

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 2015
No. 92

From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton

ELDERS

Maxie Boren
Kevin Carroll
Guy Elliott
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Larry Rice
Bobby Watts

DIRECTOR

Robert Stapleton

DEAN OF STUDENTS

Pat McIntosh

FACULTY

Willie Alvarenga
Gerald Ball
Bill Burk
Robert Dodson
Ken Gardner
Ken Hope
Jesse Martinez
Pat McIntosh
Randall Morris
Obed Rodriguez
Jason Sparks
Heath Stapleton
Robert Stapleton
Richard Stevens III

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Tavaris Armstrong

Contact Info:

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



It hardly seems possible, but another quarter has passed. On March 30th, we began our second quarter of classes for 2015. For the most part, all of the students did well on their Finals.

During the spring break, the facilities were painted, with additional work to be done this summer as we replace the carpet. This has been needed for some time. If you would like to donate to help offset the expenses for this, it would be appreciated. Please mark your check accordingly. The total renovation will cost approximately \$21,000.00.

The week of April 12th saw the students in the **English Department** traveling to **Prescott, Arkansas** to conduct a combined door knocking campaign and gospel meeting. From all reports, things went well, and we pray that much good was accomplished from these efforts. We are thankful for these opportunities as they provide our students with hands on experience in both areas. **John Ratliff**, a 2011 **BTSOP** graduate, is the located preacher there, and he is doing a good work!

Tavaris Armstrong, our Field Representative, has been busy traveling on behalf of the school, seeking to raise funds and recruit students. If you would like for **Tavaris** to visit your congregation for a report on the work here, I am sure he would be happy to add you to his schedule. You can contact him either through the school office (817-268-3222), or on his cell phone at (228) 383-6230. He is, also, available for fill in preaching if he does not have an appointment for the school.

Spanish Department

Enough cannot be said about the efforts of **Willie Alvarenga**, **Jesse Martinez**, and **Obed Rodriguez** as they continue to do a fantastic job in preparing the men that are in our **Spanish Department** to “**preach the Word**.” If you would like to be a part of this effort, please give us a call and ask for **Willie**. I am confident that he can provide you with the necessary information either on the **Spanish Department** or students within this Department, that will help you know where best to send your support.

On April 4th, the **Spanish Department** conducted a door knocking campaign with the **Iglesia de Cristo** in **Bridgeport, Texas**. Many doors were knocked, and much material was distributed. We are blessed to have this department as part of the overall efforts here at **BTSOP**. Please keep both staff and students in your prayers.

Fill In Preaching

With so many things happening, we are often contacted concerning the possibility of one of our students filling in for a preacher that may be out sick, on vacation, or a number of other reasons. Please know that we are more than happy to assist where we can. Please be reminded that the earlier you contact us, the better the chance we can help.

MTSM Program

Our **Moving Toward Spiritual Maturity** program continues to reap great benefits for those that take part in it. This program is for students that have recently graduated from High School, and who may be planning on attending college. If interested, please call us to set up an appointment to visit with you.

Btradio.net

We need your assistance in passing the word that our regular programming is aired over the Internet at:

www.btradio.net and
www.KnowTheTruthRadio.org.

For those of you that have a smart phone or tablet, you can download the ***TuneIn Radio App*** and access our programs this way. Once you have downloaded the App, search for ***Brown Trail Radio*** and select it. You can then save it and be able to access our programs whenever and wherever you are, so long as you have phone service.

2015 Btradio.net Schedule

Searching the Scriptures (Robert Stapleton)	Mon.-Fri.	6:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
Do You Know the Truth? (Tyler Bush, Elves Hadley, and Travion Saxton)	Monday	6:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Biblical Foundations (Pat McIntosh)	Mon.-Fri.	7:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
What is Truth? (Tavaris Armstrong)	Tue.-Thur.	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
Behold, I Thought (Marcus Teske and Carlos Tario)	Tuesday	4:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Life in the Son (Marcus Washington and Greg James)	Wednesday	6:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Contending for the Faith (David Westbrook and Marco Arroyo)	Thursday	4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
In Search of the Truth (Casey Shawver and Brayden Shelley)	Friday	4:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.

