

# 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 ————

January 2013  
No. 83

## From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton

### ELDERS

Maxie Boren  
Kevin Carroll  
Guy Elliott  
Larry McWilliams  
Eddy Parker  
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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One year ended, and another began with nothing more than the strike of the clock at midnight. Events such as these are constant reminders of the brevity of life as expressed by James in James 4:14, “Whereas ye know

not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

Near the end of 2012, we bid farewell to five graduates. **Bob Lewis**, his wife **Emily**, and their three children have located with the Leonard, Texas congregation and are enjoying their work there. **Enrique** and **Veronica Morales** have located with the Iglesia de Cristo in Richardson, Texas, and are doing a good work. **Charles Page** and his wife **Carolyn** are working with the Cliffview congregation in Dallas. They, too, are enjoying their work. **Meagan Teske**, our first graduate of our MTSM Program, plans to do mission work in South Africa, where **Rohan Jones** and his family are.

When classes began on January 14th, we had seven new students in the English Department. They are **Tavaris Armstrong** from Moss Point, Mississippi, **John Babiarz** from Hutchins, Texas, **Matthew Bransford** from Rowlett, Texas, **Roy Conner** from Watauga, Texas, **Cory Johnson** from Bartlesville, Oklahoma, **James Smith** from Cedar Hill, Texas and **Brian Weaver** from Fort Worth, Texas. All of these men, except for **Tavaris**, are married and have a family. Some are still in need of support, and would love to speak to you about their needs.

Although, our next enrolment of students will not be until January 2014, please be looking for men you believe would serve the Lord well as Gospel Preachers and have them contact us or give us their contact information and we will be in touch with them. The earlier a potential student is accepted the earlier he can begin to raise his support. Often times we find potential students that wait too late in the year to apply and are, therefore, unable to raise what they need to attend classes. This can be avoided by getting in the Application early.

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

## Spanish Department

When classes began on January 14th, we had three new students begin classes in our Spanish Department. They are **Leon** and **Lilia Garrocho** from Tamaulipas, Mexico and **Heiner Montealto** from Upala, Costa Rica. This brings to total ten students in this Department. Each of these families is short of the necessary support for their living expenses while here in the U.S. If you can assist either of them, it would be greatly appreciated!

If you have need for materials written in Spanish for distribution in your community or for classes you may have in your congregation, please give us a call. Presently, we have a number of outlines that have been completed, along with some videos of the classes taught in the Spanish Department. I am sure that whatever your needs might be, **Willie** or **Jesse** will be able to assist you.

Also, if you are in need of a Spanish speaking preacher, please let us hear from you.

## December Graduates



L-R—Robert Stapleton, Director, Veronica & Enrique Morales, Meagan Teske, Charles Page and Bob Lewis

## School Events - 2013

Granbury Street Open Forum, Cleburne, Texas - February 9th

Spring Break - March 24th - 31st

Northwest church of Christ Campaign, Fort Worth, Texas - April 7th-10th

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

Open Forum- Granbury Street church of Christ, Cleburne, Texas - February 9th, 1:00 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.

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

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

Sunday Preaching - Blooming Grove church of Christ

Wednesday Bible Class - Brown Trail church of Christ

## 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.

## Student Body —2013



## Fill In Preaching

We want to assist as often as possible congregations in the area that are in need of fill in preaching. However, when we are contacted at the "last minute" it may be difficult for us to have someone to send. We understand that some times this cannot be helped. But if you know you are going to need someone well in advance, please contact us as soon as possible, and we will do what we can to help. When you call, please ask to speak with **Pat McIntosh**, Dean of Students.

## 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.

### BELL, ARTHUR

Bobby & June Watts

### ELKINS, THELBERT

Gary & Mary Murphy

### MADDEN, PAT

Gary & Mary Murphy

### PENNINGTON, MARIE

Betty Arnold  
Charles & Carolyn Curtis  
Gil & Cheryl Holt  
Gary & Mary Murphy  
Don & Annette Weeks  
Bill & Vivian Wren

### DODSON, JAMES

Carolyn Bell  
Julia Bridges  
Carl & Doris Powell  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton  
Jack & Mary Lea Stephens  
Bill & Vivian Wren  
Gwen Woodard

### ROBINSON, MINNIE H.

Gary & Mary Murphy

### SMITH, ONETA M.

Gary & Mary Murphy

### TOWERY, BARBARA

Charles & Carolyn Curtis

### 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

All of our openings for 2013 have been filled. If you are interested in having us assist you with such an activity in the future, please contact us as soon as possible as we are making appointments for 2014 and into the future.

## Material Available

We presently have a number of class outlines, etc., 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, you may call the School office and a list can be emailed to you.

