

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 ————

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No. 72

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From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton



For over two years I have been waiting to hear the words “I am releasing you” from my Oncologist. On Monday, April 19th, 27 months after being diagnosed with Prostate Cancer, I heard the words I have “anxiously” awaited

hearing. Although the week before being released had its up and downs due to an elevated PSA, the time finally came to hear what I was wanting to hear.

I, once again, want to express my sincerest appreciation for those who expressed concern and who prayed for me during those months.

Having been a preacher for so many years, I full well knew what it was like to be on the other side of such issues in offering words of comfort and strength to those who were suffering. Spending some time on this side helped me to understand even more so the wonderful value of friends, their love, and prayers on one's behalf. I will never forget your kindness!!

The Alumni Association is planning the First Annual Alumni Association Lectureship for August 6th and 7th of this year. We hope to have the schedule of lectures and speakers soon, and will post it on our Web Site as soon as we get it. Plans are to have speakers from each “era” of the school in so far as “eras” associated with the various Directors that have served BTSOP since its beginning in 1965.

Why not mark your calendars right now, and plan to keep those dates open. It will be a wonderful time for both alumni and others to gather for a period of study and fellowship.

Hispanic Department

Things continue to go well with the work of the Hispanic Department. We are so thankful that we had the opportunity to begin this area of work. Presently, we are still in need of financial assistance for Willie Alvarenga, who serves as Director of this Department, along with instructor for several courses. In January Jesse Martinez began full time work with us in the Hispanic Department as a full time instructor. We are in need of raising \$400.00 per week for his support. If you would like to speak with either of these men, concerning assisting them, I know they would be happy to meet with you.

With graduation coming up in June, we will see four of our students in the Hispanic Department complete their studies. At the present, we have two new students who have been accepted, and who will begin classes in July. As usual, we need the necessary funds for them to attend classes. Please keep in mind, that any amount that you may be able to assist with will help. Please give us a call or email us if you can help in any way.

The Hispanic Department will be conducting their First Annual Hispanic Lectureship here at the Brown Trail building November 13th. The Brochure for the Lectureship, along with various other things pertaining to this Department, are available on the Hispanic Department's Web Site, at www.btsop.com.

As it looks right now, the three men who will graduate in June from the Hispanic Department all have jobs awaiting them. With the increase in the Spanish speaking population in the US, there is a great need for men who are fluent in Spanish to prepare themselves to serve the growing number of Spanish speaking congregations. You can help with this work by locating men who love the truth, and who love the lost, and encourage them to come to BTSOP to prepare themselves to serve as a Gospel Preacher. Eternity will reveal the good that will be done by your doing so.

Field Representative

As indicated in the January issue of Fulfilling the Ministry, J.J. Hendrix will come on board with BTSOP as our new Field Representative effective July 1st. His responsibilities will be in the areas of recruiting and raising support for the school. We have not had anyone in this capacity for several years, and are looking forward to having J.J. working with us in this area for the benefit of the school.

J.J., and his wife Lisa (Stapleton), are presently visiting congregations as they endeavor to raise the necessary support to do the work set before them. If you would like to speak with him, he can be reached at 817-995-4358. You can, also, email him at j.j.hendrix@gmail.com.



Ways To Help

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

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: _____

We, also, have students who come to school who do not have computers. If you have a computer, laptop or tabletop, that is in good working order, and you are not using it, we would appreciate you donating it to school. We will be happy to supply you with a Tax Donation Receipt.

Gospel Meetings/Campaigns

As this issue of Fulfilling the Ministry goes to print we have completed our Spring Campaign and Gospel Meetings. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Campaign/Gospel Meeting that was to be conducted at the Lake Tawakoni congregation was cancelled. However, the other two, Quinlan and Tioga, went well.

At Quinlan, we made 13 contacts, which Gary Murphy (BTSOP June 2007) is following up on. There was also one restoration. Several hundred doors were knocked, and literature concerning the Lord's church was distributed.

At Tioga we knocked every door in town, with one contact that was to be followed up on. The Gospel Meeting, with a Question and Answer period each night, also went well. The Q & A sessions were conducted by the students, who did a great job answering the questions submitted from the floor.

We are thankful for each of these opportunities to labor in the vineyard, and pray that we will have more such opportunities in the future. If you are interested in our conducting such an activity with your congregation, please contact us as soon as possible.

New Students Needed

The truth of the matter is, we are seeing fewer men who are attending schools like BTSOP. Whatever the reason, fewer men are preparing themselves to be Gospel Preachers today than in the past. If this trend continues, it may not be long until we have a drastic shortage of sound Gospel Preachers who can fill the pulpits of congregations here in the US. This, also, will soon affect mission work done outside the boundaries of the US. Typically speaking, missionaries are preachers who have determined to reach further with the gospel than they are with their local work. If we have a shortage of preachers, I can assure you we will, also, have a shortage of missionaries.

Because of this, we need your assistance locating men who would be good students. Please let us hear from you if you are interested in attending, or know of someone who is.

Fill In Preaching

We are happy to do what we can to assist congregations within driving distance of the school with fill in preachers. This both assists the congregation and the students. If you are in need of someone, please let us know as soon as possible, and we will do our best to have someone come your way. Please keep in mind that if you call at the "last minute" we may not have a student available.

