

# 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 2013  
No. 84

## From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton

### ELDERS

Maxie Boren  
Kevin Carroll  
Guy Elliott  
Larry McWilliams  
Larry Rice  
Bobby Watts

### DIRECTOR

Robert Stapleton

### DEAN OF STUDENTS

Pat McIntosh

### FACULTY

Willie Alvarenga  
Gerald Ball  
Charles Billingsly  
Bill Burk  
Robert Dodson  
Ken Gardner  
Ken Hope  
Jesse Martinez  
Pat McIntosh  
Randall Morris  
Hardeman Nichols  
Obed Rodriguez  
Robert Stapleton  
Richard Stevens III

### FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

J.J. Hendrix

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Contact Info:

P.O. Box 210667  
Bedford, TX  
76095  
(817) 268-3222



Our first quarter of classes for 2013 is completed, and we are already nearing the halfway point in the second one. The statement that “time flies” has nothing to do with whether one is having “fun” or not. The reality is, time “flies”

regardless of the work you are doing. The work of training men to be Gospel Preachers is not always “fun,” but it is a work that has great rewards in the end. Especially, as we see men go forth taking the gospel to a lost and dying world.

The week of April 7th-10th saw our students from both the English and Spanish Departments involved in a door knocking campaign with the Northwest church of Christ in Fort Worth. This congregation has been growing consistently over the past three years since **Robert Dodson**, one of our adjunct instructors, became their located preacher. We are thankful to be able to assist them in their efforts. The Northwest congregation has two BTSOP graduates working full time with them, **Miguel Garcia** (a 2006 graduate who works with the Spanish congregation) and **Spencer Ross** (a 2008 graduate who works with the youth).

If you would like for our Field Representative, **J.J. Hendrix**, to update you on the work we are doing, please give us a call. **J.J.** has several openings for late 2013 available. We are convinced that congregations that support our efforts have the “right” to know what we are doing, and we are happy to come your way and provide you with that information if you so wish.

We have a number of class outlines, etc., that are available to those who would like to purchase them. The average cost per outline book is approximately \$4.00 plus shipping. If you are interested, please call the School office and a list can be emailed to you.

Our condolences are extended to the family of **Perry B. Cotham**, long time adjunct instructor at BTSOP, who passed away February 26th at the age of 101. During **Perry's** life he preached in all fifty states, 75 nations and on multiple continents. During his life time he wrote numerous tracts and distributed millions of them throughout the world. At the time of his death, he was the oldest gospel preacher living, having served as one for 80 years. **Perry's** tireless efforts distinguished him as a true soldier of the cross as he crisscrossed the world preaching the gospel of Christ.

## Spanish Department

Our world continues to get “bigger” as time passes in the sense of the growth in population. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of the World, is projected to be 7,082,236,843 on May 1st, 2013. This reveals the rapid growth of the world's population since it was on October 31st, 2011 that we reached 7 billion in population.

With this information in mind, we cannot help but to see the need to reach out to all people of the world as we seek to fulfill God's “Great Commission” (Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16). Our Spanish Department is working hard to prepare men to take the gospel, which is God's “power unto salvation” (Romans 1:16), to the Spanish speaking part of the world. We, also, have a number of our male students' wives that are taking full time classes to better prepare themselves to assist their husbands in the work they will soon be doing. Your financial support of these efforts will bear eternal rewards as our graduates go forth preaching the Word, and building up the church.

## School Events - 2013

Beacon church of Christ Campaign, Gun Barrel City, Texas - May 11th

College Hill church of Christ Campaign, Hillsboro, Texas - May 17th-19th

Summer Break - June 16th - July 14th

Southside church of Christ Campaign, Linden, Texas - August 23rd-25th

McClish Avenue church of Christ Campaign, Ardmore, Oklahoma - September 1st-4th

Fall Break - September 22nd - September 29th

Spiritual Sword Lectureship - Memphis, Tennessee - October 20th - 24th

Winter Break - December 16th - January 5th, 2014

## Director's Schedule

Summer Series - Brown Trail church of Christ, Bedford, Texas - May 8th

Summer Series - Northwest church of Christ, Fort Worth, Texas - July 3rd

Power Lectureship - Southhaven church of Christ, Southhaven, Mississippi - July 22nd

Alumni Lectureship - Brown Trail church of Christ, Bedford, Texas - August 3rd

Men's Day - Graceton church of Christ, Gilmer, Texas - August 10th

Summer Series - Beltline church of Christ, Irving, Texas - August 21st

Gospel Meeting - McClish Avenue church of Christ - Ardmore, Oklahoma - September 1st - 4th

Sunday Preaching - Blooming Grove church of Christ

Wednesday Bible Class - Brown Trail church of Christ

## New Students Needed

Although, January 6, 2014 is several months away, if the Lord wills (James 4:15), we will begin all over with a new group of students that will be added to our present number. In the meantime, you can assist us with the recruitment of men that are sound in the faith that want to better prepare themselves to be Gospel Preachers.

