

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

Robert Stapleton



Here it is, another new year upon us. As I think of the new year I am reminded of Jeremiah 8:20, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” On the morning of the 15th of January, 2007, the world’s population reached 6,569,971,244. Of that number, but a few are saved. The words of Jesus ring so clear, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:13, 14. As we ponder these words, others come to mind, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”, Romans 10:13-15.

In view of these scriptures, we begin to appreciate such learning institutions as BTSOP and the work done here. Likewise, our appreciation for those who make the financial sacrifices necessary to keep the school in operation grows stronger. Please, as we embark upon another year of service to the Lord and His kingdom, know that you, our supporters, are deeply appreciated. There is no doubt that without your efforts we would soon no longer be able to go about the work that has been done here for so long.

This year will see our students not only strengthening their knowledge of the Word of God but, also, their abilities as they preach at local congregations, at a local Retirement Center, and take part in the various campaigns that are already set up. Each of the activities are so valuable to the overall growth of our students.

We ask each one who reads these words to look out over the congregation they are a part of and think of men who would make gospel preachers and encourage them to contact us. If the “workers” are indeed “few,” it may well be because we are slow in our encouragement of young men to step forth into this field of service. We need to get back to spelling success this way instead of \$ucce\$\$ as we rear our sons, don’t you think?

Hispanic Department

As you are aware, Willie Alvarenga began his full time work with the school the first of the year. His primary responsibilities are to serve as Dean of Students and Admissions and instructor. He is also desirous to visit with potential students and contributors. If you would like for him to make a presentation to your congregation about the work of the Hispanic Department, I am sure he would be happy to make an appointment. Please give us a call here at the school facilities and arrangements will be made.

Even though Willie is now on board full time, this does not mean all of his support has been raised. We decided to “leap out in faith” on this and have him begin his work while the funds are being raised. If you or your congregation would like to assist him, please let us know. This area of the work is too important to not see that it is funded as it needs to be. Make sure you mark your checks appropriately. Thanks!

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.

FERN ALEXANDER

David & Marie Pennington
Phil & Mary Pope

J.T. HARRIS

Gary & Mary Murphy

WINNIE HIGHTOWER

Henry & Nancy Hart

CHARLES HILL

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MARILYN MURPHY

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FRANCES RHOTEN

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Bobby & June Watts

JOHNNY RAMSEY

Rosa Lee Nations
Bill & Vivian Wren

BUDDY SPLAWN

Max & Julia Bridges

MATTHEW WINKLER

Bob & Mattlee Grace

WENDELL WINKLER

Bob & Mattlee Grace

Sermon Starters

THE CHURCH'S GREATEST NEEDS # 1 Hebrews 5:12-14

INTRODUCTION:

- God's eternal purpose is to enlighten man of the knowledge of His grace and power.
 - This is done through the church—Eph. 1:22, 23.
- However, this will not be accomplished unless the church is doing the work assigned her.
 - This requires numerous things.
 - In order to accomplish what God expects of us there are several things needed in the church today.
 - Let us explore these areas.

BODY:

- Preachers Who Preach the Word—2 Timothy 4:1-5**
 - Compromise is the word of the day even in religion.
 - It is not politically correct to stand on the principles of one church and one plan of salvation.
 - Yet this is what the N.T. teaches—Eph. 4:4; John 14:6; Acts 4:12.
 - Preachers need to be as Paul—Acts 20:26, 27.
 - He dared to preach the truth, even it is was not popular.
 - He dared to preach the truth no matter what the consequences were—2 Cor. 11:23-28.
 - Preachers must do the same without fear of man.
 - Men who refuse to preach the word are not “gospel preachers” in the true sense of the word—2 Tim. 4:2.
- Elders who Oversee—Hebrews 13:17**
 - Many view this as optional.
 - Elders are not optional for a congregation to be fully organized, and the requirements are not optional for men to fill this office—1 Tim. 3:2-6; Titus 1:5.
 - Elders must assume the oversight of the local congregation over which they serve as shepherds—Acts 20:28, 29; 1 Pet. 5:1, 2.
 - Godly elders will shepherd their flock by following the example set by Jesus as the chief shepherd—John 10:11-14; 1 Pet. 5:1-4.
 - In doing so they will be concerned about the flock and its spiritual welfare.
 - They will work to take care of the flock.
 - Even at risk to themselves.
 - Yet in many congregations this is far from the case where we see “elders” who pay little or not attention to the “flock.”
 - Members are not being watched over by the elders of the congregation they are a part of.
 - They can disappear, and no one knows or seems to care about where they are.
 - Such “elders” are not needed in the church!

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

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News from Alumni

James Rankhorn (1994)

James, Melanie and Kadry have recently moved. They can be reached at 41 Woodland Drive, Chillicothe, OH 45601. Their telephone is (740) 775-0497 and their email address is jamesrankhorn@adelphia.net.

Brent Fluegel (2005)

Brent and Jessica have move to Lindsay, Oklahoma and can be reached at the following address: 17554 State Highway 76, Lindsay, OK 73052. They can be reached at (918) 440-5101 and their email address is godswordstruth1@hotmail.com.

Daniel Haynes (2006)

Daniel has a new cell phone number. It is (325) 203-0821.

I am sure any of these brethren would be happy to hear from those they attended school with, or any other grads of the school.

Student Enrichment Fund

The Student Enrichment Fund is so valuable in regard to providing the funds necessary for our students to attend lectureships and other activities. We have, for over two years, been advertising the need for funds in this area, but so little has come in. There are other activities we would like to assist the students with, but the funds are not there. Your contribution to this fund would allow us to help them more in their learning. Please give this area of assistance to the students consideration. Each and every area of growth for the students is an area well worth supporting as we seek to see that the men receive a "well rounded" education. Please mark your checks Student Enrichment Fund.

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.

Support Needed

Wouldn't it be great if institutions such as BTSOP could exist and accomplish the task set before them without having to constantly seek funds for such? However, as you no doubt are aware, such is simply not the case. We are thankful for those individual brethren and congregations that continue to be co-laborers with us in this effort. However, we must continue to put our needs before the brotherhood to enlist more to become such co-laborers.

Presently, we have several students in both the English and Hispanic Departments that are in need of your financial assistance. Brethren, your donation does not have to be a large donation of several thousands of dollars to help. As a matter of fact, the majority of contributors to our efforts range in the one hundred dollar or less per month amounts. When all of these are added up they soon provide the necessary support to keep a student and his family in school.

Please, will you not consider assisting one or more of these families? I am sure the students that I have in mind would be thrilled to talk with you about their needs.

ALUMNI INFORMATION UPDATES

We continue to try to "track down" several who have graduated from BTSOP over the years. If everyone who is a graduate would drop us an email with current information, along with such information on others they know of, it would help considerably.

With an increased interest in the Alumni Association, and plans to make it work, having this information will be invaluable to those who are working on this effort. Please let us hear from you as soon as possible.

FULFILLING 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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