

## CHAPTER I

### THE VISION

For as long as I can remember, I have had a feeling that “Sunday School” should be a much deeper experience than merely “subject related Bible study.” I’ve heard men say that they have been active in “church” all of their life, yet do not really know very much about the Bible and its contents. Now there’s nothing inherently wrong with a study of Biblical subjects: God’s Mercy; Who is our neighbor; Living a Christian life,; etc. But so many classes get bogged down in individual participants “ideas” rather than what the Bible actually teaches.

Beginning in my early years, I have read and studied the Bible, its whole story, its historical setting, its people. I felt that its profound message should be made available to all who care to partake of its infinite knowledge and truths.

With these thoughts in mind I began to explore avenues whereby this goal could be accomplished. I did not foresee myself as a teacher of this message but, rather as a facilitator of the idea. Therefore, I talked to several men at South Main, whom I respected as leaders, who could get such a program as this under way. Not a single one of them even got back to me to discuss the idea or to encourage its development. One was even hostile to the whole concept as contrary to our established Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School series. Being well versed in the old adage, “The best way to get into BIG TROUBLE is to be right at the wrong time,” I backed off and let the idea simmer for some months.

Sometime in the year 1988 I again started discussing this idea, first with one of the Adult Sunday School Department Directors, then with others. Receiving very little comment or encouragement I took the idea to Phil Martin, recently added to the staff as Administrator and Christian Education Director. Phil set up a meeting with me, himself and Betty McGary, the Minister of Adult Education to discuss the concept. They were both excited over such a study and asked me to develop a plan to present to the South Main Adult Education Council.

In attempting to develop a “plan” I talked to several others, my good friends Charles McRae, Bob McCollum and Jim Abrahams about such a Bible study

group as a Sunday Morning Class and I discovered that there was a real grassroots interest in the study of the Bible as a book. We worked together to formulate a plan to present to the Adult Education Council.

## CHAPTER II

### THE PLAN

The plan that we came up with was very simple. We would start a serious Bible study class for men, meeting during the Sunday School period.

The format was to start with a period of fellowship around cookies and coffee or whatever, as in other departments. This would give us the opportunity to meet all of those who came and to see that they were made a real part of the class.

This would be followed by a good old fashioned Gospel singing session, in order to get the men into the “Spirit” of the occasion. We would follow that with necessary announcements and go directly into Bible study, teaching the Bible as the “Book.” Our text book would be the Bible and various Commentaries by well known and credible authors.

We would have some type of class social activity each quarter in order that the members could get to know each other as individuals rather than just as class members.

I proposed using a teaching team of perhaps three different teachers whereby we would get varying styles of teaching, appealing to a larger group of men. The teachers would alternate on a monthly basis. When there were five Sundays in a given month we would use this Sunday to bring in a guest teacher of some renown in order to broaden our perspective and interest.

I felt that to be successful we would need to be a separate department, as we had already been rejected by other departments.

The Plan envisioned a class of men who would nurture and support each other through prayer, visitation and moral support. A little community of

people attempting to “Walk in His Steps.”

This was the basic plan that was presented to the Adult Education Council of South Main Baptist Church at its regular meeting in January 1989. I had the strong support of both Phil Martin and Betty McGary in that meeting. There was not a unanimous agreement that the Church needed such a program. It was felt by certain members that this start-up could severely damage existing classes, thus creating problems for the Church. Rosemary Crenshaw, a member of the Council, spoke up in favor of the Bible study plan and became a strong and influential backer. She and Phil Martin were quite instrumental in the final adoption of the concept. Later, because of her strong support for the idea of this class, the Men’s Bible Class elected Rosemary an Honorary member of the Class (without speaking rights!) Those knowing Rosemary will understand our exempting her right to speak for the class.

In order to allay fears that this class would have an adverse affect on present classes, I made a pledge to the Council that we would neither solicit nor proselyte any man who was presently on the rolls of an existing South Main Sunday School Class, excepting the four key people involved in the start-up for putting the plan into action. I am very proud of the fact that we have lived up to that pledge over the years with but one single exception. This person was already attending another church and I encouraged him to try the Class before leaving. He became an active member. In my original pledge to the Adult Education Council, I made it very clear that this Class could not and would not be an “exclusive club.” Anyone wanting to be a part of it should feel free to do so, and would be welcomed by the group but not solicited.

