

## News and Notes

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Kevin Brewer** - Jerry and Sherlene’s oldest son. Bladder cancer; surgery at Elk City, Tues., July 24.
- Danny Vaughan** - Jerry’s cousin in Ada, Okla., cancer (Multiple Myeloma)
- Danny Douglas** - Faithful preacher in Tennessee. Prostate cancer surgery.
- Paul Brantley** - Elder at Bellview, Pensacola, Fla. Heart damage and constant pain.
- Earlene Holley** - Sherlene’s mother. On hospice care In Elkwood Assisted Living.
- Janice Ruffner** - Roelf Ruffner’s wife, Columbia, TN. Blood clots, Fibromyalgia, Lung problems.
- Nancy Reed** - Various health issues.
- Patrick King** - Hemiplegic Migraine.
- Sandy Craig** - Ongoing kidney problems.
- Jo Ann McLerran** - COPD.
- Glenda Marble** - Lexington, Okla., Heart problems.
- Paul Marble** - Glenda Marble’s son. Recurrence of cancer, now doing well.
- Charles and Linda Pogue** - Congestive heart failure. Charles having dizzy spells.
- Nancy Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Von Hippel Lindau disease.
- Don Smith** - Brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

**OUR GOSPEL MEETING** - Northeast’s gospel meeting is only two weeks away, Aug. 5-9., with Ron Cosby preaching. Please take at least three flyers from the table in the foyer and mail them to friends and loved ones who are lost. If you have a Face Book page, please announce the meeting there. It is on the church’s page, so you can just copy and paste, or share. On Sunday, Aug. 5, we will have a dinner immediately following morning worship and meet for the afternoon worship at 12:25.

**PREACHING SUNDAY** - Earl Reed will preach at both worship assemblies this Lord’s Day.

**KENYA REPORT** - Contributing this week to the Kenya Fund were, the Berea church of Christ, Rives, Tenn.; and Jess and Terry Whitlock, Denison, Texas. The preacher boys are in session at Kalamindi. Veroon Wasonga is teaching the class on the book of Galatians.

Our building is located at East Avenue C and North Locust in Elk City, Oklahoma, one block east of Van Buren on Avenue C. You are invited to visit with us at any of our meeting times.

**Weekly Meeting Times**


Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....	9:30
Sunday Morning Worship.....	10:30
Sunday Afternoon Worship.....	5:00

**Visit Us on The Web**

**You Tube** - [www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ)

**Website** - [www.necocelkcity.com](http://www.necocelkcity.com)

**Face Book** - [www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok](http://www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok)



# Sound Doctrine

**“But speak thou the things that become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1)**

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## The Meroz School Of Preaching

**Jerry C. Brewer**

The city of Meroz, is mentioned only once in the Bible, subsequent to the battle in which Deborah and Barak defeated Jabin’s Canaanites led by Sisera (Judges 4). Meroz remained indifferent to the battle of God’s people, refusing to come to their aid, and in the song of victory by Deborah and Barak, they said, “Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty” (Judges 5:23). God could—and *did*—defeat the Canaanites without the help of Meroz, but the lesson is that if one claims to be a child of God, he *cannot* remain neutral in spiritual battles. If there was anything good that could be said about Meroz, it would be noted that they did not *actively oppose* the Lord’s people. They just *ignored* the battle.

On the other hand, *both* things can be said today of the Memphis School Of Preaching (MSOP) concerning Dave Miller. When Miller’s false doctrines became widely known in 2005, the MSOP administration, staff, and faculty jumped aboard his bandwagon, defending him and opposing faithful brethren who called for his repentance. Their claim was that brethren were being hateful to Miller because, according to them, he “had repented.” That claim is, of course, false. In all of Dave Miller’s public writings and pronouncements in the ensuing years since then, he has never once confessed sin or uttered the words, “I repent.”

Miller’s elevation to the directorship of Apologetics Press (AP) in 2005 brought him paeans from financial and prestigious interests—especially in Alabama. Miller, who had replaced Bert Thompson at AP amid objections from faithful brethren, was instrumental in the unscriptural elder reevaluation/reconfirmation process at Brown Trail in Ft. Worth in 1991. He also taught the false doctrine that two married people may divorce without the scriptural reason if they did not “intend” to marry—false teachings of which he has never repented.

Miller’s errors created a great schism in the church between those who opposed them, and those who defended him. Many of us who oppose his errors have pondered the great

paradox of his defenders, who in previous decades would have opposed such error, yet wink at his. After 13 years, the only logical conclusion is that there has arisen in the church a cabal whose interests are actually limited to funding their pet projects and not to the “faith once delivered.” Keith Mosher confirmed that, though he probably did not intend to do so, during the open forum in the Sunny Slope church’s lectureship in Paducah, Kentucky, July 15, 2006. His allegiance to “works” (pet projects) was evident when he said,

But these people are as vile a group—and I do mean vile—as I have ever read after in my life. I have never seen the kind of attitude they have. They want to destroy about nine good works in the brotherhood just prove a point. And I want to tell all of you in public. This isn’t about Dave Miller. This is not about Dave Miller. ...But if you’re going to believe some of these publications, you’re going to have a problem, because those brethren are lying to you.