If you know of someone that has shown an interest in becoming a preacher, let us hear from you, or have them contact us. We will be glad to meet with them and see how we can help them in this way.

## Specific Financial Needs

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

Jesse Martinez Support \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly  
\_\_\_\_\_ One Time

J.J. Hendrix Support \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly  
\_\_\_\_\_ One Time

Willie Alvarenga Support \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly  
\_\_\_\_\_ One Time

English Department \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly  
Student Support \_\_\_\_\_ One Time

Spanish Department \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly  
Student 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 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.

## Recording Studio

Our Internet Radio "Recording Studio" has been set up and allows us to record lessons in both English and Spanish for distribution over the Internet. We have been presenting lessons in Spanish for some time, and the English lessons should come on line soon. If you would like to access the lessons, you can do so by logging on to the web site at BTRADIO.NET.

We are thankful to **Danny Cornish, Johnny Johnson** and the **DeQuincy church of Christ** for providing the funds for this. We believe this will be a valuable tool not only to help train our students, but to also be able to spread the Word.



## 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.

### BALL, JACK

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

### BELL, ARTHUR

Larry & Pat Benedict

### COTHAM, PERRY B.

Gil & Cheryl Holt  
Edna McPeak  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

### EKLUND, ROSE LYNN

Jon, Angela, Benley &  
Blaine Sadler  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton  
Charles & Brenda Wrenn

### GIBBS, FLOYD

Charles & Carolyn Curtis

### HAND, B.C.

Julia Bridges  
Carl & Doris Powell  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

### HENTZ, GERALD

Julia Bridges

### HOLT, EVERETT

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

### LAMB, ARNO

Ralph & Naomi Adkison

### PENNINGTON, ELDON

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

### PENNINGTON, MARIE

Larry & Pat Benedict

### PICKUP, MARTY

Jason & Kaylyn Baker  
Dianna Hall

### SPANN, CHERYL

Charles & Carolyn Curtis

### TAYLOR, AVIE

Julia Bridges  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton  
Bobby & June Watts

### STEEN, FAY

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

### This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Donated By \_\_\_\_\_

## Future Campaigns

Please note, that all our openings for 2013 have been filled. If you are interested in having one in 2014, please contact us as soon as possible as we are making appointments for then. When you call, ask to speak with **Pat McIntosh**.

## Email Copy Available

If you would like to receive your copy of **Fulfilling The Ministry** via email rather than "snail mail," we would be glad to add you to our list.

## Sermon Starters

### ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE SAVED?

John 14:1-4

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. The question of are you sure you are saved is one often discussed and pondered.
  - A. Many are sure they are saved, but are mistaken.
  - B. While many aren't sure they are saved, they just think so or hope so.
2. In this lesson I would like to point out that we can be sure we are saved, regardless of what someone may say.
  - A. We can be sure that we have salvation from past sins.
  - B. We can be sure that our salvation is maintained on a daily basis.
  - C. We can know that we have salvation in heaven following the judgment.

