

From the Desk of
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Dear Brethren:

Greetings to you from David B. and Kathy Jones. We pray you and your families are well and healthy on this first day of Spring. We pray also your work in the Lord is going well. We have had a very cold winter and we are anticipating a warm-up and the beautiful colors of Spring in the Smokie Mountains.

It has been a longer while than usual since we have communicated with you. We apologize for that. We have spoken to and seen some of you over the past few months, but for the majority, we have not communicated. Forgive us and we will do better at staying in touch.

The work at TCSOP&CD is going so well. My role as Dean of Public Relations continues to expand with each passing week. We have had several occasions to promote the school with the media items we use. We just completed a two-week excursion that saw us drive to central Virginia for a men's retreat March 4-5. We returned home and preached here at Shady on the 5th. We left that evening and drove to Jacksonville, AL for a lectureship through that Thursday night. We made several good contacts, renewed past friendships, and actually physically reported at one of our supporters. On that following Sunday (12th) we started a Gospel Meeting in Fall Branch, TN in an effort to help a struggling congregation grow. The meeting went well, with the brethren exceeding their attendance goals each service. They had done a good bit of background work so together with them and us, God was glorified greatly. In all, we drove more than 1,700 miles along the way.

At the present time we are teaching a distant learning class on Thursday nights at 7:00 – 9:00 PM eastern time from TCSOP. The subject of the class is Bible Geography. We have approximately 30 students enrolled online with an additional five taking it in person. We are thoroughly enjoying teaching this important subject. This was our favorite class in preaching school when we attended. Now it is an honor to teach the class ourselves. We prepare approximately 100 PowerPoint slides per week. The preparation for the class usually takes at least 15 hours a week, if not more. When you combine this class with regular classes at TCSOP and then add in the time to teach and preach four lessons a week at Shady, this makes for a busy week. This keeps us moving all the time, but we are enjoying it immensely. We are also privileged to teach this class in the fall quarter to preacher students. Lord willing, next Spring and Summer quarters we will be honored to teach Minor Prophets I and Minor Prophets II through the distant learning classes!! This has been a dream of ours for a long time!! With God's grace and your financial help, this dream is becoming a reality!

The work on The Arise To Truth radio program continues to go well also. This program is presented live every Tuesday and Thursday at 2:00 eastern time. You may search Facebook or the internet to find a link for live audio and video sessions.

We would love for you to join us and encourage the members of the congregations where you attend to do so also.

We are teaching New Testament Introduction and Minor Prophets II in TCSOP this quarter. Next quarter, Lord willing, we will teach I & II Kings, I and II Chronicles, The Two Covenants in TCSOP.

Our lectureship will be held June 4-7 at Stoneycreek church of Christ. We will include an attachment of the schedule so you may see what type of lessons and speakers we have. Of course, if you are in the area, you would be an honored guest of ours. It will be streamed live as well, and we will get you the details in our next report. Stoneycreek elders are the overseeing elders of the TCSOP&CD.

Kathy is working part-time in the office at TCSOP. Kat had fifteen and one-half years' experience at MSOP as a secretary. She is secretary to our director, Bill Haywood. Kathy works with Vicky Manuel, long-time secretary at TCSOP&CD. Together they are a great team. Their working relationship and friendship are pictures of Christian ladies at their best. Kathy is loving the opportunity to work with Vicky, the staff and the students.

The work at Shady Valley church of Christ is also moving along very well. We have a gentleman from the community who has been attending the past few weeks. We have already opportunity to study with him one-on-one. He is seeing things from the Bible he says he never knew. Please pray for David Bennett and for us as we teach him the unsearchable riches of Christ. Please pray for Eloise Jenkins, a widow from Shady. She broke her hip bone a few weeks ago. She has already overcome breast cancer – twice in her life. Also, her husband passed away about six months ago. She is still in the rehab center in Mountain City. She is a sweet lady so please pray she gets to come back home and live by herself again, seeing how independent she is.

We start another Gospel Meeting this Sunday at Mountain City. The local preacher, Chuck Stewart, is an adjunct instructor of TCSOP and also a graduate. This is about thirty minutes from the house. Prayerfully, we will be able to teach and preach as we ought, bring glory to God. This will also be another opportunity to get the name of TCSOP out in public once again.

Our Gospel Meeting begins April 16 and goes through 19th. Wayne Jones will be here to preach the meeting. The sermons will be streamed live on our Facebook page and then archived for future study.

Without you these works would not be possible. Thanks very very much for trusting us to do the work of the Lord in these places. We pray God will continue to bless you in your works. You are welcome to contact us at any time if you have questions. You are also invited to come and see the work for yourselves. We just cannot express to you how much we love you for your work's sake. We continue to be indebted to you for your generosity.

Your fellow laborers in the Gospel,

David B. and Kathy Jones