

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 2007
No. 61

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From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton



Time is passing so quickly! It seems that one issue of Fulfilling the Ministry hardly goes out until it is time to do another. So many good things are happening with the school, with both the internal and external activities,

that we hardly have time to complete one until we are getting ready for another.

In April two major external events were conducted by the English Department. First, a Gospel Meeting and Campaign for the Oak Grove church of Christ in Mt. Pleasant, Texas (April 6th–8th) and, secondly a Gospel Meeting and Campaign for the Fourth and Stewart church of Christ in Brownwood, Texas (April 22nd–25th). The Hispanic Department also conducted one external event during the month, a Lectureship for the Galena Park, Texas church of Christ, April 4th – 7th. In addition to all of these activities men from both Departments were busy preaching almost every Sunday, along with conducting services at a local Retirement Home. All of these activities are an important part in the overall growth of our students.

Next month we will see four men graduate from English Department, David Bell, Gary Murphy, Ed Stover, and Grant Sullivan. All of these men have done well, and will be great assets to the church in the years to come. Please pray for them as they soon leave BTSOP and go forth serving as Gospel Preachers.

In July we will start all over again.

At the present we have four new men and their wives enrolled in the English Department, and two in the Hispanic Department. We also have others who are considering coming in at that time depending on their ability to raise their support. If you are not supporting a student in school, and would like to, we would be more than happy to provide you with information on one or more of these men. Only eternity will reveal what good these men will do, and you can be a part of it.

Please, also, be aware that we have space for part time students who would like to sit in on a specific class or classes. The only cost for this is for the material needed to complete the class taken. If you are within driving distance, and would like to audit a class, please let us hear from you.

Hispanic Department

The Hispanic Department continues to progress at a good pace, although more could be done if the necessary funds were available. This area of work is so needed in the church today as we see the increase in the number of Spanish speaking people in the US and throughout the world.

Willie Alvarenga is still in need of support to continue with the work he is doing on a full time basis with the school. Your assistance with his support will help to provide the quality of education the men and women in the Hispanic Department deserve. If you can help with this, please let us hear from you.

Willie is editing a Spanish edition of Fulfilling the Ministry, Hombres Del Libro, which is a quarterly publication. If you would like to receive this via email, please contact Willie at buscandoalperdido@yahoo.com and he will be happy to add your name to the list. He, also, has numerous outlines, etc. that he has either written or translated into Spanish.

School Patch and Pin Available

We presently have two items that our Alumni may be interested in. Each are replicas of the present school seal. One is a black on white cloth sew on patch that measures 3 1/4 by 3 3/4 and the other is a brass with black letters one inch lapel pin. The cost for these is \$4.25 plus postage for the patch and \$4.00 plus postage for the pin. If interested, please contact the office.



Patch



Lapel Pin

Ways To Help

Yes, I would like to financially assist with the work of BTSOP.

Kenny Gardner's Support	_____	Monthly
	_____	One Time
Willie Alvarenga's Support	_____	Monthly
	_____	One Time
English Department	_____	Monthly
Student Support	_____	One Time
Hispanic Department	_____	Monthly
Student Support	_____	One Time
Hispanic Instructor	_____	Monthly
Support	_____	One Time

Amount: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone or email: _____

Support Needed

Please give consideration to the needs indicated above. I know it becomes wearisome to continue to see our having to ask for funds, as it becomes wearisome in our having to do so. However, without constant reminders we sometimes forget the great need for such good works in the brotherhood.

Campaigns—2007/2008

As already indicated, we were busy in April with two multi-day Campaign/Gospel Meeting efforts. We are thankful for the good that was accomplished in each of them. Additionally, some of the students took part in a one day door knocking effort for the Mabank church of Christ on April 14th in order to make the community aware of their upcoming lectureship. On May 4th those students who are available will knock doors for the Colleyville church of Christ informing people in the community of their upcoming Gospel Meeting with Jeff Jenkins and Robert Dodson. Later this year we will conduct our last campaign/gospel meeting for 2007. It will be for the Linden, Texas church of Christ. The dates for this are August 26th through the 29th.

As we begin to make plans for 2008 we are looking at having, at least, two multi-day Campaigns. Tentative plans are now in place for one such Campaign/Gospel Meeting for the Talco, Texas church of Christ. This will leave us an opening later in the year for a Campaign or Campaign/Gospel Meeting. If you are interested, please let us hear from you.

Please be aware that we can provide assistance in areas wherein the Hispanic Department may also be of help.

Web Site, PowerPoint Presentation

As we seek to provide information on the school Kenny, Willie, or myself are available to visit with your congregation to inform you on the work that is being done here. A PowerPoint Presentation is available that can be shown to the congregation. If you would be interested, please call the office to make arrangements for one of us to visit with you. There are so many ways that congregations and individuals can assist with the work here, and we would love to share this information with you.

Also, as you can see above, there are numerous ways in which we can be of assistance to the brotherhood. An additional way is through our Web Site and the listing there of congregations and preachers who are seeking one another. If your congregation is in the process of obtaining the services of a located preacher, please feel free to send us the information. As a preacher who is sound in the faith, whether alumnus of BTSOP or not, if we can assist you in locating a congregation to serve, we would be happy to do so. All listings are free. All we ask is once the need has been filled you contact us so we will know to remove the listing.

You might also note on the Web Site the number of good links to various works and other Web Sites that can assist you in your study of God's Word.

“And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:”

Isaiah 35:8, 9

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, go a long way in training men to be gospel preachers.