Phil had already told me that there were three hundred plus men on the rolls of South Main ages thirty and up who were not enrolled in any Sunday School Class. My feeling was that we could certainly build a class worthy of the effort from those three hundred.

Therefore our primary mission was to solicit and appeal to those men. The list that I got from Phil contained the names of three hundred and fifty-six men, in all parts of the city and in varying degrees of health and attitudes. What a task!

## CHAPTER III

### THE ORGANIZATION

After approval by the Adult Educational Council, I choose four South Mainers to be the leaders of this group. First, of course was Charles McRae, who had been in on the planning and with whom I had discussed the idea for over a year. He is a great “idea man” and willing to back up his convictions with hard work in accomplishing a goal. He had given valuable input from the very beginning in laying the groundwork for the class. Next, I asked Bob McCollum. Bob was also active in the formation process and is a person with a great insight into people. Being a successful Public Education Administrator, I knew that he would add a needed dimension to the leadership of the class, besides he is humorous and entertaining and makes all around him feel good. My third choice was James (Jim) Abrahams who had agreed to be one of the team teachers. I had heard Jim teach on several occasions and felt that he would not only bring us sound Bible study, but do it in a way that would be attractive to non-Sunday School men.

All of you who were in the Class in those days will remember that Jim always started the lesson off with a witty story that opened up our minds and hearts for the study to follow.

The fourth person was a real key to the success of the class and a long proven Bible teacher, Sam Sorrell. Here was a true leader and dedicated Christian. A South Main stalwart, who taught the Bible with enthusiasm and fervor. We would build our teaching around this person.

One additional person had heard talk of the class and asked to be a part, Knox Clark became the class secretary and faithfully served in that position for several years. I was to be one-third of the teaching team and was named the principal teacher. This position was fostered onto me because in order to get the other teachers, I had to take on the job of teaching or inviting a guest to teach when one of them was to be out . Neither of them wanted this job, so it fell to me by default.

I was appointed Department Director by the Educational Council simply because they had designated this class as Adult VI and naturally each department MUST have a Director.

By the end of January 1989 we had a class structure in place and six members. They were as follows:

Director and Principal teacher	-	Irvin H. Reeves
Second teacher	-	Sam Sorrell
Third teacher	-	Jim Abrahams
President (preside over class)	-	Bob McCollum
Vice President	-	Charles McRae
Secretary	-	Knox Clark

We now had a class and it had been fun structuring the organization with these five people. The real fun was now to begin for me and Charlie.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE BEGINNING

We agreed that the first class session would be held on the second Sunday in March 1989. We would have started on the first Sunday, however, Sam was going to be out of town on that Sunday and we thought it important to have all of the officers and teachers on board for our first session.

The Church office had furnished us with a print-out of all of the 356 names, with telephone numbers, addresses and some pertinent information.

Charles and I had agreed to contact all three hundred and fifty-six people listed on the rolls of South Main, not attending Sunday School. We had decided to visit those that we could and contact by phone all of the others. We also mailed cards to those that we were unable to contact by any other method. This was to be accomplished in about four weeks. After we had made the first run through the list we were able to get the other four people to start a follow-up of all of those showing an interest in the class. What experiences we had in this little task. Many stories were funny, some were sad, others were down right ridiculous. A few remain in the unrepeatable category. We did find out that there are three hundred and fifty-six reasons why people do not attend a Sunday School Class and not a few reasons why

some do not even attend Church.

It is perhaps best that many of these stories die with the hearers. Charlie and I do still get some good laughs on occasion over some of the most outlandish of the stories.

Sunday morning March 12, 1989 dawned as a good and perfect day. Phil Martin had agreed to be our first song leader with Bob Stinson playing the piano. We met in the Pine Room of the Activities Building with twelve men present and enjoyed refreshments and fellowship after which we sang some of the old time Gospel songs. It may have been only twelve but it sounded like fifty. Jim Abrahams then gave a talk on the purposes and objectives of the Men's Bible Class, this was followed by a lesson by Irvin Reeves, introducing the Gospel of Mark, which was to be the first book to be presented.

Not long after this session Phil Martin convinced one of our own Charter members, Dr. John Herndon to be our permanent song leader. As of this writing, John has served faithfully in this job for nineteen years along with Harold Wade who took the piano job early on. Much of the success and excitement of the Bible Class is a result of their talents and enthusiasm.