## 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

### GOD'S VIEW OF SIN

Psalms 5:4-6

#### INTRODUCTION:

- Nearly everything looks different to those that participate and to those that observe.
  - The player verses the "armchair quarterback."
  - The driver and the "backseat driver."
  - The sinner and God.
- People tend to view sin differently than God.
  - Atheism denies its existence.
  - Materialism views it as a violation of one's conscience.
  - Religious people:
    - As pre-destined.
    - As a matter of birth.
    - As a matter of individual free will.
- To sum it all up, we could say that God's view of sin is much graver than man's view.

#### BODY:

##### 1. GENERAL DEFINITION

- We first want to notice a general definition of what sin is:
  - A transgressing of God's will - 1 John 3:4.
  - As not doing what one knows to do right - James 4:17.
  - As all unrighteousness - 1 John 5:17.

##### 2. SIN AS GOD SEES IT

- Self-destructing and defiling.
  - Psalms 140:11 speaks of evil hunting down the violent man and overthrowing him.
    - The sinner is often far more destructive to himself than to others - Proverbs 8:36.
      - Even those he intended to harm.
  - Sin is clearly shown to be destructive in the Scriptures - Isaiah 3:9-11.
    - From this text we see that denial of sin will not make it go away.
    - Further, saying "everyone does it" won't ever make it right - Exodus 23:2.
  - When it comes to sin, even our best efforts are seen as filthy rags - Isaiah 64:6.
- God sees sin as hateful.
  - Those that discriminate unjustly for advantage are an abomination to God - Deuteronomy 25:13-16.
  - In Psalms 5:4-6, David summarizes God's attitude toward sin.
    - No pleasure in wickedness.
    - No place in God's presence for evildoers.
    - Workers of iniquity hated.
    - The wicked will be destroyed.
  - From Proverbs 6:16-19 we see seven things that disgust God.
    - Pride - James 4:10.
    - A lying tongue - Colossians 3:9; Proverbs 19:5.
    - Hands that shed innocent blood - Matthew 27:14.

## Sermon Starters - Continued

- D. Those that devise evil - Amos 5:14; 3 John 2.
  - E. Those that are swift participants in evil - Romans 3:15; Matthew 2:1.
  - F. Those that bear false witnesses - Romans 13:9, 10.
  - G. Those that are sowers of discord - Proverbs 16:28.
    - 1. Such destroys unity - John 17:21-23.
  - C. God sees sin as separating and alienating.
    - 1. In Isaiah 59:1, 2; 64:7 and Hosea 5:6 we clearly see the fact that sin results in separation and alienation of man from God.
    - 2. There is a great depth to which one may fall in sin - Hebrews 6:4-6.
      - A. Some are so deep in sin that intercessory prayer is useless - 1 John 5:16.
    - 3. Man needs to be careful that he not allow sin to become such a force and presence that it alienates the only One who can help - Isaiah 55:6, 7.
  - D. God sees sin as enslaving and progressive - Romans 6:16.
    - 1. Sin results from a lack of self-control - Romans 7:23.
    - 2. Man is enslaved by following false teachers - 2 Peter 2:19.
- 3. THE BIBLE EXPRESSES THE DIVINE SUMMARY ON SIN**
- A. Sin is universal - Isaiah 53:6.
    - 1. The Jews and Gentiles were convicted under sin - Romans 3:23.
    - 2. Even Christians are not immune - 1 John 1:8.
  - B. Sin is internal in origin - no one can make us do it.
    - 1. What controls the heart controls the man - Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:18-20; Luke 6:45.
  - C. Sin is inexcusable in view of:
    - 1. Natural revelation - Romans 1:20-31.
    - 2. Written/inspired revelation - 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Titus 2:11-13.

## News from Alumni/Alumni News

### Jay Culpepper (2011)

**Jay** is now preaching for the Lord's church in Gainesville, Texas. His address is 613 North Dixon, Gainesville, TX 76240. His email and cell phone number remains the same.

### J.J. Hendrix (2010)

**J.J.** and **Lisa** are the proud parents of **Lily Jane Hendrix**, born January 12th in Arlington, Texas.

### Alumni Association Information

For the past three years the **Alumni Association** has conducted its **Annual BTSOP Alumni Association Lectureship** at the Brown Trail church building. Each year, the Lectureship is held the first weekend in August, with lessons brought by those that have graduated from **BTSOP**. The only exception to this is the **Alumni Association** has been kind enough to allow me to speak. If you would like to obtain a copy of the Lectureship Book, please contact **J.J. Hendrix** at 817-268-3222.

Additionally, the **Alumni Association** has printed several books that are on sale, and can be ordered postage paid through **J.J.** for \$10.00 each.

### CONCLUSION:

- 1. Sin looks different to man than it does to God.
- 2. Regardless of how we see, or don't see, sin, God sees it as:
  - A. Self-destructing and defiling.
  - B. Hateful.
  - C. Separating and alienating.
  - D. Enslaving and progressive.

**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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