer, just let me know. Only eternity will tell what kind of impact can be made by someone that YOU helped come to MBC. Let's work together to prepare preachers and train teachers.