BTSOP Graduate Program

Our ***Graduate Program*** officially began January 1, 2015 with four students enrolled. Those interested in this program should contact ***Pat McIntosh***, Dean of Students, for the necessary information. Please take note that there is a \$75.00 "application fee" which will help offset extra time spent in record-keeping and costs of diplomas.

Each course will require a similar workload with each course having a required reading load of three to five books. There will be a booklist provided with the syllabus. If a book is unavailable, students may get permission to substitute a book with the approval of the instructor. Each student will also submit a book critique/review for each book, using the format provided in the syllabus.

This critique/review will be five to six pages in length. The student will also be required to write a 20-25 page paper on a topic provided by the instructor related to the overall theme of the course. If no topic is provided, the student will have the freedom to write on a topic of his choosing included in the subject matter. Outlines/Introductions may also be required, based on the desire of the instructor.

Additional information is available on our web site. If you have questions, please feel free to contact ***Pat*** through the office and he will get back to you as soon as possible.

Specific Financial Needs

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

Jesse Martinez Support _____ Monthly
_____ One Time

Tavaris Armstrong 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.

Class Material Available

Class notes are available on a number of books of the Bible. Each outline costs around \$5.00, plus shipping. If you would like a list of what is available, please let us know, and we will email you the list. Also, we have a number of sermon outline books available. There are 50 outlines in each book, and the cost is the same as the class outline books.

For those that speak ***Spanish***, ***Willie Alvarenga*** has a list of books available to help you in your study of God's Word. Please contact him for further information on the following:

- Exegesis of the New Testament Through the Greek Language
- Handling Aright the Word of Truth (Hermeneutics)
- Preaching the Word (Homiletics)
- Problems Facing the Church
- Reasoning Correctly (How to use logic in studying the Bible)
- On the Tablet of My Heart (Memorization techniques)
- Growing in Doctrine (Topical reference)
- Fundamentals of the Faith
- Knowing the Truth to Be Saved
- Practical Sermons for Your Spiritual Growth
- No Other Gospel (A verse-by-verse commentary on Galatians)
- Seeking the Lost (Practical principles on evangelism)

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.

BILL BARTON

Gary & Mary Murphy

JOHNNIE & J.D. BRAY

Gary & Mary Murphy

EVA CARR

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

BETH CASAS

Gary & Mary Murphy

ELWOOD FERRELL

Kent & Marlene Ferrell

DANNY EVANS

Gary & Mary Murphy

OZELLA LAWSON

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

FRED JOHNSON

Gary & Mary Murphy

EVELYN MOSIER

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

DWAINE MURPHY

Gary & Mary Murphy

EDDY RAY PARKER, JR.

Julia Bridges
Gary & Mary Murphy
Carl & Doris Powell
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Jack & MaryLea Stephens

LASTEEN SANCHEZ

Jamestown church of
Christ

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

Fulfilling the Ministry

Please let us know if you would like to receive your copy of *Fulfilling the Ministry* via the Internet.

Also, please, if you are relocating, send us an update for your new mailing address as we have to pay for each one that the Post Office returns.

Web Site

Our new web site should be up and running before too much longer. This new site, as with the present one, will include considerable information on the School, how to apply, etc.

Sermon Starters

REASON TO REJOICE

Philippians 1:26; 4:4

INTRODUCTION:

- God's people have a reason to be happy!
 - "The world is looking for a creed to believe and a song to sing." (Former President of Harvard.).
 - Philippians has been called "The Epistle of Joy."
 - In this epistle Paul gives his reasons for rejoicing.
 - The precious memories of the Philippians caused Paul to rejoice in prayer - Philippians 1:4.
 - Christ was being preached - Philippians 1:18.
 - The unity of love of the Philippians saints - Philippians 2:2.
 - The faithful brethren at Philippi - Philippians 2:16; 4:4.
 - The many opportunities for service and sacrifice - Philippians 2:17.
 - The love the saints at Philippi showed to Paul - Philippians 4:10.
 - He also sets forth in this epistle the reason the Philippians should rejoice.
 - This lesson should remind Christians of some of their blessings.
 - It may, also, prompt non-Christians to want to serve Christ.

