

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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From the Director's Desk

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It is hard to believe that the first quarter of classes for 2016 is over and we are well into the second quarter. As I am preparing this to go to print, the students from the English Department are conducting a campaign with the

church of Christ in Youngsport, Texas. **Bryan Hodge**, a 1993 graduate of **BTSOP**, is the located preacher there. Also, the students in the Spanish Department are preparing for a similar campaign in Amarillo, Texas later in the month and for a one day campaign with the Plano East church of Christ in Plano, Texas on May 14th. Each year we conduct several of these campaigns which are a benefit to the local congregations and the students as they are afforded an opportunity to put into practice what they have learned so far at **BTSOP**. Please pray for each of these opportunities.

An Urgent Appeal

As much as we wish we would not have to keep reminding you of this appeal, it is necessary to do so. Although we have had some success in raising some of the needed funds, we are still short of what it takes to end the year in the black. So far, of the **\$15,000.00** per month that we need, we have raised **\$6,736.25**. This has helped considerably, but we are still a long ways away from fully funding what we need.

If you know of a congregation or individual that might be willing to assist with this, we would appreciate you letting us know so we may contact them.

Spanish Department

Once again, we want to call your attention to the good Bible materials in Spanish that are published by **La Palabra Publisher**, a recent venture begun by **Azael Alvarez**, **Juan Garcia**, **Juan Luna** and **Roger Medina**, all graduates of **BTSOP Spanish Department**. You can see what is available at www.lapalabrapublisher.com.

We, also, recommend that you check out **Willie Alvarenga's** web site at <http://regresandoalabiblia.com/libros-por-alvarenga-publications/> for material written by him. I can guarantee, if you are looking for sound materials in Spanish, you will be happy with what you find at both of the locations.

The Spanish Department continues to reach out with the gospel as many of our students are assisting congregations with classes and sermons on Sunday and Wednesday nights. There is a great need in the US for sound Spanish speaking men to have the knowledge and ability to assist in efforts like these as they prepare themselves for full time work once they graduate.

On June the 3rd and 4th, the students in the Spanish Department will be attending the **“Back to the Bible Lectures”** at the Pleasant Grove congregation in Dallas, Texas. Please continue to pray for our efforts.

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 to attend college. If interested, please call us to set up an appointment to visit with you.

Btradio.net

Please help us in passing the word to congregations and individuals 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.

Please note our schedule for 2016 below. Some changes have been made with the speakers and the times the programs are aired.

2016 Btradio.net Schedule

Searching the Scriptures (Robert Stapleton)	Mon.-Fri.	6:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
What is Truth? (Tavaris Armstrong)	Tue.-Thur.	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
Let the Truth Be Told (Ronnie Fisher, Jr. and Ronnie Fisher, Sr.)	Monday	7:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
Behold, I Thought (Dale Choate, Carlos Tario and Michael Windham)	Tuesday	4:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Life in the Son (Brandon Ferguson and Greg James)	Wednesday	6:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Contending for the Faith (Marco Arroyo and Billy Palmer)	Thursday	4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Foundational Principles (Rickey Brown and Walter Woods)	Friday	7:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
In Search of the Truth (Cody McCoy and Brayden Shelley)	Friday	4:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.

Fulfilling the Ministry

Please let us know if you would like to receive your copy of ***Fulfilling the Ministry*** via the Internet. We would be more than happy to add your name to our email list!

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.

Fill In Preaching

We want to remind you that students and staff are available for fill in preaching. If your congregation is in need of someone to do so, please contact us as early as possible, so we may be able to assist you. When calling, please ask for me. If I am in class or unavailable please give your name, congregation name, dates when someone is needed, and a call back phone number and email address. I will get back to you as soon as possible. You may also try calling me on my cell phone at (817) 937-3981.

Director's Schedule

At the present I have the following events scheduled for 2016.

May 29 - Centerville Road church of Christ, Garland, Texas - "Let's Get Serious About Evangelism."

June 1 - Graceton church of Christ, Gilmer, Texas - Summer Series - "More About Jesus Would I Know."

June 15 - Beltline church of Christ, Irving, Texas - Summer Series - "One That Does Evil Hates the Light."

July 6 - Weber Road church of Christ, Corpus Christi, Texas - Summer Series - "Don't Touch the Ark."

July 26 - East Main church of Christ, Davis, Oklahoma - Gospel Meeting - "Parable of the Talents."

August 13 - Graceton church of Christ, Gilmer, Texas - Men's Day - The Christian and Morality

September 4-7 - Steward Avenue church of Christ, Sedalia, Missouri - Gospel Meeting

October 2-5 - North Beaton church of Christ, Corsicana, Texas - Gospel Meeting

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.

