

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 2018
No. 104

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From the Interim—Director's Desk

Heath Stapleton

Introduction

Most, if not all, of our supporters know by now that we lost my father (who was the director of the school from 2003-2017) on the 31st of December, 2017. With his sudden departure, we quickly had to pick up the pieces because the school year was to start four days after his memorial. Everyone pulled together and not only did the school start on time without any problems, but we also finished the first quarter on the 23rd of March without any major problems. I am very grateful for Brothers **Kevin Rhodes**, the pulpit minister from **Granbury Street** in Cleburne, and **Kenny Gardner**, the pulpit minister at **Plano East**, for stepping in at the last moment and filling classes for us that my father and I normally would have taught. They both did a great job and our students learned a lot from them. The students are now on break for a week before they return and start the second quarter on the 2nd of April.

Special Contribution

By the time everyone receives this newsletter, most congregations will have already collected the special contribution we have asked of our supporters on the 1st of April. I want to share my appreciation with all those who contributed to this. We knew we were going into 2018 with a major financial shortfall, as we try to raise the monthly support needed. This special contribution will help fund us while we continue to work hard raising our monthly support needs. I don't know how much we will be short going into 2019, but I know for certain it will not be as much as it was going into 2018. In saying this, I want to share my appreciation with all our new supporters, and for all those who donated to this special contribution. Our only desire here at the **Brown Trail School of Preaching** is to prepare sound gospel preachers for today and to serve God and congregations for decades to come. Together, we are accomplishing the Lord's will. Thanks again!

New Software

We are making several new changes here at the school, and one of them is we are updating our central office's software. The new software will allow us to better track incoming contributions, tax receipts, labels for our newsletters, and more. With this change, our monthly thank you letters, sent to those who support us, will have a different format with a tax-receipt on the bottom of the thank you letter.

“Brown Trail Radio” Recordings

In 2013, my father and others started an internet radio station called browntrailradio.net. Since then, my father spoke on the radio over 1,200 times before his death, and along with the student body and other staff, they presented another 2,000 lessons. If you want to listen to this internet radio station, you can download the app, browntrailradio.net or visit our web-site www.browntrailsofpreaching.com and click on the app. This radio program was one of my father's favorite projects. Before his death, he would rise very early, usually around 12:30 am to come to the office to prepare his early morning lesson. His lessons and the lessons of others are listened to around the world in countries on every continent.



Starting in April, we will be working with Church of Christ Web Design, LLC, to make all these lessons available on the school's website. My wife, **Becky Stapleton**, and the staff there will slowly start that process. I am not sure how long it will take to upload these programs, but I am sure it will keep everyone busy for some time. We will inform everyone when the programs are up and running.

New Instructor

I am very grateful to introduce everyone to one of our newest teachers, **Phillip McIntosh**. Brother Phil will be teaching our **Denominational Doctrines** class starting the 2nd of April. The **Denominational Doctrines** class is a first-year class. I am confident he will do a great job!



Brother Phil and his wife, Michelle, have been married for almost fourteen years and have two sons, Lex (12) and Ivan (11). He is a 2005 graduate of the **Southwest School of Bible Studies** with a diploma in Biblical Studies. He is in his twelfth year of work in the kingdom with the Lord's church at Briar in Azle, Texas. Please keep him in your prayers as he teaches this class. He has never taught at a school of preaching, and I believe he may just be a little anxious!

Recording Classes

Since August of last year, I have been to around 45 congregations in order to make a presentation of the work here. Two questions I always get asked is if our radio lessons and classes are available online. We are not only working toward making the radio lessons available but we are also going to start recording our classes in April, and Lord willing, by the end of summer a few of them will be available to those who want a deeper study of God's Word.

Like everything today, if we want to make these classes available it is going to cost money. We are not going to buy the most expensive products on the market, but we don't want to purchase junk either. Unfortunately, operational costs are one of those necessary "evils," to make these classes available. Each HD camera costs \$1,300.00, the wireless microphones are \$300.00 each, and we will need a desktop computer and SD cards, which will be an additional \$800.00 for each classroom. The total cost will be right at \$4,800.00 for this project. We have a great audio/video man, Derek Baker, here at Brown Trail who will set these up for us. And, again, Lord willing, we will start making these available toward the end of summer. We would appreciate it if you could help us with these costs.

Enrichment Seminar

We are pleased to announce that from the 15th-19th of October we are hosting an "**Enrichment Seminar**," here at the **Brown Trail School of Preaching**. Last quarter, I taught **1 & 2 Corinthians** here and we spent much time discussing the divisions found within the church there, 1 Corinthians 1:10. I often wonder what the Lord thinks about the doctrinal divisions found in the church today. The truth is, we are divided on almost every topic. Where we used to claim, "In essentials, unity; in opinions, liberty; in all things, love," we no longer seek to unify when it comes to the essentials. We want to welcome everyone to come and join us during our **Enrichment Seminar** to listen and study about five topics that have divided the brotherhood for years.