#### BODY:

1. **SOME UNRELIABLE WAYS OF ASSURANCE**
  - A. These lead to some thinking they are sure, but are mistaken.
    - 1 Not by feelings - Acts 23:1; 26:9.
    2. Not a mere assumption - Proverbs 16:25.
    3. Not by an assurance of a preacher or priest - Romans 16:18; Matthew 7:15; 2 Corinthians 11:13; Ephesians 4:14.
    4. Not by assurance of parents.
      - A. If our parents have been deceived, they will pass their deception on to us.
    5. Not by doing what the majority does - Matthew 7:13, 14.
    6. Not by the approval of our fellow men - John 5:44.
2. **GOD'S MEANS OF ASSURANCE**
  - A. Only by the inspired writings can we know - John 8:31, 32; 1 John 5:13.
  - B. How can we know we have salvation from past sins?
    1. The Holy Spirit has given his testimony in the Word - Romans 8:1, 16.
      - A. Our spirits testify that we have done those things.
      - B. Thus, the two agree or witness together that we are children.
    2. What has the Holy Spirit revealed?
      - A. Jesus' promise - Mark 16:16.
      - B. How to get into Christ where salvation is - Galatians 3:26, 27.
      - C. The blood of Christ washes away our sins - Revelation 1:5.
        1. Acts 22:16 and Acts 2:38 show at what point we contact the blood, when our sins are washed away or we obtain remission of them.
        2. Jesus shed His blood in His death - John 19:34.
        3. When we are baptized, we are baptized into His death - Romans 6:3, 4.
          - A. Thus, we contact, or receive the benefits of the blood when we are baptized.
      3. We can know we have salvation from past sins, if we have done exactly as the Spirit revealed in the gospel plan of salvation.

## Sermon Starters - Continued

- B. Sometimes we hear people say they really don't know what they did to be "saved."
- C. One can make himself sure by being obedient - Hebrews 5:9.
- C. How can Christians be sure of their salvation from day to day?
  - 1. We must daily comply with that which results in our "walking in the light" - 1 John 1:6-2:5.
    - A. In verse 7, we see that all sins of thought, word, deed, and ignorance are cleansed.
    - B. It is important to see, though, that they are not cleansed automatically as some try to teach.
      - 1. They are cleansed when we daily comply with the conditions put upon us by God - 1 John 1:9.
      - 2. It is evident, that sin is only cleansed when we confess and repent of them - Acts 8:22.
  - C. God knows our weaknesses - 1 John 1:8, 10.
    - 1. Although, God wants us to be perfect (Matthew 5:48), He knows that we often do not measure up.
    - 2. When we do not do so, He has provided a means of forgiveness - 1 John 2:1.
  - 2. We must have a genuine love for the truth.
    - A. Without Bible authority there is no assurance of salvation - 2 Thessalonians 2:10, 11.
  - 3. We must give diligence to make our calling and election sure - 2 Peter 1:5-11.
    - A. "Giving all diligence" - The assurance of salvation is found in the diligence on our part.
      - 1. We know that God will always do His part.
      - 2. We, in turn, must earnestly strive to do our part.
    - B. "And abound" - We must continue to grow - 1 Corinthians 15:58.
    - C. Verse 9, shows what happens when these are not added, which is an ever-present danger.
    - D. Verse 10, shows the secret of success - diligence.

## News from Alumni

### Courtney Henderson (2006)

Courtney is now preaching for the **Santa Cruz church of Christ**, 637 Pacheco Ave. Santa Cruz, CA 95065. **Courtney** can be reached at 831-423-6046, or [forthegospel1@windstream.net](mailto:forthegospel1@windstream.net)

### Mike Roberts (2009)

Mike is the new preacher for the **Porter church of Christ**, Porter, Oklahoma. His address, effective June 1st, will be 1040 W. Hale Ave, Porter, OK 74454. His phone # is 254-625-1217 (cell); 918-483-3641 (office). His email address is [mrroberts62@yahoo.com](mailto:mrroberts62@yahoo.com)

- 4. We must continually strive to keep God's commandments - 1 John 2:3-6; 3:9; 5:18, 19.
  - A. To be in union with God, having all the blessings available from Him, we must keep His commandments.
- 5. When we continue to rely on God.
  - A. God provides an escape - 1 Corinthians 10:13.
  - B. Christ is able to aid those who are tempted - Hebrews 2:18.
  - C. We may come boldly to the throne of grace - Hebrews 4:16.
  - D. We remember that God is able to save us eternally - Jude 24; 1 Peter 5:10, 11; Hebrews 13:20, 21.
  - E. There is no uncertainty with God, but within each of us there will be a degree of uncertainty from time to time.
- D. God has granted us a system of grace - Romans 4:1-8.
  - 1. A system of works alone will not justify.
  - 2. When we live up to God's standard, our faith will be counted for righteousness in conjunction with our works.

### CONCLUSION:

- 1. Are you sure you are saved?
- 2. We can know by the things we have just seen.

**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](mailto: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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P.O. BOX 210667, BEDFORD, TX 76095. A work of the Brown Trail Church of Christ.