



MOGA

Mercies of God Association

SPRING, 2016

ISSUE SEVEN

Newsletter

ASK THE LORD FOR RAIN IN THE **SPRINGTIME**; IT IS THE LORD WHO SENDS THE THUNDERSTORMS. HE GIVES SHOWERS OF RAIN TO ALL PEOPLE, AND PLANTS OF THE FIELD TO EVERYONE.

Zechariah 10:1

FOCUS: TRAINING THE
NEXT GENERATION
FOR MINISTRY

“The Schools of the Prophets”—*train them in the Word of God!*

At our December MOGA Board meeting our devotional was on the Old Testament “Schools of the Prophets”. This is seldom discussed today in many evangelical circles, but tucked away in the book of 1 Samuel is the story of the rise of the “*schools of the prophets*”. You may have also heard them called by some other names such as the *band* of the prophets, or the *company* of the prophets, but we will use the most popular title, “the schools of the prophets” here.

These schools appear to have arisen after the moral and spiritual decline of Eli and his sons. Eli the priest had sons who were wicked yet were in ministry. There needed to be better training of young men and it is thought that this was the origins of an

alternative—*school of the prophets*. Samuel was involved in these new schools as the primary first leader for the purpose of training young men in the Word of God.

1 Samuel 10:5, 10; 1 Samuel 19: 18-21

We should study these texts in First Samuel and other places and we will see that we can summarise what these schools were doing in four ways:

1. They existed to train future leaders in the Law of God-- His Word
2. They existed to help future leaders study and know the history of God’s people the Israelites—to know the stories of those who have gone before them
3. They existed to train future leaders in sacred music—worship principles and practices

4. They existed to mentor as a community the spiritual development and formation of these young leaders—to grow in holiness, true spirituality, and discernment in living out the commands of the Lord

This is what we still need today!

As I reflect upon these purposes I want to tell you that is what we need today for our future Christian leaders. We need to train them in the confidence and knowledge of the Holy Scripture which will make them wise and ready to give God's answer to the world. It is God's truth that MUST be communicated from generation to generation.



Future Christian leaders must know about the lives of the saints who have gone before them. You can call this church history or Christian biography but leaders today must be trained and inspired and warned by the stories of God's people throughout all the ages. Next year will be 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door in Wittenberg, Germany. We must talk about his courage and his faith, generation to generation and this will keep our leaders on the right road.

Future leaders must be trained in good worship principles and practices and reminded of the great musical traditions of the Christian church just like in the old schools of the prophets in Samuel's day. As I travel around numerous bible colleges the ones which are often the strongest are the ones who are

singing their theology--yes, singing good solid biblical theology and giving praise to God. Praise is the great tool to learn biblical truth.

Modern schools of the bible or theology must mentor as a community the students for maturity of Christian character. Bible colleges exist for more than students gaining facts of knowledge about the Bible and theology. They also should be the place where deeper relationships are cultivated for the purposes of spiritual growth and maturity. This was Samuel's great contribution through these schools of the prophets in the Old Testament. Samuel was helping these young leaders develop a spiritual and moral compass and that is what is still needed today otherwise we will see many graduate with a weak spiritual and moral compass and lead the church in lukewarmness.

In summary, as I have meditated upon these Old Testament schools of the prophets I have seen schools still committed today to training young leaders mentally and spiritually. All is not lost, the work does go on. We at MOGA are committed to getting the Word of God out whether by radio or sermon audio or in bible colleges patiently teaching the word to future leaders.

So now let me tell you a little about some modern Schools of the Prophets where the Lord has taken us recently to disciple and help train young leaders and see that the baton is passed on faithfully to the next generation.

In November each year we are involved with a graduate programme of teaching students coming from about ten African countries. What an amazing thing to have students in front of you from Southern Sudan, Kenya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda. They have come together as schools of the prophets for today. This school in Uganda where we were teaching in

November is doing what needs to be done again as in Samuel's day: to challenge the moral and theological slackness which has come to many institutions and to



stand for the right path. I see leaders studying here who will lead the African Church into the truth of the scriptures without compromise morally and spiritually. As I listen to their stories, I hear of faithfulness. One student has to live in exile in Egypt because of persecution in his home land of Sudan, another cannot return to Eritrea, another tells us about witnessing executions in his country of his own family members. The stories go on and on.

Yes, the locations may have changed, they are no longer the Old Testament names of Ramah, Gibeah, Bethel, and Jericho but today they are Kampala, King Williams's Town, Nairobi, Windhoek, and other places. The work of teaching and training the next generation in the faithfulness of the Word, and in the stories of inspiration and of warning, and in Biblical worship, and in spiritual mentorship, must continue. We at MOGA are committed to seeing modern schools of the prophets reach the next generation and do all that we can to help them contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Some of our students are also involved now in doing radio ministries across Africa. This is just wonderful.

So the Old Testament schools of the prophets of Samuel's day can still be found today and we are excited at MOGA that we are part of

helping to train the next generation of leaders who will stand for the Word and proclaim it, who will be inspired and give warnings and walk in Biblical patterns of Christian worship. Please pray for MOGA as we endeavour to be faithful in all these ministries.

