

Fulfilling the Ministry

"Do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry" (2 Timothy 4:5)

Faculty and Student Newsletter of the Brown Trail School of Preaching

April, 2005
No. 53

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From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton



It appears that time continues to "fly" as our day to day activities consume so much of our time. Most days I begin work at around 4:30 a.m. at the office, working to different hours each day, but usually leaving around 3:30 p.m. Then, quite frequently, I will spend some more time at home working on projects. It seems even though I keep that schedule I am never close to getting done the work that is set before me. I "covet" your prayers on our behalf.

It will not be all that long until we bid farewell to three more of our students. In June we will see Joe Gibbs, Jr., Larry Jones, and Landon Rowell complete their studies. Each of these men have been good students, and I believe they will accomplish much in the future. Please pray for them as they make these changes. We will update you later this year as to what their plans will be.

At the present we have two, and possibly three students planning on beginning classes in the English Department in July. We also have several who would like to begin classes in the Hispanic Department, but funds will not allow such. Your prayers and financial support are sorely needed in order to see that our efforts are allowed to continue. We believe that brethren know the value of Brown Trail. For nearly 40 years she has sought to train men to be gospel preachers. If the Lord wills, she can continue for many more. It may be that you can interest others in the work here. That would help considerably.

Hispanic Department

As you are aware, the Hispanic Department began classes last August here at Brown Trail. With the large increase in Spanish speaking people now living in the US, not even considering the world, there is a great need to train men to be able to take the gospel to these people. Thus the beginning of this Department.

It was our hope that brother Willie Alvarenga could begin full time work with the school this year in this area. However, he was unable to raise the necessary funds to do so. We are also at the point where we need to add additional adjunct instructors to the staff of the Hispanic Department. Men are willing to come, even some from hundreds of miles away, but we need the funds to assist them in their travel. Willie has indicated that we need \$1,000.00 per month to provide the necessary travel funds for these men. If we cannot raise these funds then, I suppose, there is nothing we can do but allow this Department to slip away.

We are also in need of congregations and individuals who will assist us in providing monthly support for the students in this Department. Willie has indicated that we have several men who desire to attend classes, but if the support is not available, they cannot do so. I know budget times are past. But I also know how important this is. Paul's words of Romans 10:13-15 cry out to us in view of the need to provide men of which our Spanish speaking neighbors may hear.

If you want more information on this need please contact us. Thanks.

News from the School

School Campaign and Gospel Meeting

By the time you receive this we will either be conducting our Spring Campaign and Gospel Meeting in Campbell, Missouri or it will be completed. Brother Rick Parker, and his family, recently located with the congregation there following the completion of their studies in December of last year. Rick is excited about the work there, and we are excited and thankful for the opportunity to assist with the work of this good congregation.

Our school class calendar is set up to allow us to conduct two campaigns each year. One in the Spring and the second in the Fall. If you would like for us to come and assist you with such an effort please get in contact with us.

Kennedale Gospel Meeting

Each Spring the good congregation in Kennedale, Texas provides our students with an opportunity to hold a Gospel Meeting for them. This year it will be May 8th through the 11th. In preparation for the meeting two Saturdays have been set aside for door knocking activities in the area.

This year's Gospel Meeting is on the theme of Becoming A Christian. Larry Jones will speak on Hearing; Landon Rowell on Believing; Joe Gibbs on Confession; Brent Fluegel on Repentance; Shane Coleman on Baptism; and Daniel Haynes on Faithful Until Death.

If you are in the area, why not come by and listen to our men speak. I am sure you will be glad you

Alumni Information

Work is still being done on getting a Web Site and other areas of interest set up for the Alumni of the School. I appreciate those who are working on this, and look forward in anticipation to its completion.

As Alumni I believe you can do considerable good in advertising the School, both from a financial perspective and for future students. Brethren, I fully believe that if there is any hope for the future it is found within the preaching of and obedience to the gospel. Your assistance in directing men to the school to further their education can assist with this need.

I also ask you to "pray without ceasing" on behalf of those involved with the school. For her instructors, students, and others involved.

Preachers Available

Vacation time and such is quickly approaching. We do want to remind you that our students are available to preach at your congregation in the absence of your located preacher. They are also available to fill in at other times, including the time in-between-preachers.

Additionally, I am available from time to time for fill in preaching and would be happy to come your

Owen Cosgrove Update

Owen has indicated that he is doing some better, but still has a long ways to go. I recently spoke with him and he indicated that he was still unable to preach. I know he would appreciate your prayers on his

Perry B. Cotham Update

As you may be aware, Perry suffered a heart attach last year and has been recuperating every since. Now, Perry's way of recuperating is somewhat different than that of others. He just keeps on keeping on with his regular hectic schedule. In March of this year it was necessary for Perry to have a Pace Maker inserted, but that did not seem to slow him down either. I am sure that he, too, would appreciate your prayers on his behalf.

School Presentation

Our latest Power Point Presentation is finished. If you would like for someone to come your way and bring you up to date on the work here please contact us.