Sam Sorrell wanted us to study the Book of Mark first because it was the first of the Gospels written. A logical starting place in the study of the life and work of Jesus and His Apostles. It proved to be a good start for the class. The remaining lessons in the month of March were taught by Jim Abrahams followed in April by Sam Sorrell.

From that time until Jim Abrahams illness the three of us rotated on a monthly basis. We always reserved the fifth Sunday of any month for a "Guest" teacher. On these occasions the "Guest" always chose their subject. In this series we heard from some very good people on some interesting topics. Some were "outsiders" such as Judges, teachers, lawyers and businessmen, but we always asked that they bring a lesson dealing with Biblical Truths, which they did. Except on perhaps three occasions which I will cover later.

The Class gathered each spring for a Bar-B-Que, inviting wives or guests of class members. This gave all of us an opportunity to become better

acquainted, meet families and generally have a good time.

Each summer we all became “boys of the summer” and went with our sons, grandsons and whoever to see the Astros. For some reason they always won on the night that we attended.

We tried to always have a class breakfast sometime in the early fall on a lazy Saturday morning. We never had very good attendance at these as we met at 7:00AM. We did learn who among us were the late sleepers.

Then Christmas time comes and at first, while we were still over in the Pine Room with its kitchen facilities, we had a Christmas Breakfast in the class room, on the Sunday before Christmas. I never figured out why the tradition died and turned into a Christmas Party on a Friday Evening. Perhaps, it was due to Gene Reamer not knowing that biscuits in a pan in a hot oven can't be handled with bare hands. We learned who does the cooking at the Reamer household. Now it is possible that this little incident had nothing to do with changing traditions. It is, however, a good excuse.

The whole idea of these activities is to build friendships and a sense of camaraderie among the class members.

Over the next three and a half years the class grew. Bob McCollum had retired and moved to Tyler, Texas. Charles McRae took over as President of the class, Jim Abrahams had developed cancer after only a year and a half and was unable to continue teaching. At that time, Sam Sorrell and I began to teach on alternate months. Next, came as a real bombshell when it was dropped on the class, Sam Sorrell was retiring and moving to Lake Conroe. That left only me. I knew that in order for the class to continue to grow as it had been doing, I had to do something fast.

## CHAPTER V

### A TRANSFUSION OF EXPERTISE

My long time friend and former pastor Dr. James Riley retired from his job as a teacher at Houston Baptist University and he and his wife Margaret joined South Main. What an opportunity! I thought that if we could get him for our Principal Teacher it would add a whole new dimension to the Men's Bible Class.

I discussed the possibility of getting Dr. Riley as the teacher of the Men's Bible Class with Dr. Bill Turner. He thought that it would be a good idea and agreed to discuss the question with Dr. Riley over a working lunch. I knew that we would be successful because Dr. Riley loves to eat and when a preacher is full you can sell them on anything. The fact is that Dr. Turner did indeed sell Dr. Riley on becoming the class teacher. And like they say, the rest is history!

Charles McRae and I met with Dr. Riley a few days later to go over some housekeeping chores and to get his ideas on the class. Dr. Riley wanted me to continue as his substitute teacher and to invite Guest teachers from time to time. I agreed, in that I did not think it was necessary to burden him with this additional responsibility.

Dr. Riley brought his first lesson as Teacher on Sunday September 6, 1992. What a lesson! A "whole new dimension" was definitively added to the Class, seventy fold. We ordered more chairs!

Dr. Riley continued teaching the books of the Bible that we had started three and a half years before. In a Description and Characterization of the Men's Bible Class that we were asked to prepare for the Church the statement read as follows:

This class is a comprehensive men's Bible study using the Books of the Bible as the principle source, clarified and interpreted by a Master Scholar of sixty plus years of teaching experience.

There is still no better way to describe Dr. Riley's ability to teach the Bible. He makes it meaningful, real and useful for everyday living.

In the new year of 1999, almost at the close of the century, Dr. Riley, in his

eighty-first year of life, was still proclaiming the truths and majesty of the Holy Scriptures,

## CHAPTER VI

### THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Our first President, Bob McCollum, served for the first several years as we felt that it was important to retain continuity in laying a good foundation for the Class. It needed good, sound leadership that would keep us on our chosen course. Therefore we did not change officers in those years. Bob's move out of town changed that and Charles McRae then took over as President. Charles provided wonderful leadership and direction for the Class for the next two years. We felt that the time had come to start an annual rotation of officers, thus in September (1994) the Class elected Phil Cordell as their President, followed by Harold Sellers (1995), David Steele (1996), Ward Hill, (1997) and Larry Carroll (1998).