Web Site

Please be aware of the School's web site address and share it with those that are interested in knowing more about us, how to enroll, etc. Also, take note that we have a location on the web site where sound congregations and preachers can place their ads as they are searching for preachers or churches to work with. These are free and have a wide distribution.

www.browntrailsschoolofpreaching.com

Campaign

If you are interested in our assisting you with a campaign some time in the future, please get in touch with us as soon as possible. Usually we schedule a year or two in advance.

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.

P.D. ASH

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

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Bob & Marcia Stapleton

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Julia Bridges
Beverly Hentz
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

LINDA ZARATE

Gary & Mary Murphy

Sermon Starters

SOME THINGS WE SHOULD NOT FORGET 2 Peter 3:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. God's Word urges us to "grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." - 2 Peter 3:18.
 - A. Numerous other passages could be cited to show the necessity that we as Christians have to grow in the Lord.
2. Growth is essential in any living organism.
 - A. When an organism ceases to grow, it begins to die.
 1. This is true of the Christian.
3. But while we are growing, there are some fundamental truths that we should never forget or attempt to grow out of.
 - A. With this lesson we will give consideration to some of them.

BODY:

1. **DON'T FORGET THAT WE ARE SAVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD**
 - A. No one will ever enter heaven by any other means than the grace of God.
 1. The fact that we have all sinned (Romans 3:23), and the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), is an indication of the need for the grace of God.
 - B. We should never approach God with the attitude that we have earned or deserve salvation or any of His blessings - Luke 18:9-14.
 - C. As Christians, we must keep in mind that we are only doing that which is our duty to do and, therefore, it is impossible to earn or merit our eternal salvation - Luke 17:10; Ephesians 2:8, 9.
 - D. We should keep in mind that it is God who pardons iniquity and, therefore, we must continue to rely upon His grace - Micah 7:18.
2. **DON'T FORGET THE NEED FOR PERSONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS**
 - A. Salvation is two-fold.
 1. Grace and mercy are God's part.
 2. While faith and personal righteousness are man's.
 - B. If grace only saves man, then all men would be saved - Titus 2:11.
 - C. It is evident, though, from the Scriptures that there are those things that we must do in order to save ourselves - Acts 2:40.
 - D. The Bible is very clear in placing an individual responsibility of righteousness or holy living upon each of us - 1 Timothy 5:22; 1 Peter 1:15; Ephesians 5:8; James 1:27.
 1. Many other such passages could be shown that clearly indicate that we have personal responsibility for our holiness.
 - E. Let us never forget the need for personal righteousness in our daily lives.
3. **DON'T FORGET THAT GOD SEES EVERY THING WE DO**
 - A. If we could constantly remember this one thing, we would see a drastic decrease in sin, especially among those who are members of the church - Proverbs 15:3.

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." - Romans 1:16

Sermon Starters - Continued

- B. We must never forget that there is no place that we can hide from God - Job 34:22; Psalm 139:7-12.
 - C. How foolish it is to live as if we will never give an account of ourselves to God - 2 Corinthians 5:10, 11.
 - 1. As God saw the ways of Job, and counted his steps, we must remember that it is the same for us today - Job 31:4.
 - D. We must never forget that we cannot escape God's vision .
- 4. DON'T FORGET THAT THE WORD OF GOD SAVES**
- A. It is tragic to see so many, even in the church, inflicted with the "every man does that which is right in his own eyes" disease - Judges 21:25.
 - 1. Too many will agree with the Bible only when the Bible agrees with them.
 - A. Otherwise, they will do as they please.
 - B. How tragic this is due to the fact that it is by God's Word that there is eternal life - John 6:68.
 - C. We can see clearly that it is God's Word that saves (James 1:21); purifies (1 Peter 1:22); cleanses (John 15:3); makes us complete (2 Timothy 3:16, 17); and guides our path - Psalm 119:105.
 - 1. We must remember that God's Word plays an important part in our eternal salvation.
 - 2. This must never be forgotten.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. We must remember these things if we are to be with God for eternity.

News from Alumni

We have not received any recent updates to post in this area. If you have updates such as births, deaths, changes of congregations, etc., that you would like included herein please drop me an email with a brief description of your update and we will happy to post it here. This is a good way to stay up with those you may have graduated with as the years ever so quickly pass away.

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.

Specific Financial Needs

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

General Fund	_____	Monthly
	_____	One Time
Jesse Martinez Support	_____	Monthly
	_____	One Time
Tavaris Armstrong Support	_____	Monthly
	_____	One Time
Willie Alvarenga Support	_____	Monthly
	_____	One Time
English Department Student Support	_____	Monthly
	_____	One Time
Spanish Department Student 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.

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! (1 Corinthians 9:16)

Return Service Requested

FILLING 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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