

# THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

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## **FOREST HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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### **Elders:**

Anthony D. Callahan  
Floyd M. Hayes  
Harold D. Mangrum  
Leonard Watson

### **Minister:**

Barry M. Grider

## **VISIT US SOON!**

### **Sunday:**

Bible Study..... 9:30 A..M.  
Morning Worship.. ...10:30 A.M.  
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

### **Wednesday:**

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

## **HOME OF MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING**

### **Missions Supported:**

Memphis Hispanic Ministry  
Kakinada, India  
Manila, Philippines  
Murmansk, Russia  
Far East/World Evangelism  
In Search of the Lord's Way

Volume 32

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Number 02

## **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

Barry M. Grider

This past Sunday was a glorious day! The weather was mild for the middle of winter. The sun shining brightly was a marvelous reminder of how God has smiled upon our congregation for 45 years. Truly the Knight Arnold/Forest Hill church of Christ has been blessed and we pray that the blessings bestowed will continue.

A "homecoming" is always a splendid occasion. I knew this was true this past Lord's day as so many arrived exchanging warm handshakes and hugs. So many times I overheard the following, "How long has it been since...?" and "Do you remember when...?" No one could have enjoyed the day more than David B. Looney, minister of the Bolivar, Tennessee church of Christ. Not only does brother Looney's roots run deep with this congregation, but he also served as the associate minister for six years (1986-1992). His remarks during the Bible class hour stirred so many emotions, especially as he reflected upon the history of the congregation and brought to memory the names of so many who played such vital roles in building up this church.

Brother Paul Sain, evangelist of the East Hill church of Christ in Pulaski, Tennessee, and long time friend of Knight Arnold/Forest Hill, preached a powerful and motivating message during the worship period entitled, "*Standing On Their Shoulders.*" Brother Sain reminded us of how important it is not to rest on our laurels, but to go forward meeting the challenges and opportunities of the future.

It was good at the conclusion of the service to recognize the charter members, the ones who first met together on January 11, 1959 on the Mincey Farm, just off Knight Arnold Road. Likewise, all those who have placed membership since the relocation to Forest Hill, were asked to stand. Since no congregation can rise higher than the vision of its leadership, it was good to honor past and present elders. Among the former elders who were in attendance: James Bobbitt, Bert Embry, D.H. Kirby, Arthur Lee, and Jerry Lee. Brother Floyd Hayes, on behalf of the present elders, which include, Hayes, Tony Callahan, Harold Mangrum, and Leonard Watson, reminded us of past accomplishments for the cause of Christ and the need to continue being "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (1 Cor. 15:58). Before we dismissed for the luncheon, brother Glen Wilson, who served as song director of the congregation for 27 years, led "*God Be With Us Till We Meet Again.*"

Later, during the fellowship meal, it was a privilege to present a bouquet of roses to sister Sue Whitaker, the widow of the great Knight Arnold pulpit preacher, E.L. Whitaker, Jr. The strength of a congregation can often be determined by its pulpit. Brother Whitaker powerfully wielded the Spirit's Sword during his 33-year tenure as this congregation's evangelist. Also, brother Curtis Cates, able director of the Memphis School of Preaching, spoke of the tremendous work the congregation undertakes training men to preach the gospel. Finally, brother D.H. Kirby was honored for his 41-year service as one of our shepherds. A historic occasion, indeed!

To all members I express my grateful appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Lord in this place. Your dedication to the Lord and His one true church is truly amazing. May we build on past accomplishments and may we always say, "*To God Be The Glory—Great Things He Hath Done.*"

**MABUHAY MISSION**  
**Newsletter of Evangelistic Work in the Philippines**  
 Gideon C. Rodriguez

Mabuhay and a blessed New Year to all of you! I write this letter having just returned from a three-day trip to Lucena City, Quezon Province, my birthplace (140 kilometers south of Manila) to visit with my four brothers and one sister who live there. My family and I spent New Year's Eve there and also celebrated my youngest son Jotham's 10th birthday.