Throughout these years the secretarial duties have been well handled by Knox Clark, Rudy Callihan, Beeman Hendrix, and Ward Hill.

On the first Sunday of March 1998 I retired as Department Director since I had actually held that job for ten years including the year of organizing. I hold to the premise that anyone can be replaced and it's best to leave when you are still liked (somewhat).

The Class chose Bill Strickland a long-time and enthusiastic member to take the position of Department Director. I agreed with Dr. Riley that I would remain as his substitute teacher and provider of lessons in his absence. The Bible class, from its beginning, had been an active participant in all of the church activities, missions, building fund drive, social events, etc. It was called to our attention that the church really needed a golf cart for numerous missions around the grounds of the church. The men of the class got to work and found a golf cart that we could afford and bought it. It lasted a couple of years and fell apart at which time we had another drive and bought a replacement. As of this writing (2008) it's still in service.

Dr. John Herndon and Harold Wade continued to lead our singing and play the piano. Harold can reap more wonderful sounds from a pile of wire, wood and ivory than anyone I've ever known and John somehow gets singing worthy of a full choir from a bunch of sleepy men.

There are so many other men who have contributed to the success of the Class that it is impossible to name each one. Jim Warren is one that comes to mind as he faithfully records each lesson (even mine) for those who are sick or for other reasons can not be there in person. Then, of course, there are all of the men who bring cookies or donuts or something to keep all of us full, fat and happy.

In mid 1999 the Class was continuing with sound Bible teaching and a strong desire to minister to the sick, comfort the discouraged, assist the needy, encourage those with whom we come in contact and to give a helping hand by supporting the activities and special projects of the Church which gives us life.

## CHAPTER VII

### A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY

The world and all that exists in it never stays the same. The same is true for organizations even ones as stable as the Men's Bible Class. In mid 1999, Dr. Riley became ill, and it fell on our substitute teacher, Irvin Reeves to begin teaching again and when possible to find guest teachers. After several weeks it became clear that Dr. Riley would no longer be able to teach. We would be forced to find another teacher who would carry on the traditions and work of the Men's Bible Class.

My thought at this time was, where do we go from here, so praying for deliverance was our only hope. And, as always, in answer to prayer, a most fortunate thing happened.

Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chafin had recently retired and moved back to

Houston and rejoined South Main Baptist. Just as happened when we had gotten Dr. Riley as our teacher. I asked him if he would have any interest in teaching the Men's Bible Class. His answer was that he would be glad to and that teaching the Men's Bible Class was the thing that he would most like to do, at South Main.

What an amazing development! We would now have our second Bible Scholar as the prime teacher for the Class.

It seems to be a custom in Baptist churches to change Sunday School officers at the beginning of September each year, so the Class follows this schedule and Jake Johnson became our president for the 1999 through 2000 year. He took over as the class leader on Sunday September 5, 1999.

Dr. Kenneth Chafin taught his first lesson on the following Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup>. We were on the road again for a wonderful experience in Bible study, or so we thought. Kenneth taught the class for three Sundays. It would have been four Sundays, except for a slight mix-up on his second lesson, when our previous teacher came back after a long absence. Our President, Jake Johnson welcomed him back and asked if he had anything to say to the class, he rose, went to the podium and gave an entire lesson from the book of Isaiah.

Kenneth was very understanding and later joked about being upstaged on his second lesson for the class.

It was after this first month that our pastor, Dr. Turner asked Kenneth to organize a class of young married couples that had been in the planning stages for some time.

Kenneth agreed with our pastor on the need for this work and I'm told, reluctantly consented to put the Bible Class teaching on hold while he got the couple's class started. He called me and said that he still wanted to be the Class teacher, but felt led to start this other work for the church. He asked me to continue teaching for two or three months so that he could get this class started at which time he would find someone who would take over the work. I agreed.

Again, I taught the Class or brought in a guest teacher, waiting for the return

of Kenneth Chafin.

After some seven weeks, Ken cornered me one Sunday and said that the response had been so good in his new couples class that he just couldn't leave them. We would have to get another teacher. I was so disappointed. I asked him, "What are we going to do now?" His reply was he had in mind just the right teacher for us, Dr. Peter Almond.