On Monday, Brother **Jim Laws** will discuss **Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage**. Brother **Mike Bonner** will present lessons about **Ascertaining Biblical Authority** on Tuesday. On Wednesday, Brother **Corey Hall** will

be delivering lessons on **Anti-ism**. Brother Hall comes highly recommended because he has worked with a couple of congregations bringing them out of this error. Brother **David Hester** will be here on Thursday discussing **Realized Eschatology** (The 70 AD Doctrine). Then on Friday, Brother **Rick Popejoy** will spend the day teaching about the **Holy Spirit**.

Highlighting A Graduate Brother Mark Teske



I am going to take the opportunity to share with our supporters the amazing graduates we have from Brown Trail. These men have gone on to do great things for the kingdom, and the congregation here, the staff and our supporters should be grateful and proud to have had a part in training men like these. The first graduate I would like to highlight is Brother Mark Teske.

Since graduation from Brown Trail in 2003, Mark has labored full-time in the kingdom. He worked for 2 ½ years in Glasgow, Kentucky as the Associate Minister for the South Green Street congregation. He then returned to Brown Trail for 7 years as the Executive Director of the Truth in Love Television Program. While working with the television program, Mark preached with congregations in Ponder and Hewitt on the weekends. Since April 2012, Mark has worked full time with the Gospel Broadcasting Network where he serves as the Director of Operations and Programming. Mark appears on several programs on the network and travels the country speaking on behalf of the network. Mark also serves as an elder for the Southaven congregation, which oversees the work of GBN.

Darrin Stapleton

Robert Stapleton's family was very important to him, and because of that, my brother Darrin wanted to write a few words about him to share with our supporters.

Robert William Stapleton

For 43 years, Robert Stapleton has brought so much joy, love, and encouragement to my life as his child. While I have reflected on his life over the past few days there is so much that pours into my heart and I cannot begin to express it all. I remember him as always being a man of love and not afraid to express that love to me, my siblings, or our mother. I cannot recall a time where he would leave the house without telling my mother that he loved her. As I think about his love, it all started with his love for God. He loved God as the Bible teaches and he loved his family as God desired. The love he had did not just affect our family; it was also extended to people all over the world. He loved me, provided for me, encouraged me, corrected me, taught me, picked me up, listened to me, and lived before me a life I want to emulate. I will hear his voice and remember how he always reminded me that God is bigger than any of us. I will serve God and I will strive to make a difference in the lives of others.

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.

| | |
|--|---|
| R J ALFORD Gary & Mary Murphy | REBA BARHAM Gary & Mary Murphy |
| ELIZABETH BINION Gary & Mary Murphy | MAXIE BOREN John & Susie Fakhari |
| JAMES CRABTREE Gary & Mary Murphy | RAYMOND FOX Gary & Mary Murphy |
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| JEANIE KESSEL Julia Bridges | FRANK LARVIN, JR. Julia Bridges Marcia Stapleton |
| TOM MACK, SR. Julia Bridges Marcia Stapleton | BILL MARIN Donna Brinkley |
| JOSEPHINE MILLER Julia Bridges Mark & Gwenda Selby Marcia Stapleton | LISA MILLS Julia Bridges |
| LARRY PETERS Gary & Mary Murphy | STERLINE NASH Gary & Mary Murphy |
| JERRY POLLOCK Julia Bridges Kevin & Kathy Carroll Sara Crowder & Family Gregory & Sandra Hall Gary & Mary Murphy Eddie & Mary Parrish Marcia Stapleton | DAVID POLK Gary & Mary Murphy |
| DON TYLER Julia Bridges | WAYNE PRUETT Gary & Mary Murphy |
| | MARGIE RICHARDS Gary & Mary Murphy |
| | HENRY "DUSTY" RHODE David & Sharon Robinson |
| | LYNN WOLFE The Henry & Wanda Wolf Memorial Trust |

HONORARIUM

HURTON PRESCOTT—Former Elder
Pat & Lynn Porter

IN MEMORY

ROBERT STAPLETON

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Antioch Church of Christ | Ruby Beekman |
| Bill Boller | Carolyn Ball |
| Larry & Pat Benedict | Matthew & Kim Bransford |
| Kathy Brewer | Julia Bridges |
| Kevin & Kathy Carroll | Jim & Caren Chapman |

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

In Memory—Robert Stapleton, Cont.

