

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 2011
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From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton



Time is ever so swiftly passing! It hardly seems possible that this year is already a third of the way over. As quickly as one day begins, it seems another is “nipping” at its heels. The words of the prophet

Jeremiah come to mind, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” (Jeremiah 8:20). Billions of people could easily say those words today as they rush onward toward eternity outside the Lord’s church wherein salvation is found.

The work of preparing men to preach the gospel is such an important work as we seek to reach out to the lost with the “power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). Not everyone is capable of being a Gospel Preacher. But everyone can, in one way or the other, assist in the work of sending forth men to preach the unsearchable riches of God (Romans 10:14, 15; Ephesians 3:8).

Your continued support of our efforts is greatly appreciated. Never does a day go by that we are not aware of the sacrifices made by brethren who care for the lost of this world to the point of providing the necessary support to train men to “preach the word” (2 Timothy 4:2). Please do not “grow weary in well doing” (Galatians 6:9) as you continue to support these efforts.

I know, it is an endless task! So long as God continues to allow this world to exist we will need to continue our efforts in this area. There is no point of conclusion. We must keep on with the task that the Lord has set before us. The “Great Commission” must be fulfilled (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15, 16).

Job Opening

We are still in need of someone who could assist us in raising awareness of the good work that **Brown Trail School of Preaching** is doing. There is a large number of congregations that do not even know we exist. There are good brethren who have no idea of the work being done here. We need someone who has the time and ability to take our message to these brethren and congregations.

Likewise, there are sound men in the faith who desire to prepare themselves to preach the gospel, who need our assistance in knowing what to do in order to prepare themselves.

You can help us in both of these areas. If this is something you would like to do, please let us hear from you.

Spanish Department

We must never underestimate the work that has been done over the years by those who have graduated from BTSOP! With this before us, a “new” avenue of work came our way in 2004, when we had the opportunity to establish the Spanish Department as a part of the overall efforts of BTSOP. Since this Department began, we have had 14 students graduate. They are doing great things for the kingdom of God in areas where those of us who do not speak Spanish could not work. Your support of the efforts of this Department is just as needed as the support of the English Department.

Both of our full time Spanish speaking instructors (Willie Alvarenga and Jesse Martinez) are in need of additional monthly support that will allow them to continue their efforts with us. Please give prayerful thought as to how you might assist in this area.

We are, also, in need of student support in view of the possible number of new students in 2012.

School Events - 2011

Campaign/Gospel Meeting - April 17th - 20 - Snyder, Oklahoma (English Department).

Seminario Biblico - April 21st - 23rd, 2011 - Houston, Texas. (Spanish Department).

Spanish Lectureship - June 3rd, 4th - Dallas, Texas (Spanish Department).

Graduation Banquet - June 10th, 6:30 p.m., Brown Trail Building.

Graduation - June 12th, 2:00 p.m., Brown Trail Building.

BTSOP Second Annual Alumni Lectureship - August 5th and 6th, at the Brown Trail Building.

Campaign/Gospel Meeting - August 7th - 10th, Valley View, Texas (Both Departments).

Campaign - September 9th and 10th, Corsicana, Texas (Both Departments).

Second Annual BTSOP Spanish Lectureship - November 13th, Brown Trail building.

Additional events will be added as they come along.

Specific Financial Needs

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

Willie Alvarenga Support _____ Monthly
_____ One Time

English Department _____ Monthly
Student Support _____ One Time

Hispanic Department _____ Monthly
Student Support _____ One Time

Jessie Martinez Support _____ Monthly
_____ 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 desktop, that is in good working order, and you are not using it, we would appreciate you donating it to the school. We will be happy to supply you with a Tax Donation Receipt.

Future Campaigns

If you are interested in a possible Campaign, we are now in the planning stages for the next couple of years. Please email me so we can begin getting things set up so the campaign will be a success.

Right now we are already booked for a couple in 2012.

Video Material Available

All classes have now been recorded in the Spanish Department and will soon be available at a nominal cost. If you are interested in these materials please contact us.

We are, also, in the process of video recording all of the classes in the English Department. Some courses are already completed and are available. Please contact the office for available classes and their costs.

New School Term

Please take notice that effective this year (2011) we have returned to the original schedule for admission of new students. Several years ago, this schedule was changed, which resulted in new students being admitted twice a year, once in January and the second time in July. Due to class scheduling issues we have reverted to admitting students only in January. This will allow us to better schedule our classes for the benefit of the students. If you have any questions concerning this, please feel free to contact us.

Director's Schedule

April 12th - Southwest School of Bible Studies Lectureship

April 17th - 20th - Gospel Meeting, Edgewood, Texas

May 14th - Lynn Lane church of Christ Men's Day, Idabel, Oklahoma

May 22nd - Jamestown church of Christ. Mineola, Texas

June 8th - Beltline church of Christ Summer Series, Irving, Texas

June 10th - Graduation Banquet, Brown Trail

June 12th - Graduation, Brown Trail

June 15th - Sayre church of Christ Summer Series, Sayre, Oklahoma

June 22nd - Howe church of Christ Summer Series, Howe, Texas

August 7th - 10th - Gospel Meeting, Valley View, Texas

August 24th - Granbury Street Summer Series, Cleburne, Texas

October 21st - 23rd - Sedalia Lectures, Sedalia, Missouri

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.

JOHN BOREN

Kay & Darcy Anderson
David & Sharon Amundsen
Mary Ellen Boren
Felix & Barbara Buchenroth,
Jr.