BODY:

- REJOICE IN THE LORD - PHILIPPIANS 1:26; 3:1; 3:3; 4:4**
 - The church at Philippi was born amid persecution - Acts 16:19-24; 1 Thessalonians 2:1, 2.
 - All spiritual blessings are in Christ, which causes us to rejoice in Christ - Ephesians 1:3.
 - Men are chosen (elected) of God in Christ - Ephesians 1:4.
 - Men are accepted in Christ - Ephesians 1:6.
 - Men are redeemed in Christ - Ephesians 1:7.
 - Men are forgiven in Christ - Ephesians 1:7.
 - "In the Lord" people are:
 - Meet (fit) for heaven - Colossians 1:12.
 - Redeemed from sin - Colossians 1:14.
 - Forgiven of sin - Colossians 1:14.
 - Delivered from the power of Satan - Colossians 1:13.
 - They have an inheritance in heaven - 1 Peter 1:3-5.
- RECIPIENTS OF THE LORD'S CONSTANT CONCERN**
 - There is no reason to conclude that Paul is, in Philippians, asserting the imminent coming of Christ.
 - If so, he would be contradicting his statement about the Lord's coming being as "a thief in the night" - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.
 - If so, he would be contradicting his prophecy relative to an apostasy which would precede the Lord's coming - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10.
 - God's Old Testament Israel was often impressed with His nearness to them.
 - Men were urged to call upon the Lord while He was near - Isaiah 55:6.

Sermon Starters - Continued

2. Isaiah knew of God's nearness - Isaiah 50:7, 8.
- C. The Lord is near His people - Philippians 4:5.
 1. Christians have communion (Participation) with Christ when the Lord's Supper is eaten - 1 Corinthians 10:16.
 2. Christ is an ever-living, accessible High Priest - Hebrews 7:25; 4:15, 16.
 3. He is the Christian's Advocate - 1 John 2:1, 2.
 4. The words of the song, "O Yes, He Cares" emphasize the nearness of the Lord to His people.

3. REJOICE IN THE GLORIOUS FUTURE - PHILIPPIANS 3:20, 21

- A. God's people will obtain the prize of God's high calling - Philippians 3:14.
 1. Men are called to be God's people - Ephesians 4:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 9, 24.
 2. Men are called by the gospel - 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 14.
 3. It can be said it is "A calling which is from heaven and to heaven." (Wuest, p. 98.)
- B. Jesus shall come for His people.
 1. We are converted to serve God and wait for Jesus to come - 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 10.
 2. The "dead in Christ" shall be resurrected and caught up to meet Him in the air - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
 3. Living saints shall be changed and with those raised from the dead shall meet the Lord - 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
 4. The Lord shall be glorified by His saints - 2 Thessalonians 1:10.
- C. Saints shall be given a body like that of Jesus - Philippians 3:20, 21.
- D. We shall see Him and be like Him - 1 John 3:1-3.
- E. We shall appear with Christ in glory - Colossians 3:4.
- F. We shall forever be with Him - 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

CONCLUSION:

1. As we have just noted, there are multiple reasons for Christians to rejoice.

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

- A. They are in Christ where they have become the recipients of all spiritual blessings.
- B. The Lord is near and constantly concerned about His people.
- C. God's people have a glorious future.
2. The world is filled with fear and despair.
3. God's people have joy in believing - Romans 15:13.
4. They rejoice in hope - Romans 12:12.
5. God's people have reason to rejoice, so let us do so.

News from Alumni

Matthew Morine (2000)

Matthew has written a new book entitled "A Mountain Moving Faith", which was published by the Gospel Advocate. The following link was provided for additional information on the book.

<http://stores.gospeladvocate.com/a-mountain-moving-faith-teaching-young-people-to-reach-the-ultimate-summit-by-matthew-morine/>

Present Student Body



Return Service Requested

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