You can also access the Presentation on our Web Site, where it can be downloaded for presentation. You will need a Power Point Viewer Program to view the Presentation, which is available free for download from our site. As you view the Presentation you will note that there is voice over audio associated with the "slide" part of the Presentation, which allows you to hear the comments recorded thereon.

Our Stand

Although we have provided this information before, in this publication, we do want to remind you that on our Web Site is a Statement of Conviction that we have included there since the new site was set up. Brethren, we do not apologize for taking a stand where the New Testament stands on issues like Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage. Our instructors are men of the Word, who believe what it says, and are not afraid to preach it in its entirety. It is by, and only by, obedience to the "truth" (John 8:32), that we will be saved. Any message that is less than the truth is less than God intends to be proclaimed—2 Timothy 4:1-4.

In Honor * In Memory

The following have recently made a donation to BTSOP as a memorial or honorarium. Please keep in mind that your financial donations to BTSOP, as a honorarium or memorial, goes a long way in training men to be gospel preachers.

**HERB BARTEE
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Carl & Doris Powell
Marcia Stapleton

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Sermon Starters

MARKS OF AN IDEAL CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. The New Testament has been given to man in order to provide information on the church, and how it should be.
2. Without a doubt, the ideal church will have a biblical message.
3. We should ask ourselves several questions as we consider where to make our church home.
 - A. We should look for the "marks."

BODY:

1. A LOVING CHURCH

A. John 13:34, 35.

B. True fellowship involves loving with a selfless desire for the good of others.

2. A CARING CHURCH.

A. 1 Corinthians 12:25, 26.

1. Caring includes such activities as praying for one another, visiting the lonely, ministering to the sick, and comforting the bereaved.

B. Galatians 6:2

C. Philippians 1:4

3. A FORGIVING CHURCH

A. Forgiveness is an important element of Christian fellowship.

1. Christians should be ready at all times to forgive those who have wronged them - Ephesians 4:32.

B. To forgive is desirable in all of our relationships.

4. A FOREBEARING CHURCH

A. The Ephesians were told to walk "with all lowliness and gentleness, with long suffering, bearing with one another in love" - Ephesians 4:2.

B. Galatians 6:1, 2

5. A SUBMISSIVE CHURCH.

1. Ephesians 5:21- 23 teaches us submit "to one another in the fear of

News from Alumni

Charles Ivie (1978)

Charles is now preaching for the church in Tatum, New Mexico. His address is P.O. Box 171, Tatum, NM 88267. His phone number is (505) 398-4611. Email is cdvie@leaco.net

Joseph Chase (1991)

Joe and Cheryl have moved to Nash, Texas to work with the church there. Their address is 6003 Yorktown Place, Texarkana, Texas 75504, and their telephone number is (903)838-1656. Their email address is chasejoseph@yahoo.com.

Russ Thomas (1993)

Russ has been preaching for the church in Circleville, Ohio for the past six years. Both children are away at college—Ian, a Sophomore at Harding, and Kaili a Freshman at Lipscomb. Russ' address is 531 Garden Parkway, Circleville, OH 43113. His phone number is (740) 420-3958, and his email is r_r_thomas@yahoo.com

James Rankhorn (1994)

James, Melanie and Kadry are celebrating their tenth year with the church in Ripley, West Virginia. When they arrived there, there was no congregation in the city. Since being there a building has been erected, and will soon be paid off. Their address is Rt. 1, Box 137-H, Ripley, WV 25271. The office telephone number is (304) 372-4526 and their home number is (304) 372-8267. Their email address is wrcocf@citynet.net.

Jeremy Jones (2000)

Jeremy recently moved from Wewoka, Oklahoma to Oak Ridge, Texas. He is to soon complete his studies from Oklahoma Christian. His address is 1007 W. Main, Honey Grove, TX 75446. His telephone number is (903) 249-6770 and his email address is jeremy_jones@msn.com.

Jackie Brown (2001)

Jackie recently moved from Blooming Grove, Texas to Garrison, Texas. His address is 577 North US Hwy 59, Garrison, Texas 75946. His telephone number is (936) 347-2668.

Jason Stapleton (2003)

Jason and Madesha recently had their second child, Layla, in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Their address is PO Box 724, Mbeya, Tanzania, East Africa. All are doing well.

Dezmond Stevens (2004)

Dezmond has recently been employed by the Oak Grove church of Christ in Henderson, Tennessee as their Associate Minister. He is working along side of Sam Jones, Dean of Academics at Freed-Hardeman. His address is FHU Box 869, Henderson, TN 38340. His telephone number is (731) 989-6183. His email address is dezmond.stevens@students.fhu.edu.

Web Site

We continue to add additional information to our Web Site. If you have not checked it out recently, I would encourage you to do so.

Note to all alumni: If you have a change of address, family news, work news, unusual experience or anything else that you would like to share with other alumni, please let us know. You may e-mail the information to Bob Stapleton at chimalabob@yahoo.com, or fill out the form on our Web Site. Either way, be sure to include name, address, graduation year, congregation you work with and the news item you would like to have included in the newsletter.

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