I told him that I'd heard that Peter was an excellent teacher. In fact, I had recently asked Peter if he would be willing to teach the class some Sunday while our teacher was away. I mentioned to Ken that I really didn't know Peter well and I doubted that I could persuade him to become our permanent teacher. Ken's reply was, "You don't have to, If you want him, I'll talk him into it."

Talk him into it, he did. Dr. Peter Almond accepted the job of becoming "our" teacher at a luncheon meeting at Jake Johnson's law office.

Those attending this meeting were:

Bill Strickland, Director

Jake Johnson, President

Dr. Peter Almond

Charles McRae, Past President

Irvin Reeves, Interim teacher and past Director

Peter was asked if he would teach the class for a month or two before actually being named "Permanent Teacher," in order to allow a time to clear the way with Dr. Riley who was still ill, but attending sporadically. He agreed.

Now, that may have been the reason or it's possible that some of the group wanted to see what kind of a teacher Peter really was before we "hired" him permanently. Of course, we've never mentioned that possibility to Peter.

## CHAPTER VIII

### THE AUTHENTIC PETER

Dr. Peter Almond began teaching the class on January 2, 2000. From that

first lesson that he taught, we knew that again we had a winner. His teaching was different from that of Dr. Riley or Dr. Chafin. His accent was different, coming from England, but what a teacher. By the end of January 2000 everyone in the class realized that we had a jewel, a profound teacher and interpreter of the Scriptures. Someone like that long ago Peter that Jesus trusted as “The Keeper of the Kingdom.” What an opportunity the Class was blessed with. Peter has the unique ability to combine Scripture with related world historical events and an occasional story from his past that keeps his hearers interested and wanting more.

All of us knew that we had been blessed far beyond all of our expectations with Peter leading the Class. The church as a whole was losing membership, and had been for several years, however the Bible Class continued to grow even though by this time we had lost several members by death and others moving from Houston.

Bob Horton took over the duties of president in the fall of September 2000 and Rudy Callihan continued as our secretary.

These were wonderful years for the Men’s Bible Class of South Main Baptist Church. It was at this time that our new director wanted to change up the format of the class somewhat and began bringing in different people to speak to the class, in the absence of our regular teacher. Thankfully, the occasions were not many as Peter was seldom away from the class on Sundays. The years of 1999-2001 were quite interesting as during this time we had some rather unique guest teachers. I won’t go into names and all of that, suffice it to say that a few of these were different, especially on the Sunday when the guest teacher asked all of us to sit on the floor with him and play a little game. No one did. Had we gotten down, there was the strong possibility that some of us would still be sitting there never to rise again. We all sat in our chairs, in a circle while this teacher, sitting on the floor himself, entertained us with games that he somehow related to the Bible. Well, at least it *was* a Bible lesson.

On still another occasion we had a prominent trial attorney who taught a lesson as if he were addressing a jury. After the lesson was over, I think that most of the men there would have sentenced the attorney rather than the defendant if given the chance.

Bill Strickland gave up the directors job in September 2001 and the Class elected Ward Hill to replace him. Ward brought us a great improvement in our morning coffee over those previous two fellows. Bert Kaiser became our new secretary, replacing Rudy Callihan. Ward has faithfully served as Director of Department VI since September 2001 and the coffee is still just as good as when he first started. Ward returned the Class to its former dignity and purpose and has devoted a great deal of time, making sure that things run smoothly for the teacher and the other leaders. The directors job is a background one as the opening exercises are presided over by the president and the teacher is the “main event.” However, the director is far from being unimportant. It is this person that sets the class agenda and the one who keeps the class on tract fulfilling its original purpose. Ward continues as a strong leader and guide for our class as of this writing (March 2008).

Dr. John Herndon took over the duties of president in the fall of 2002 in addition to his song leading.

Other presidents were Dr. Bob Strawn 2003, Ralph Mills 2004, Joe Pyle 2005, and Kieth Payne served for both years 2006 and 2007. Bert Kaiser has continued his faithful service as secretary and greeter throughout these years.

Throughout all of these eight years, Peter Almond brought us lessons that were profound, very interesting while being easy to listen too. Rarely did he miss a Sunday. We have found him well versed in the Scriptures, with a unique ability to add outside experiences and world happenings that bring a whole new dimension to the lessons.

During Peter’s tenure a new item was added to our class activity . Instead of recording the lesson on a cassette for the benefit of class members unable to attend, each Sunday’s lesson is now being posted on the internet. Harold Selke wires the teacher before the lesson each Sunday morning with a special electronic devise that records everything said and he faithfully conveys the results of this to the church for placement on the church website. By Tuesday a class member or anyone in the whole wide world can turn on their computer, go to the South Main Baptist Church, Houston website, click on the Men’s Bible Class and hear any of the four previous lessons.

