

# A More Sure Word



## A Publication of the Tri-Cities School of Preaching

December 2009

### Clifford Newell Moves

We are sorry to announce that Clifford Newell has moved to Mobile, Alabama. He will be greatly missed in this area. His work in the Virginia-Tennessee region was well known.

He had preached for the East Bristol Church of Christ for thirteen years. He helped on the *Arise To Truth* radio program. He was always willing to do whatever he could for the glory of God.

He served as the Co-Director of the Tri-Cities School of Preaching. He did this with all of his heart. He was always looking for ways to help the school. He took pride in teaching Bible and Bible-related classes.

The students were very fortunate to have Clifford as an example of what a gospel preacher ought to be. He loves the truth. He teaches the truth, but most importantly he lives in harmony with the truth.

Clifford, we will miss you immensely. However, we wish for you and Diane the very best. All we can say is thank you so much for all that you have done to promote the cause of Christ.

Clifford and Diane will be a blessing to the church in Mobile, Alabama (Acts 20:32).

### Eddy Craft New Co-Director

With Clifford moving to Mobile, there is a need for a new Co-Director. We have chosen Eddy Craft to take his place. Eddy has been with the school full-time for four years.

He understands the ins and outs of the operation. He will serve in a very valuable way in helping to keep the school moving in the right direction. He will also serve as Dean of Students.

We ask for your prayers as we press on to serve the True and Living God. This is an important work.

### Three New Students

We are thrilled to have three new students. Gary Dull from Mocksville, North Carolina. Freddie Arnold from Mountain City, Tennessee and T.J. Gifford from Bluff City Tennessee (2 Tim.2:2).

T. J. is now preaching for the Mountain View Church of Christ in Bluff City. He is a graduate of the school. He has chosen to take third year classes. We are proud to have T.J. and Kimberly back in our area.

We hope that if you know of anyone who wants to attend a school of preaching that you will tell them about us. We need your help and prayers.

## **Candy Phillips Scholarship Fund**

We are saddened to announce that Candy Phillips, wife of Timothy Phillips (Dean of Instructors) passed from this life October 24, 2009. She is the daughter of Elva and Wesley Simons (Director of the school). Her death was totally unexpected. It has broken all of our hearts.

She was a very dedicated Christian. She loved God with all of her heart. Among her many loves was the Tri-Cities School of Preaching and Christian Development. All of the students knew that they were loved by her. They all loved her.

Literally hundreds of people showed up at the funeral home to comfort the family. The Phillips and Simons families want to thank all of you for your out-pouring of love. We are able to bear this great loss because of the strength that we have received from God and our brethren.

We have begun the Candy Phillips scholarship fund. Thus far, we have received over two thousands dollars to help train gospel preachers. Also one thousand dollars was given to help build our new building. Candy would be thrilled to know that she is helping to train gospel preachers to evangelize the world.

We rejoice for Candy who lived in such a way that she would be prepared when death came. She has received her wonderful promotion. We will miss her tremendously. However, her influence will live for many years.

### **Here is part of the obituary that appeared in the paper:**

**Candy Rosheen Simons Phillips**, of BLUFF CITY, Tenn., age 32, was carried very sweetly, softly and gently by angels into paradise on Oct. 24, 2009, at 5:32 p.m. She was a faithful member of Stoney Creek Church of Christ. She loved children and taught them the precious Word of God. Her good Christian influence reached many. She will live forever in Glory and in our hearts.

She is survived by her loving husband, Timothy H. Phillips; her mother and father, Elva and Wesley Simons; her sister, Karen and husband Travis Blevins; her niece, Brandi Blevins; her maternal grandmother, Gladys Cook; her paternal grandmother, Billie and husband Roy McGraw; her mother-in-law, Margaret Phillips; Eddy and Betty Craft and family; all her uncles, nieces and nephews; and her seven cats, Gracie, Butterball, Buttercup, Poot, Bubbles, Mittens and Molly, that she loved so dearly. Also, a host of friends and loved ones survive.

**We asked that In lieu of flowers, donations would be sent to the Candy Phillips Scholarship Fund, c/o of Tri-Cities School of Preaching, 1162 Highway 91, Elizabethton, TN 37643, for the training of gospel preachers.**

**We hope that you will donate to the Candy Phillips scholarship fund. The address has already been give in this article. The money will be used wisely to train gospel preachers.**

Paul said this: And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2). **We hope that you will plan every month to lay aside a certain amount of money to help train preachers.** There is a large shortage of preachers in our brotherhood. It will take all of us to fix this problem. Thanks in advance for your serious consideration of this matter. We appreciate all who have and who will help the school.

# Some Things That God Cannot Be

By Tim Phillips

I have heard misinformed brethren as well as other people say that God can do anything and be anything He so desires. They fail to realize that God cannot go against His nature and be the one true God of the universe. We will look at some things that God cannot be.

**God cannot be a liar.** “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began” Titus 1:2. God’s word is true on moral issues (Gal. 5:19-21). God’s word is truth according to John 17:17. God cannot change His mind on the day of judgment and let those who have violated His word enter into heaven. Why is this so? Because God cannot lie (Heb. 6:18). If God lets just one person into heaven that has violated His word, then He must let everybody else enter or be an untruthful God.

**God cannot be a respecter of person.** “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons” Acts 10:34. God gave the gospel to both the Jew and the Gentile according to Romans 1:16. The color of ones’ skin does not matter. It does not matter if one is rich or poor. It does not matter whether one is highly educated or cannot read or write. God gave the gospel to each and everyone. God does not want any to perish but all to come to repentance according to 2 Peter 3:9. When one obeys the gospel of Christ (Gal. 3:27), where all spiritual blessing are located (Eph. 1:3), then he becomes one in Christ and heirs according to the promise (Gal. 3:28-29).

**God cannot be the God of the dead.** “I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living” Mat. 22:32. The Sadducees wanted to know whose wife would this woman be in the resurrection since she was married to all seven brothers and now all of them were dead physically. Jesus said that the Sadducees did err not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God (Mat. 22:29). Jesus pointed out that in the resurrection one is not married nor given in marriage but are as the angels of God (Mat. 22:30). Then Jesus asked them if they had not read where God said that He was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This was said unto Moses as recorded in Exodus 3:6 when all three of the patriarchs were dead as far as the physical body but were still living because their souls are eternal.

**Director: Wesley Simons**  
**Co-Director: Eddy Craft**  
**Dean of Students: Eddy Craft**  
**Dean of Instructors: Tim Phillips**  
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## **Fund Raising Going Good**

**We have been busy trying to tell churches and individuals about our plans to build a new building to house the school of preaching. We plan, Lord willing, to build a 14,400 sq. ft. building. This facility will have offices and classrooms for the school. It will also have a radio and TV studio. We will be able to produce quality programming to be aired all over the world. We need this space very badly.**

**So far, we have raised \$105,000 in cash. We have money coming in regularly. We are setting up appointments with various congregations to tell them about our efforts. This information has been well received.**

**We have also been given a church building which we believe that we have sold. If the building sells for the \$400,000, which we have under contract with a potential buyer , we will clear about \$366,000. This will go a long way on the \$650,000 that we need to build our building.**

**When all is said and done, we are going to be about \$200,000 short. We hope that you will help on this project. We hope that you will contact us so that we can come and tell you about our exciting plans for the future.**

**This will help us carry out the great commission (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). Thanks for all of your help.**

**Tri-Cities School of Preaching  
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