

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 2015
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From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton

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It hardly seems possible that 2014 is in the past, and we are already nearly a month into 2015! School resumed January 5th, with classes being dismissed the 11th through the 16th due to the Fort Worth Lectures

being hosted at the Brown Trail facilities. During the Lectureship, students helped with a number of tasks, helping to make it successful once again. For those that may not know, this was the **38th Fort Worth Lectureship** and the last one due to a number of factors. There is some discussion concerning the **School of Preaching Alumni Association** using this time slot for their annual Lectureship, but that has yet to be decided.

For those that are financial supporters of the efforts here at **BTSOP**, please know that you are appreciated! Seldom is a prayer led in chapel that does not include words of appreciation for those that support this work. Both the staff and students know full well that without your support we would not exist.

Looking back to January of 1965, no one knew for sure what an impact **Brown Trail School of Preaching** would make, as the school began its first year. Now, with 50 years behind us, and nearly 500 graduates, we see the wisdom of those that set out by faith to set in motion the things necessary for the school to begin. Only God knows for sure how much good has been accomplished as men have gone forth to numerous states and foreign countries, taking the gospel with them. May we continue to pray that if it is the Lord's will, **BTSOP** may see another 50

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 you have a student preparing to graduate High School later this year, that might be interested, why not contact us about how we can help?

Spanish Department

Our **Spanish Department** began its 11th year of operation in January. It hardly seems possible that this Department has been a part of the School for that long. It seems as if it were just “yesterday” when I was approached about the possibility of such. We continue to thank God for the opportunity to have this area of study for those who come here wishing to learn in Spanish.

Willie Alvarenga, Jesse Martinez, and **Obed Rodriguez** continue to do a great job in preparing the men that attend to be “**men of the Book.**” 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.

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 willing to assist where we can. The earlier you contact us, the better the chance we can help.

Btradio.net

Please help us pass the word that **BTRADIO.NET** 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. If you are interested in this program, contact **Pat McIntosh**, Dean of Students, for the necessary information. Please note that there is a \$75.00 "application fee" which will help offset extra time spent in record-keeping and costs of diplomas. The courses listed below are being offered. We think you can see a wide range of courses that will help you grow in your knowledge of God's Word.

Courses

Advanced Hermeneutics
Old Testament Theology
Leadership
Ethics

The Church in a Postmodern Society
Bible Geography and Archaeology
Advanced Introduction to the Old Testament
Advanced Introduction to the New Testament
Advanced Church History
Advanced Apologetics

It is important to note that 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, using the format provided in the syllabus.

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.

Graduate Program Continued

This critique will be some five to six pages in length. The student will write a 20-25 page paper on a topic provided by the instructor. 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 us and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

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.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." 2 Timothy 4:2

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.

STACI DUNCAN

Gary & Mary Murphy
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Jack & MaryLea Stephens

ELWOOD FERRELL

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

FRANCES JOHNSON

Jamestown church of
Christ

LOUISE MOONEY

Bobby & June Watts

NITA PARRISH

Julia Bridges
Donna Brinkley
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Jack & MaryLea Stephens

ETTA PATTERSON

Gary & Mary Murphy

MARIE Y. PENNINGTON

David Pennington, Sr.

BUTCH RAINEY

Donna Brinkley

GARY SELBY

Bobby & June Watts

AUTRY JEAN TAYLOR

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

HONORARIUM

AUDREY McKIM

Larry Benedict

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

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Sermon Starters - Continued

many blessings for those in Christ.

- D. A church that grows is a church that is concerned and really loves the lost - Mark 10:21; Acts 2:47.

CONCLUSION:

1. A better church begins with us, and the time to begin is now.

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.

Sermon Starters

A BETTER CHURCH BEGINS WITH ME 1 Corinthians 12:20-26

INTRODUCTION:

- Someone has said, "If you want good government, be a good citizen."
- Along the same line, if we want a better church, the place to begin is with ourselves.
 - Jesus died for the church, to make it the best that is possible.
 - With this lesson we want to look at some things that will serve to make the church the best that it possibly can be.

BODY:

- IF WE WANT THE CHURCH TO BE BETTER REALIZE THAT WE ARE IMPORTANT**
 - We must realize that we are important, no matter what we can do - 1 Corinthians 12:20-26.
 - The Lord is depending on us to do our part - Ephesians 4:15, 16.
 - Each of us has a part in the work of the church, just as each body part has a function relative to the whole - 1 Corinthians 12:14-24.
 - The Lord is depending on us to help the church grow and function.
- IF WE WANT THE CHURCH TO BE BETTER YOU MUST DO SOMETHING FOR IT**
 - We can be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, and ready to help one another - Ephesians 4:31, 32; Galatians 6:1, 2.
 - As Christians, we need to learn to not only ask what we can do to help, but when can we do it?
 - We can help the church by building it up instead of criticizing what it is trying to do - 1 Corinthians 10:10.
 - I don't know why it is this way, but it seems as if no matter what is attempted, some have to complain.
 - It seems that the attitude often is if brethren aren't complaining, they aren't happy.
 - What a miserable life this leads to.
 - One of the best ways we can help the church is to guard our life daily against doing or saying anything that would bring shame or reproach on it.
- IF WE WANT THE CHURCH TO BE BETTER WE MUST INVITE OTHERS TO SHARE ITS BLESSINGS**
 - The Christian life is the best and most rewarding life that one can live.
 - We must not only believe this to be true, we must also live as if we believe it.
 - The Christian is blessed materially and spiritually - 2 Corinthians 9:6; Ephesians 1:3.
 - There are no limits to the blessings of God, as He pours them out on the faithful child of God, except for the self-imposed limits that we set - Luke 6:38; Galatians 6:7, 8.
 - When we bring a friend to services, we are helping that friend understand that God has provided

2014 - Graduates

December 2014 saw ten students graduate from **Brown Trail School of Preaching** after two years of intensive study and one student graduate from the **Moving Toward Spiritual Maturity Program** following one full year of classes. We are happy to have a part in their efforts to better prepare themselves to work full time in the kingdom of God. Please keep each of these men and their families in your prayers as they serve God.



L-R - Me, Leon Garrocho, Tavaris Armstrong, James Smith II, Brian Weaver, Tyler Bush (who will complete his studies in June 2015), Roy Conner, Jody Sparks (MTSM Program), Matthew Bransford, Corey Johnson, and Heiner Montealto.

News from Alumni

Jerry McDonald (1982)

Jerry passed away in October, 2014. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

Gary Murphy (2007)

Gary is now the located preacher for the Ranger church of Christ. His address is 202 Mesquite Street, Ranger, TX 76470. His telephone and email remain the same.

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.

2015 - Student Body

As already mentioned, classes resumed January 5th with a student body numbering 21 full time students in the combined English and Spanish Departments. Please keep each of them in your prayers as they prepare themselves to better serve God.

For clarification purposes, you will notice in the picture below three of our male student's wives. We are well aware of what the New Testament teaches concerning the role of the preacher and that this is work reserved for faithful male members of the Lord's church. This, though, does not rule out women serving in other areas that involve ladies and children. As such, these ladies are studying along with their husbands knowing full well the Biblical restrictions on these matters.



New Adjunct Instructors

With the beginning of the new school term we added two Adjunct Instructors to our teaching staff. **Jason Sparks**, a 1999 graduate of **BTSOP** and Director of the **Truth In Love Television Program** is presently teaching the Book of Acts. **Heath Stapleton**, **Brown Trail church of Christ** preacher, is teaching Practical Principles in the Life of the Gospel Preacher. We are excited to have both of these men helping in this way, and ask your prayers on their behalf.

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