KATIE ALLEN

Gary & Mary Murphy

CONRAD BEAUCHAMP

Bill & Vivian Wren

GARY FURTADO

Gary & Mary Murphy

JERRY GIBSON

Bill & Vivian Wren

ANNIE LEE GREENE

Bob & June Carrothers
John & Muriel Davis
Patsy & Harold Floyd
Gil & Cheryl Holt
Derrel & Jo Ellen Jester
Eddie & Mary Parrish
Phil Pope
Margaret Spiva
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts
Walter & Gwendolyn Woodard

JOHNNY RAMSEY

Derrel & Jo Ellen Jester

JOHN ATWOOD SCOTT

Perry Cotham

HONORIUM

MARJORIE ANDERSON

Perry Cotham

FRANKIE MARIE BALL

Gary & Mary Murphy
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

ROY DEAVER

Sam & Catherine Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Bush
Kevin & Kathy Carroll
Perry Cotham
Derrel & Jo Ellen Jester
Eddie & Mary Parrish
Bobby & June Watts

BURTON GREEN

Bobby & June Watts

CHARLES HILL

Adeline Hill

HOUSTON JONES

Gary & Mary Murphy

MARY POPE

Derrel & Jo Ellen Jester
T.C. Lewis

CHARLES RHEA

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

GRACIE YOUNG

Perry Cotham
Gary & Mary Murphy
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

Sermon Starters

THE CHURCH'S GREATEST NEEDS # 2 Hebrews 5:12-14

INTRODUCTION:

In our previous issue of Fulfilling the Ministry lesson # 1 of this two part sermon outline was provided. Please consult that issue for the introduction to this sermon.

BODY:

1. Deacons who Serve - 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

- A. A deacon is one who is a "servant whether as doing servile work, or as an attendant rendering free service." Vines Expository Dictionary.
 1. Their primary responsibility is caring after temporal matters of the church.
- B. There is work to do within every local congregation and God has set aside deacons to see that it is done.
 1. This is not to imply that only the deacons are to work within the church.
 - A. But there are certain things that they should be doing.

2. Teachers Who Are Teaching—Hebrews 5:12-14

- A. In looking at this text we see:
 1. Some were weak in the faith that should have been strong.
 2. Those who had not applied themselves to study, even though they should have.
 3. Those who were still having to be taught first principles, when they should have already progressed to the "meat" of the word.
- B. It is God's intention that within the church there be found faithful teachers who will teach others - 2 Tim. 2:2.
 1. One of greatest needs of the church today is for there to be such teachers.
 2. Both men and women need to equip themselves to teach as God authorizes them to do.
 - A. Women can and should teach as Paul has shown - Tit. 2:3-5.
 1. Someone has said our problem with this passage is that no one can get any women to admit they are "aged."

3. Working Members

- A. This fairly much covers all others who have not already been mentioned.
- B. Christians need to set goals of what they want to accomplish in their service to the Lord.
 1. If we don't, we won't accomplish much.
 - A. We have all heard it said, "Failing to prepare, is preparing to fail."
 2. We prepare for about every thing else we do.
 - A. We set goals on our jobs, vacation, etc.
- C. We need to continue working - 1 Cor. 15:58.
 1. God will take care of rest - 1 Cor. 3:6.
- D. As Christians, we need to work - Phil. 2:12; 1 Cor. 15:58.
 1. And there is work on every hand.

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

News from Alumni

Additional Ways to Help

Douglas Alvarenga (2002)

Douglas is now serving as the Hispanic Evangelist for the Palm Beach Lakes Iglesia de Cristo, Riviera Beach, Florida. His address is 1113 Wedgewood Plaza Drive, Riviera Beach, FL 33404. His telephone numbers are: (561) 337-6891 (home); (561) 951-6017 (cell) (561) 848-1111, ext. 21 (office). His email address is: iglesiadecristo3@yahoo.com

Guy Mitchell Baker, Sr.

Guy is serving as the located preacher for the church in Hillsborough, NC. His address is 509 Buttonwood Drive, Hillsborough NC 27278. His telephone number is (919) 357-2601 and his email address is: guymbaker@hotmail.com.

Brent Fleugel (2005)

Brent and Jessica have recently located with the church at Augusta, Kansas. Their address is 3521 N. Ohio Avenue, Augusta, Kansas 67010. Their telephone numbers are as follows: (316) 775-6046 (building); (918) 440-5101 (cell); and their email is godswordstruth1@hotmail.com

Neil Massey (2004)

Neil's address is now 46 Lono St., Hilo, HI 96720.

Often times I am asked in what other ways can assistance be provided for the students besides money. Let me list some of the items that could be donated that would help considerably:

1. Good Laptop Computers for student use (these should be as up to date as possible with Windows XP or Vista and internet capable)
2. Thumb drives
3. New blank CD's
4. Digital recorders
5. Printers (ink jet or laser)
6. New or used 3 ring binders
7. New or used books written by sound brethren within the brotherhood

Please be aware that these items should be in good working condition as the students do not have the funds to have them repaired. We will be happy to provide donors with a Tax Form for their records that will allow you to receive proper credit on your Income Taxes for the donation of such items. Please be aware that it will be your responsibility to assign a proper value to the items you donate.

ALUMNI INFORMATION UPDATES

Student Enrichment Fund

Please keep this fund in mind as you consider your charitable donations. These funds are used to pay for travel expenses, etc. for things like lectureships, gospel meetings, etc., when the school's van is used.

Brethren, we can use your assistance in helping to "track down" several of the past graduates of the school. We would appreciate it if you know of any addresses to please email them to us. We can compare them to our list so as to bring the list up to date.

Presently, we have several names that we have no idea as to their present status (i.e. preaching or not, etc.) and would appreciate any assistance that you can provide us in this area.

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.

FULFILLING THE MINISTRY is a publication of THE BROWN TRAIL SCHOOL OF PREACHING, P.O. BOX 210667, BEDFORD, TX 76095. A work of the Brown Trail Church of Christ.

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