

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

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It hardly seems possible that we are already a month into 2016! In looking back over the past year, may we have done all we could to glorify God in all we did! What a wonderful privilege it is to serve the One and Only God of

heaven! We are excited to announce that the number of new students is the second largest number in our history. Presently, we have 28 full and part time students combined in the English and Spanish Departments. It is exhilarating to know that we have so many families that are willing to devote their lives to preaching the Word of God! Please keep each of them in your prayers as they grow in their knowledge and ability. If there is any hope for our world, it is in the pure gospel of Christ, God's power unto salvation! Pray for our efforts so we may continue to train "men of the Book".

An Urgent Appeal

In our October issue of *Fulfilling the Ministry* we sought to make you aware of "an urgent appeal" concerning the necessity of raising **\$15,000.00** per month to cover the General Fund expenses that have been in excess of what the normal regular monthly donations have covered. To date, we have raised about **\$4,500.00** per month of the necessary funds. In order to be able to continue to train men on the level that we have for the past 50+ years, it is imperative that these funds are raised. If you would like further information on this need, please contact us and we will be happy to provide you with the details.

Spanish Department

The *Spanish Department* had 6 new students begin classes January 4th. This brings the total to 10 full and part time students studying in this Department. If you are interested in supporting either the General Fund, which provides financial support for the instructors in this Department, or Student Support Fund, please contact either **Willie Alvarenga** (Department Director) or myself, and we will be happy to provide you with information on how you may do so.

The *Spanish Department* began its 12th year in January. We can only imagine the good that has come from this effort. We now have students on foreign soil along with here in the US that have been trained to "preach the truth in love." May their number increase, and may we be able to raise the funds to do so.

Please keep in mind that if you are looking for good Bible materials in Spanish we recommend **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's** web site at <http://regresandoalabiblia.com/libros-por-alvarenga-publications/> for material written by him.

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

We need your assistance in passing the word 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 new 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.

Graduation

On December 13th we graduated 7 men and 2 women from ***BTSOP***. Of course, the ladies did not graduate to become preachers, but they will be a great asset to their husbands in their labors in the kingdom. Please pray for each of them as they either begin their new works or continue to seek for a work.



L-R—Robert Stapleton, Elves Hadley, Marcus Teske, David Westbrook, Felipe Munoz, Marcus Washington, Salvador Del Fierro, Lily Del Fierro, Casey Shawver, Bre Shawver—Absent Freddy Garcia

Present 2016 Student Body



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.browntrailsofpreaching.com

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)

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.

MARGIE BARHAM

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

J. W. BRIDGES

Julia Bridges

KENNETH BROWN

Gary & Mary Murphy

JAMES CLARK

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

DAVE HONAN

Julia Bridges

J.D. JONES

Julia Bridges
Henry & Nancy Hart
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

JOHN SPENCER

David & Darlene Haden
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

KATHERINE WILLCOX

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

JOY BOYAR

Julia Bridges
Gary & Mary Murphy
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Allen & Barbara Tappe & Family

FRANKIE BUNN

Henry & Nancy Hart

GLENNA CRABTREE

Gary & Mary Murphy

A.V.ISBELL

Allen C. Isbell

DUKE MASON

Donna Brinkley

BLANCH MIHILLS

Julia Bridges

RITA RUTLEDGE STOWE

Gary & Mary Murphy

BILL WREN

Walter & Melanie Watkins

Sermon Starters

WATCH

Matthew 26:40, 41

INTRODUCTION:

1. With the words of Jesus in Matthew 26:41 in mind I want us to center in on one word of the text.
 - A. That word is "Watch."
2. As Christians, there are numerous things that we need to "watch."
 - A. In doing so, we prepare ourselves for the danger that may lie ahead.

BODY:

1. WATCH OUR TEMPER

- A. All of us have tempers to varied degrees.
 1. We need to be aware of that.
- B. We also need to watch to see that we do not unleash them - Ephesians 4:26.
- C. A part of the fruit of the Spirit is temperance - Galatians 5:23.
 1. Each of us needs to endeavor to refrain from doing that which would cause us to cross over from being angry and sinning not, and being angry and sinning.
- D. Anger, in and of itself, is not a sin.
 1. If it is, then God would have sinned the many times He became angry with Israel - Exodus 4:14; Numbers 11:1, etc.
 2. If it is, then Jesus would have sinned when he became angry - Mark 3:5.
- E. What we have to understand is that we should seek to put off anger due to the fact that our anger often ends in sin - Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8; 3:21. (See Ephesians 6:4).
 1. The sin comes not from the anger, but from the manifestation of it in our lives.

2. WATCH OUR THOUGHTS

- A. God knows our thoughts - 1 Corinthians 3:20.
 1. Not just the thoughts of the "wise," but each and everyone of us.
- B. Jesus knew the thoughts of those around him - Matthew 9:4; 12:25.
- C. God is capable of knowing the thoughts and intents of our hearts - Hebrews 4:12.
- D. Since our thoughts proceed forth from our hearts, we must be careful.
 1. As we think, so are we - Proverbs 23:7.
 2. If our thoughts are upon wickedness, then wickedness will proceed forth from our lives - Matthew 15:19.
- E. The heart is the seat of righteousness or unrighteousness.
 1. It must be kept pure from evil thoughts - Philippians 4:8.
- F. We need to have the mind of Christ - Philippians 2:5.

3. WATCH OUR TONGUE

- A. As Christians, we need to be slow to speak - James 1:19.
- B. We can see the results of an uncontrolled tongue in the lives of many today.

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." - 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Sermon Starters - Continued

2. Such an uncontrolled tongue can result in the religion of that one being in vain - James 1:26.
 - C. James sets forth three illustrations of the power of the tongue in James 3:3, 4, 5.
4. **WATCH OUR TIME**
- A. Each of us have been given so much time, i.e. 24 hours a day.
 1. Not any more, and not any less.
 - B. We need to use that time wisely - Ephesians 5:15, 16; Colossians 4:5.
 1. Time wasted can never be re-called.
 2. We either use it properly now, or we will never use it - James 4:14.
 - C. I ran across the following in an office building in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania - "This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it, or use it for good, but what I do today is important. Because I am exchanging a day of my life for it! When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, and not loss, good, and not evil, success, and not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price I have paid for it."

News from Alumni

Pat McIntosh (1989)

Pat is now working full time with **World Bible Institute (WBI)** as Academic Dean of all programs and heading up the graduate program. He will travel overseas on occasion and will continue to teach one class per quarter here at **BTSOP**. We appreciate the number of years that he worked with us here full time at **BTSOP**, and wish him well in his new endeavor!

Heiner Montevalto (2104)

Heiner is now serving as a missionary to the San Jose de Upala church of Christ in Costa Rica. According to Heiner, he is the first **BTSOP** graduate to be preaching in Costa Rica.

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.

Sermon Outline Books

My latest Sermon Outline Books, in the series of Outline Books entitled "**50 Sermons I Have Preached**," are now finished. These are the eleventh and twelfth in the series. The cost for each is \$5.00, plus shipping.

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.

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