Highlights of the work in the last quarter of 2003 are as follows:

- Debate with a Muslim defender on October 5. I defended the proposition that the Bible is the inspired Word of God in a four-hour discussion attended by members of the Lord's church, some denominational friends, and about 30 Muslim leaders and followers, one of whom serves the President of the Philippines as adviser on Muslim affairs. **Ustadz Ahmed Barcelon** tried to negate my arguments in favor of the Bible. The discussion was audio recorded, tapes of which have been distributed to certain congregations and individuals. **Rolly Nusca**, Muslim leader in Quezon City has phoned me several weeks ago asking me to have another discussion with their apologist who this time wants to defend the Qu'ran. Arrangements are still being finalized for the next debate.
- Finished the draft for the Greek-Tagalog Analytical Interlinear New Testament, in November. For about six months, I have served as Translator-Drafter for this project of the Philippine Bible Society. In this work, every word in the Greek New Testament is given the closest equivalent in Tagalog (main Philippine language) and parsed (given its grammatical analysis). When published, this will be a valuable tool for those who would like to have a more in-depth and serious study of the New Testament.
- Set in book form the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the HIMIG, or Himnario ng Iglesia (Hymnbook of the Church.) Since 2000, I have been translating hymns into Tagalog and now the number has reached 259. While my target is some 500 songs, we have already seen the need to publish in book form a songbook that will be of use by brethren who feel more comfortable singing in their native tongue. The Capitol City church of Christ financed the printing of 150 copies. The previous editions of the songbook are being used by a good number of congregations in the provinces as well. The Capitol City church also hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Buklod Awit (Fellowship in Song) on December 8 wherein brethren from the Metro Manila area and nearby provinces joined together in singing hymns in Tagalog for one whole day.
- Participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Asian Bible Lectureship in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, December 1-4. This is an occasion of feasting on God's Word and fellowship with those who faithfully labor in the Lord's vineyard, especially those in the Asia-Pacific region. Thirty speakers spoke on the theme: Current Issues Affecting the Lord's Church. My assignment was Perversions of Modern Bible Versions. Traveling with me from the Philippines were brothers **Edward Manimtim** and **Arthur Pilayan**. We flew back to Manila on the 6<sup>th</sup>. I am especially thankful to my brethren who helped me in the expenses for the trip.
- Directed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Metro Manila School of Preaching Lectureship; December 9-11. Lectureship's theme was: "*Take Heed*" – *Divine Words of Caution.*" This series of study was graced by 5 preachers from the USA and 5 from the Philippines. American speakers who spoke twice each were: **Billy Bland**, **Ryan Tuten**, **Ronnie Scherffius**, **Matt Jagers**, and **Kirk Talley**. Filipino speakers were: **George Villanueva**, **Jann Dirk Dianmante**, **Edward Manimitim**, **Joel Lomboy**, and **Jozel Agular**. I also served as moderator for the daily open forum. Attending the lectureship were brethren from the Metro Manila area, and several

provinces, especially those who are supportive of the School. The evening sessions were used as gospel meetings, old and new contacts for home Bible studies were in attendance. The lecture-ship has been an encouragement for the Capitol City brethren and to those from the provinces.

In addition to and in between the above mentioned activities were (and are) my duties as minister to the Capitol City congregation and as director of the Metro Manila School of Preaching. This consisted in Lord's Day preaching and visitation especially the follow-up of contacts made during our last gospel campaign in September. As director, I took time to attend to the day-to-day operations of the school. I also found time to speak with some students who needed counseling relative to their studies. I did not take any teaching load this last quarter mainly because of my speaking engagements and translating work.

Six of our 20 students have completed their studies this academic quarter that ended on December 19. Except for one, all of them have still some paper work to do. We will include them in the commencement exercise scheduled to be held in May. Some more students will finish by then. Those who have finished this last December with their destinations are as follows:

1. Rey David Rodriguez – back to Lucena City, serving as preacher there with 6 members.
2. Jordan Floyd Peralta – is back to Davao City, helping the church there.
3. Alfie Pakiway – back to Davao City, helping the church there.
4. Runnel Allonar – back to Davao City, seeking to work in another place.
5. Donairy Pascua – back to St. Tomas, Davao del Norte, preaching.
6. Eric Tajores – making arrangements to preach in Calasiao, Pangasinan.

The first academic term of the school year 2004 will begin on January 14. While six have left the School, two of our former students will return, and six new students will be coming, making our student population 22. This term I will be teaching Biblical Ethics (6 hours a week) and New Testament Greek I (3 hours/week).

Once again I wish to assure you that your support and prayers are much appreciated. May God continue to bless us as we remain in fellowship with the truth and for the truth of the gospel of Christ.

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
MEMPHIS, TN

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