What an age we’re living in. Think how this little innovation increases the

“attendance” of the SMMBC each Sunday. What will they think of next.

During these years, our director, Ward Hill began a quarterly church wide men’s Saturday morning breakfast, sponsored by the Bible Class, as a way for men of all ages to get together for a good meal, hear an informative program while getting to know one another better. This undertaking has awesome potential for the church as a whole.

The years 2000 through 2007 have been exciting years for the class. However, someone once said, “all good things must come to an end.” And so it was for the teaching of Peter Almond, who announced on December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007 that his last lesson would be January 6, 2008. This completes his eighth year. Peter now holds the record of being the longest running principle teacher of the Bible class.

On Sunday January 6 he gave a beautiful account of the reason for his retirement and it goes back to the time of his agreement with Dr. Kenneth Chafin

He explained to us that when he agreed with Kenneth Chafin to take on the teaching job, Kenneth was still planning on eventually returning to teach the Men’s Bible Class and ask him to teach for three or perhaps four years. Of course, in the meantime Dr. Chafin died. Before taking on this class, Peter and his wife June had made a number of plans that they had put off in taking this assignment and now felt that since serving twice as long as his original commitment, the time had come to pursue those plans while their health was still good.

No one could disagree with Peter’s need to continue with he and June’s plans. He has given us eight superb years of enlightenment in the Scriptures. We can ask for nothing more. Instead, we rejoice and are thankful for the eight years of his faithfulness and dedication to our class.

It was at this same time, because of the ill health of our longtime and faithful director Ward Hill, that Irvin Reeves was asked to once again assist Ward in the duties of looking after the class and to teach or secure guest teachers until the class decides on another permanent teacher. As of this writing we are still trying and looking and praying.

On February 29<sup>th</sup> 2008 the class celebrated its nineteenth year of service with a banquet honoring Dr. John Herndon, Dr. Harold Wade, Sam Sorrell, Dr. James Riley, Kenneth Chafin and Dr. Peter Almond for their faithfulness in serving the Men's Bible Class and for their dedication to Christian Education. This was a sit down dinner, served by the South Main Prime Time Sunday School Class with our President Kieth Payne presiding. There were seventy-four class members present including wives or important others.

March 2008 brings us to nineteen years of service to our church, learning more about Scripture and enjoying the fellowship of liked minded men. Over these nineteen years the Men's Bible Class has done numerous things that have assisted and extended the ministries and mission efforts of South Main Baptist Church. These things have included helping fund the River Ministry, Summer Youth Camp, Christmas Children's Charity Event, Camp Machaceh (for underprivileged children) and other special church needs. The class has taken an active part in the Senior Adult Fall Retreat and the South Main Summer Revival. One of the beginning tenets of the class was that we would be a strong support group for all South Main activities. I feel very comfortable that we have been faithful to that purpose.

We continue being a group of men from many walks of life, engaged in serious study of the Bible, as God's inspired word for a needful world. Do we enjoy it? Certainly. Do we have fun? Yes, we do have fun! But, as I mentioned before, only on controlled occasions.

## SOUTH MAIN MEN'S BIBLE CLASS (proposed)

The following was a part of the Plan presented to the Adult Education Council along with an activities and Study Program.

**PURPOSE:** Enlist South Main non-active Sunday School men into a

Church Bible class activity. Create an interest in Bible study and its application in day-by-day life situations. Provide a caring place where these men can get better acquainted with others and a place where they can find their individual point of service in God's Kingdom.

**OBJECTIVE:** Teach the Bible as a Book. Attempt to bring men into an understanding of what the Church is all about. Assist in teaching the concepts of stewardship, support and Christian ministry to those around us. Help these men to learn the Bible and its message for today.

## SOUTH MAIN MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

A list of "CHARTER MEMBERS" of the Men's Bible Class

(That means that these people were present on that very first Sunday of March 12, 1989)

Charles McRae  
Bob McCollum  
Jim Abrahams  
Sam Sorrell  
Knox Clark  
Dr. John Herndon  
Gene Reamer  
Dr. Burton Parks  
Phil Martin  
Bob Stinson  
Dr. Eugene Slataper  
Irvin Reeves