His tirade against what he called a “vile” group was directed at men like Michael Hatcher, David P. Brown, Dub McClish, and others of us who have spoken and written against Miller’s errors. I find it strange that Mosher is more concerned with, “nine good works” than he is the faith once delivered. He also surmised evil against them saying, “This isn’t about Dave Miller,” and attributing their motives to an attempt to destroy “nine good works.” What those “nine good works” were, he never explained, but it would probably not be far amiss to say that one of them is Apologetics Press.

On May 24, 2005 Bert Thompson was fired as director of AP and Dave Miller was appointed to replace him. That announcement was made one week later in an “open letter” from the elders Palm Beach Lakes church. The motley combination of a board of directors and elder oversight of AP (a thing unknown in the New Testament) was noted in that letter which stated, “For the past eighteen months, the eldership of the Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ has overseen the work of Dr. Bert Thompson and Apologetics Press. With great sorrow, on May 24, 2005, this eldership supported the Board of Directors when they terminated Dr. Bert’s association with A.P.” Along with the letter was a plea for financial support, which included the following statement:

We, the undersigned, wish to announce that we have complete confidence that Apologetics Press is on a firm footing that will insure its continued work of excellence. We commend AP to the brotherhood and recommend that it continue to be the recipient of financial and moral support. Jody Apple, Tom Holland, Basil Overton, V. P. Black, Dale Hubbert, Kevin Patterson, Maxie Boren, Wayne Jackson, Max Patterson, Ted Bureson, Dan Jenkins, Denny Petrillo, Curtis Cates, Jeff Jenkins, David Pharr, Frank Chesser, Jerry Jenkins, Neal Pollard, Winford Clairborne, Edwin Jones, Jason Roberts, Bill, Clary, John Kachelman, Jr., David Sain, Glenn Colley, Andy Kizer, Paul Sain, Marlin Connelly, Drew Kizer, Phil Sanders, Jim Dearman, Scott Lambert, Billy Smith, Earl Edwards, Roy Lanier, Jr., Lonnie Smith, Raymond Elliott, Mac Lyon, Robert Taylor, Barry Gilreath, Cliff Lyons, James Watkins, Barry Grider, Gary McDade, Allen Webster, Dennis Gullledge, Don

McWhorter, Chuck Webster, Ronnie Hayes, Joseph Meador, Dan Winkler, David Hester, James Meadows, Wendell Winkler, Alan Highers, Tom Miller, William Woodson, Sean Hochdorf, Hardeman Nichols, Gary Workman. (*Open Letter to Contributors and Friends of Apologetics Press*, Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ, West Palm Beach, Fla., May 31, 2005).

The late Curtis Cates was director of MSOP when he signed the letter of support, while claiming he opposed Miller’s doctrines. Since that time, MSOP directors who succeeded him—Bobby Liddell and current director, B. J. Clarke—have also defended Miller. Barry Grider, preacher at Forest Hill in Memphis, and teacher in MSOP, also signed it. Robert Taylor and Garland Elkins publicly stated their opposition to reevaluation and reaffirmation of elders, but Taylor continues to remain silent about Miller and his false doctrines, and Garland Elkins uttered not another word before his death. After actively opposing those who exposed Miller’s false doctrines, MSOP may now be properly characterized as the “Meroz School Of Preaching.”

At the beginning of the controversy, they had ample opportunity to discuss these matters in an all-day open forum conducted Feb. 28, 2006 during the Annual Contending For The Faith Spring Lectureship in Spring, Texas. The Spring elders, Kenneth D. Cohn and Buddy Roth, planned the forum on that date to bring brethren together and openly discuss Miller and his doctrines, and contracted with the Online Academy of Biblical Studies (OABS) to provide internet coverage of the forum. They publicly invited the following to participate in the forum and discuss the issues: Miller and his staff at AP; the Palm Beach Lakes elders; the administration and faculty of MSOP; the elders of the Forest Hill church in Memphis who oversee MSOP, and their preacher; the Bellview church’s elders and their preacher from Pensacola, Fla.; elders and preacher of the Roanoke, Texas church; Frank Chesser, Montgomery, Ala.; elders and preacher of the Southside church in Lubbock, Texas; Dub McClish; the Southwest elders and director of the Southwest School of Biblical Studies (SWSBS) in Austin, Texas; Ken Ratcliff, elder of the Schertz, Texas church and board member of *The Gospel Journal*; and David Watson, preacher and elder, Sapulpa, Okla. (*Contending For The Faith*, Jan., 2006, p. 5). Of the approximately 40 individuals invited, only three accepted. To further silence Miller’s critics, OABS Director Tom Bright and the overseers of OABS, Edgar Schultz and Bobby Diggs, elders of the Phillips Street church in Dyersburg, Tenn., reneged on their commitment to provide internet coverage of the forum only 24 hours before it was scheduled. And to this day, the powers that be—and their fellow travelers—in the OABS/MSOP/SWSBS/AP/TGJ cabal, continue to stand in silence beside Miller and his errors in violation of Second John 9-11.

“Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty” (Judges 5:23).