Bob & June Carrothers
Gil & Cheryl Holt
Patrick & Victoria Miele
Carl & Doris Powell
Joyce Rushing
Patsy Sargent
Tim & Nancy Solohubow
Larry Splawn
Bill Stroud

DANNY DUGGAN

Bobby & June Watts

GLEN EAST

Bobby & June Watts

LOIS GAINES

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

ELIZABETH HOLLAND

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

ROBERT HOUSSIERE

Julia Bridges

IRA VOILES

Tim & Nancy Solohubow

BETTY YOUNG

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 _____

Fill In Preaching

We want to remind congregations, within driving distance of **BTSOP**, that our students are available for fill in preaching appointments on a "first come, first served basis." **BTSOP**, like many other schools, is seeing a smaller number of men who wish to prepare themselves to become Gospel Preachers. Because of this, we are limited on the number of men that we have available to do such work.

If you know that you are going to be needing some assistance in this area, please let us know as far in advance as possible. That is not a guarantee that we might be able to help, but it will make the chances greater.

Sermon Starters

THINGS THE GOSPEL CANNOT DO

Romans 1:15-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation - Romans 1:16.
 - A. Man's true hope of going to heaven through Jesus is revealed in the gospel - 1 Corinthians 15:1, 2.
2. Yet, there are some things the gospel cannot do.
 - A. In this lesson we want to explore some of these things.

BODY:

1. **THE GOSPEL CANNOT SAVE A PERSON THAT IS DETERMINED TO LIVE IN REBELLION**
 - A. God desires the salvation of all mankind - Acts 17:30; 2 Peter 3:9.
 - B. The gospel has the power to save those who are obedient - Romans 1:16, 17; Hebrews 5:9.
 1. But it cannot save those who will not repent of their past sins and submit to God's Word - Matthew 7:21; Luke 13:3.
2. **THE GOSPEL CANNOT HELP A TROUBLED MARRIAGE AS LONG AS BOTH SPOUSES REFUSE TO HEED WHAT IT SAYS**
 - A. Statistics have long indicated that the institution of marriage is in trouble.
 1. "Among all adults 18 and older, three out of four (73%) have been married and half (51%) are currently married.
 2. Among those who have been married, more than one out of every three (35%) have also been divorced.
 3. Among married 'born again Christians,' 35% have experienced a divorce.
 - A. That figure is identical to the outcome among married adults who are not born again: 35%."
 - B. The New Testament has specific, helpful instructions for every wife and every husband - Ephesians 5:22-33.
 1. When such teaching is carried out properly, marriages will not only survive, they will thrive.
 2. As long as neither spouse is willing to do things God's way, the gospel cannot help their situation.
 3. We must be doers of the Word - James 1:22.
 - C. As Christians, we need to approach marriage and divorce as God does.
 1. God hates divorce - Malachi 2:16.
 - A. We should do all we can to avoid it.
 2. God has given the final word on the subject of marriage - Matthew 19:3-9.
3. **THE GOSPEL CANNOT DO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**
 - A. It is the responsibility of the church to go and preach the gospel - Mark 16:15.
 - B. The gospel tells us to help the needy, but it cannot feed the needy - Galatians 6:10; James 1:27.
 1. The gospel can motivate Christians to be compassionate, but we must step up and see that we are compassionate.
 - C. The gospel contains complete instructions that can strengthen and equip the church, but the gospel itself cannot take what Christians have learned and teach it to

News from Alumni

Aren Haggard (2006)

Congratulations is extended to Aren and Alissia at the birth of their son Jackson Eli, February 23rd, 2011.

Michael Hildreth (2010)

Michael's new address is 5037 W. Avenue L-12, Apt. A, Quartz Hill, CA 93536. His email is mahildreth@gmail.com and his cell phone # is (760) 715-0243.

Special Thanks!

Brown Trail School of Preaching recently was the beneficiary of part of the Estate of Brother and Sister Charles and Mary Griffin. The Griffins, long time members of the church, saw the need to train men to preach the gospel and included us in their Wills.

This fine couple has served as a reminder to the rest of us that we might be able to be like Abel in that we may "speak though dead" (Hebrews 11:4) through such actions. If you would like information on how to include us in your Will, we would be happy to provide you with some suggestions as to what you might do.

Sermon Starters - Continued

CONCLUSION:

1. We should be thankful to God for the power of the gospel that changes people's lives and people's eternal destiny.
 - A. But, there are some things that the gospel, with all of its power, cannot do.

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.

Sermon Starters - Continued

others so that they, too, can teach.

1. The task of training faithful workers belongs to saints - 2 Timothy 2:2.
4. **THE GOSPEL CANNOT SERVE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR PRAYER**
 - A. The same Savior that tells us to preach the gospel also tells us to pray - Luke 18:1.
 - B. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write that the gospel is God's power unto salvation (Romans 1:16), but He also led that same apostle to ask others to pray for opportunities to preach the gospel - Colossians 4:2, 3.
 - C. We live the gospel, teach the gospel, and defend the gospel, but we still bring our petitions and thanksgiving before our heavenly Father in prayer - Philippians 4:6, 7.
 1. As great as the gospel is, it cannot take away the need to pray.
 5. **THE GOSPEL CANNOT TAKE THE PLACE OF FAITH**
 - A. Someone may ask, "We have the gospel, what else could we need?"
 1. It is true that faith comes by hearing God's Word, which is the gospel - Romans 10:17.
 2. It is equally true that the Word of God can build us up and give us an inheritance among the sanctified - Acts 20:32.
 - B. However, we must not be deceived into thinking we have the gospel, so why do we need to have faith?
 1. Faith is man's proper response to the gospel.
 2. The faith which pleases God is the truth that acts by love - Galatians 5:6.
 3. There is no benefit or consolation in having several copies of the Bible in our house if we are not going to put its teaching to use in our lives.
 - A. It is still true that "without faith it is impossible to please" God - Hebrews 11:6.
 - B. And, it is still true that "the just shall live by faith" - Romans 1:17; Hebrews 10:38.

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