"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 Timothy 2:2

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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| RUTH BINION Gary & Mary Murphy | DONALD BIRMINGHAM Bob & Marcia Stapleton |
| MARK CULWELL Mike & Terri Roberts | OTIS FLOYD Bob & Marcia Stapleton |
| MARY GUINN Mike & Terri Roberts | ROBERT HALL Jean LaFevers Bob & Marcia Stapleton |
| KEN HOPE, SR. Mike & Terri Roberts Bob & Marcia Stapleton | LUCILLE McCLUNG Bob & Marcia Stapleton |
| VELMA RAYL Julia Bridges | MARY ROBINSON Gary & Mary Murphy |
| BENNIE LEE ROSS Bob & Marcia Stapleton Bill & Vivian Wren | VELMA LANELL SHINDLER Gary & Mary Murphy |
| BETTY TALLEY Bob & Marcia Stapleton | BERTA STROUD Pansy McClendon Carl & Doris Powell Bob & Marcia Stapleton Bill & Vivian Wren |
| CLYDE TEAGUE Bill & Vivian Wren | DOROTHY GENE VERNON Julia Bridges |

HONORARIUMS

- MARJORIE ANDERSON**
Perry B. Cotham
- JOY BOYAR, KATHY BREWER,
STERLINE NASH, JOY ROMAINE,
BILL & VIVIAN WREN**
Julia Bridges

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

Sermon Starters

FIVE THINGS GOD DOES NOT DO Matthew 19:26

INTRODUCTION:

1. Some times is it said, "If the God of heaven truly is all-powerful, then He can do anything. Didn't Jesus say that with God all things are possible?" - Matthew 19:26.
2. The truth is, the Bible describes God as "the Lord Almighty" - 2 Corinthians 6:18.
 - A. And, yes, Jesus did proclaim that in the matter of being saved, "with God all things are possible" - Matthew 19:26.
3. But, there are some things that God does not do because they are against His nature.
 - A. There are yet other actions that He does not take because they are not in mankind's best interest.
4. In this lesson we want to look at some things that God does not do.

BODY:

1. **GOD DOES NOT LIE**
 - A. Feeble, deceptive man is no match for the integrity of God.
 1. In Titus 1:2 we read about Him described as "God, that cannot lie."
 - B. If God says it, then you know it is true.
 1. Since God is always true to His word, the Bible says, "God is faithful" - 1 Corinthians 1:9.
 - C. The Hebrew writer wrote concerning the immutability of God which involves God's inability to lie - Hebrews 6:18.
2. **GOD DOES NOT STOP CARING ABOUT PEOPLE DESPITE THE SINS THEY COMMIT**
 - A. Make no mistake about it:
 1. God hates all forms of unrighteousness and holds us accountable for all of our actions - Deuteronomy 12:31; Proverbs 6:16-19; Malachi 2:16; Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 1:9.
 - B. But, God keeps on loving those that transgress His will - John 3:16; Romans 5:8.
 - C. We might offend God, hurt God, and even anger God, but His love toward us does not change.
 1. What an amazing Being He is.
3. **GOD DOES NOT GET FOOLED**
 - A. I've heard it said, "A person might fool some folks some of the time, but he can never fool all the people all of the time. And when it comes to God, no one ever fools Him." - Galatians 6:7.
 - B. Those things people think they have kept hidden as secrets are not secrets before God.
 1. God knows all knowable things - 1 John 3:20.

News from Alumni

Chris Raynor (2002)

Chris and Tam have returned from six years of work with Chimala Mission in Tanzania, East Africa. They have located with the church in Meade, Kansas. They can be reached at raynorent@yahoo.com. Chris and Tam's home address is: PO Box 1057, Meade, KS 67864.

Rohan Jones (2009)

Rohan's address is PO Box 2356, Clareinch, 7740, Cape Town, South Africa. His cell phone is 001 2782-471-3536, and email is rohjones@gmail.com.

Mike Roberts (2009)

Mike's address is 709 E. 5th Street, Farris, TX 75125. His cell phone is 1-254-626-1217 and his email address is bow-sniper@att.net

Sermon Starters - Continued

- F. Regardless of where they came from, what they look like, or how their life's history reads, Jesus said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" - Matthew 11:28.
- G. God's grace, that provides salvation, has been made available to all men - Titus 2:11.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. The invitation to salvation is for all.
 - A. Jesus still stands at the door of our hearts and seeks permission to enter - Revelation 3:20.
- 2. Salvation is ours to lose.

Sermon Starters - Continued

- A. There is no "pulling the wool over" God's eyes.
 - C. Even the "secret things" are known - Daniel 2:22.
 - D. He knows the "thoughts and intents" of our hearts - Hebrews 4:12.
4. **GOD DOES NOT ACT CONTRARY TO WHAT HE HAS REVEALED IN HIS WORD**
- A. God's Word, the Bible, is truth - John 17:17.
 - B. Because He is the "LORD God of truth", God always acts in harmony with that truth - Psalms 31:5.
 - 1. We should never ask Him to do anything that goes against what He has told us in the Bible.
 - 2. For instance, in 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9 we read "that those that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" will be punished with everlasting destruction.
 - A. Because that is true, I must not ask Him to do otherwise.
 - B. I must not, even in the back of my mind, believe that He will do otherwise than that which He has said, simply because it will not happen.
5. **GOD DOES NOT REJECT ANYONE WHO COMES TO HIM ON HIS TERMS**
- A. It does not matter what color my skin is.
 - B. It does not matter what my nationality is.
 - C. It does not matter what my religious background is.
 - D. It does not matter what my gender is.
 - E. When it comes to the salvation of a person's soul, none of these matters has one thing to do with it.
 - 1. The simple truth is, God wants every person to be saved - 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9.

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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