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Richard & Deborah Cheek | Chimala Mission Staff |
| David & Linda Clay | Roy Conner |
| Larry & Charlotte Cook | Joe & Barbara Crouch |
| Mr. & Mrs. Dale Curtis | Nancy Curtis |
| Merlene Day | James & Janeece Garlish |
| Kenny & Nancy Gragg | Ben & Winnolee Goodrum |
| Virginia Grant | Tommie Greer |
| Thomas Griffith | Mr & Mrs. Earl Gunn |
| David & Leah Hamrick | Henry & Nancy Hart |
| Marilyn Hart | Jamestown Church of Christ |
| Judi Hatfield | Cheryl & Gil Holt |
| Wayne Hood | Independence Church of Christ |
| Corey & Amy Johnson | Robert Jones |
| Roy & Judy King | Kountze Church of Christ |
| Kountze Church of Christ— Ladies Bible Class | Todd & Liz McGraw |
| Audrey McKim | Larry & Vicki McWilliams |
| Dennis & Sheri Miller | Jerry & Norma Miller |
| Weldon Miller | Joe & Liz Moon |
| Shirley Morris | Gary & Mary Murphy |
| North Jefferson Church of Christ | Wesley Pace |
| Pat Dillard & Janaan Parker | Eddie & Mary Parrish |
| Philip & Rosa Lee Pope | Dot Ricks |
| Larry & Jamie Ritter | David & Sharon Robinson |
| Doug & Cheryl Selby | Larry Splawn |
| Mary Lea Stephens | George & Mary Stutzman |
| University Church of Christ | Venus Church of Christ |
| Bobby & June Watts | Jim & Shirley Willcox |
| Trey & Shana Yelverton | Ruth Hamman Young |

Open House

Have you ever considered attending a school of preaching? What about supporting one? Or, just wanting to know what goes on here and at other schools like ours? On the 10th of May, we are hosting an Open House for those who would like to attend. We plan on starting at 8:30 am and we will continue until 12:00 when we will have lunch together and dismiss for the day. We welcome everyone! Please R.S.V.P. online at our website if you would like to attend. Or you can email me at browntrailheath@yahoo.com or call the school! Hope to see you then!

"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)

News from Alumni

Ed Stover (2006) Ed is the new pulpit minister for the congregation in Chandler, Texas.

Marco Arroyo (2016) Marco is the new pulpit minister for the church in Aledo, Texas.

Sermon Starters

The Challenge of Loving The Church As Jesus Did Ephesians 5:23-33

Introduction:

1. The New Testament challenges us to love the church as Jesus did!
 - A. Specifically the challenge is to love the church as Jesus did—Ephesians 5:25.
 - 1) There may be a vast difference in these two ideas.
 - 2) Our love for the church needs to be the greatest of all loves—Matthew 6:33.
 - B. Jesus is the perfect example of the kind of love we must have for the church.

Body:

1. Christ's Love For The Church Is Evidenced
 - A. The question of whether a person loves another is a very important question.
 - 1) We understand actions speak louder than words.
 - B. If the church were to ask Jesus, "Do you love me?"
 - 1) He'd answer, "Yes, and I've already proved it."
 - A) A casual reading of the New Testament evidences His love, Eph. 5:23; Matt. 27:46.
2. How Do We Prove Our Love For The Church?
 - A. First, don't allow social or civic affairs, along with family and friends to come first, Matt. 10:37-38; Heb. 10:25.
 - B. Second, accept definite and continued responsibilities in the church, Matt. 25:25-26; Gal. 6:10.
 - C. Third, don't bring reproach on the church of Christ.

Conclusion:

1. May we be challenged to love the church as Christ did.
 - A. Make we make whatever necessary sacrifices.

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 Heath Stapleton at chimalaheath@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.

Financial Needs

| Check One | | Amount |
|-----------|---|--------|
| | Recording Equipment | |
| | Student Enrichment Week | |
| | Willie Alvarenga Support | |
| | Tavaris Armstrong Support | |
| | Jesse Martinez Support | |
| | Heath Stapleton Support | |
| | General Fund | |
| | English or Spanish Department Student (Underline which) | |
| | Where Needed | |

Specific Financial Needs

You will see below a reminder of some of the specific financial needs of *The Brown Trail School of Preaching*. We wish we could say there are no such needs, but we cannot. Please help where you can. Thanks!

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Amount Needed</i> | <i>Amount on Hand</i> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Future Preachers Training Week | \$ 00.00 | \$ Funded |
| Recording Equipment | \$4,800.00 | \$ 00.00 |
| Student Books | \$ 960.00 | \$ Funded |
| Student Enrichment Week | \$1,500.00 | \$1,200.00 |

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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