*Dr. Jack,
MOGA Overseas Director*

Airing Stations

We are happy to announce that Mercies of God Daily is airing on the following Stations:

- Flint, MI - WSNL AM 600/FM 106.5 - 10:00 AM EST - Monday through Friday - www.wsnlradio.com
- New Orleans, LA - WVOG AM 600 - 11:30 AM CST - Monday through Friday
- Jackson, MS - WTWZ AM 1120 and soon FM 102.5 - 11:15 AM CST - Monday through Friday - www.wtwzradio.com
- Spokane, WA - KTW AM 630 and soon FM 96.5 - 11:30 AM PST - Monday through Friday - To listen via your android or smartphone, please download LBS which is out of Spokane.

Liz Diemer – Newsletter Coordinator

Liz grew up in a Christian family in Grand Rapids.

She became involved in the work of MOGA because her family and Steve Nortier are members of the same congregation.

Currently Liz is a student at Grand Rapids Community College. She shared that she would very much appreciate the prayers of others that God will open the path of her life and show her clearly what she is to do with her gifts and training. She hopes that her experience at MOGA will help her to discern this calling. Her goal is to become an art major at Kendell College.

Liz has some goals for the MOGA Newsletter too now that she is the coordinator of it. She says that she hopes the newsletter can

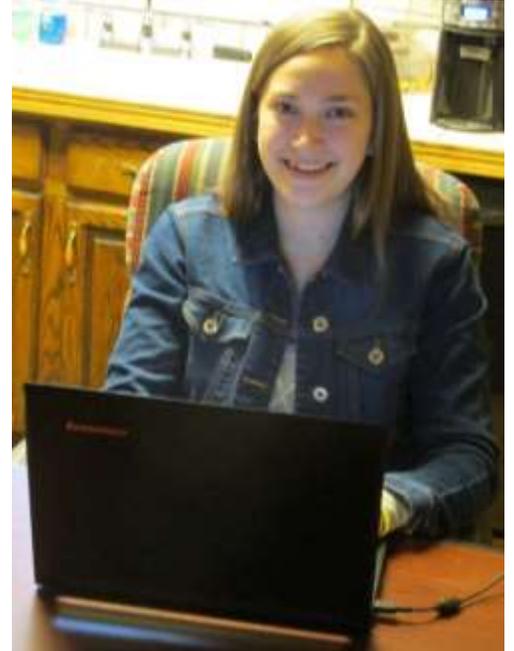
reach the younger population in the way it is presented and also by increasing the electronic distribution of it through social media.

In that regard, Liz has requested that current newsletter subscribers **send her email addresses** of people that might be interested in receiving the MOGA newsletter. She requests that **the name and state or province** of the person also be included.

You can email Liz at:

rascal.rocks.liz@gmail.com.

Please pray for Liz and for the distribution of the newsletter that her efforts will bless and encourage many over the coming months.



WORDS OF THANKS

Many of our Board members have been busy collecting men's ties for Africa. These ties are sold at Bible Colleges in South Africa and the proceeds are used for library development. We want to thank all of the Board members who worked hard to make our most recent shipment a success. This effort is all part of the training of future leaders who take the WORD OF GOD to all nations. Please continue to pray that the "schools of the prophets" will develop – even from such humble efforts as men's ties.

Special thanks also to Mr. Stephen Nortier, son of Rev. Peter Nortier, for his large heart in this ministry and for encouraging so many to use their gifts for the extension of the kingdom. His example has blessed all of us and we hope that readers will continue to pray for Stephen as he carries on with his many responsibilities in Christian radio and beyond.

ONE GENERATION SPEAKS TO ANOTHER... and in different languages!

In our last issue (number 6), we introduced our readers to Yvette. Yvette Landreneau has been faithfully working away at uploading Pastor Nortier's sermons onto sermon audio. Not only does this ministry bless many in the United States, it is also reaching many in places where Christian radio is not readily available.

Dr. Whytock has been busy training students in Africa to work as translators. The blessings of translation are many, but one key aspect is that today's students can listen to sermons from present and past preachers of the Word of God and translate these in order to minister to people in their own language.

Please pray that as the students develop as translators, the Lord will bless them as they make use of sermon audio to bless a new generation with the preaching of those who have already gone to glory, such our MOGA's founder, Rev. Peter Nortier.

Please also pray for Yvette as she continues to labour in the important ministry of uploading Pastor Nortier's sermons.

We regret that we forgot to include Yvette's photo last month.

Hopefully this photo to the right will encourage you to pray for her in the months ahead. Yvette has also agreed to help with the Newsletter and we very much appreciate her willingness to support the ministry in any way possible. Praise the Lord!



Popular Sermon Titles by Pastor Nortier

(available on Sermon Audio and in print)

www.sermonaudio.com or contact Yvette for print copy at:

landreneau63@hotmail.com

- God's Message to the World
- The Days of Noah – We are Living in the Last Days
- The Work of Godin Predestination – Man Put in the Dust Before God
- Witnesses of Repentance
- Sovereign Anger of the Lord

Comments from our listeners...

God's Message to the World

"Strong sermon! Brother Peter does an excellent job of laying out the path to salvation through Jeremiah. I learned much about the trial and reward of Jeremiah's preaching" South Carolina

Witnesses of Repentance

"Great sermon! This has to be one of the finest messages I have ever heard in my life! Everyone should listen to this." Fairborn, Ohio

Contact Us:

Mercies of God Association

1553 Knapp St NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan

49505

General email: Dr. Jack - jcwhytock@gmail.com

Sermon information: Yvette - landreneau63@hotmail.com

Want to be added to our e-newsletter? Liz - rascal.rocks.liz@gmail.com

"The Word of the Lord remains forever."

1 Peter 1:25