

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



School is now out for the summer with classes resuming August 2nd. As it looks right now we have four new men who will be attending classes, along with the seven who are carry over students in the English Department

and two who will be attending classes as part of the new Spanish Department. This is in addition to two or three part-time students. This is really good news as we look to the future of the school. Your continued prayers on behalf of our efforts, along with your continued financial support, will help see that the school quickly gets back on its feet, and is able to continue to train men to be gospel preachers.

In Mid-June we welcomed Larry Evans to the full time staff of Brown Trail. Larry is really excited about being here and, we believe, will do a great job in helping to build up the school. As you may know the Evans family was involved in a very serious automobile accident several weeks ago, which resulted in their oldest son, Tyron, being severely injured. He is still in Cook's Children's Hospital in Fort Worth, but the prognosis is looking good. We are thankful to God for His wonderful blessings as Ty has improved so much over the past several weeks.

We are still working on getting our Web Site up and running like we want. Due to all of the changes we have not done much to it recently, but now that Larry is here we hope to be able to get everything going as we would like in the not to far off future. If you have any suggestions concerning it please let us hear from you.

One thing we hope to be able to get on the Web Site is a list of congregations and preachers who are seeking one another. There are many sound congregations and preachers who are in "need" of one another and we would like to assist with this, especially for our alumni and supporting congregations. Once we get this going we will notify you through this paper on how to get the information to us so that we can post it.

Assistance Needed

We frequently hear from brethren who are interested in the school and ways in which they may assist the work that we are doing. Of course there are numerous ways in which one may do so. Let me suggest just a few:

1. One time financial donations from congregations or individuals.
2. Monthly student support by congregations or individuals.
3. Monthly general fund support by congregations or individuals.
4. Donation of items that can be sold for the benefit of the school. These can bring tax benefits to those who make the donation of automobiles, furniture, etc.
5. Putting the school in your will.
6. Informing others of the good that the school is doing, and enlist their support.
7. Individuals can sell personal items they no longer need and donate the funds to the school.
8. Of course, and by no means least, pray regularly for the school, its students, and faculty. We believe that your prayers will "avail much" - James 5:16.

News from the School

Student Enrichment Fund

In October, Lord willing, we will take our student body to the Spiritual Sword Lectureship in Memphis, Tennessee. These types of activities involve expenses that must be paid by the school. This is why we established the Student Enrichment Fund. We would appreciate any donations to this Fund that you would like to make. If you would like to donate to this fund please mark your checks accordingly.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

This Summer saw our students involved in various works both overseas and stateside. Leon and Joyce McManus traveled to Chimala Mission, in Tanzania, East Africa for a three week mission effort. This was Leon's second trip to Chimala. Brent Fleugel worked with the Seagoville church as an intern. Larry Jones worked with the McClish Avenue church in Ardmore, Oklahoma as an intern while Landon Rowell worked with the Cherokee Hills church in Oklahoma City as an intern. As a part of the overall program of studies each student must either serve as an intern with an approved congregation for five weeks during the summer or participate in a three week mission trip to Chimala. This gives the men valuable experience. If you would be interested in having one of our students work with you during the summer in such a program please let us hear from you.

Alumni Information

One of the projects that Larry is going to be working on is developing our Alumni Association. We would appreciate any information that our alumni can provide us concerning their recent activities.

Please note that all information that we include in Fulfilling The Ministry is information that is sent us by alumni. We have no way of verifying whether the information is correct. Likewise, we have no way of knowing whether congregations mentioned are sound.

Spring Graduation

Three men graduated from Brown Trail School of Preaching on May 30th. They were Stephen Hetherington, Neal Massey, and Dezmond Stevens. Stephen married Kimberlin Beacham on June 26th and hopes to locate with a congregation soon. Neal is looking for a congregation that is interested in Prison Ministry. Dezmond plans on continuing his education at Freed Hardeman University. If you would like to contact any of these men please let us hear from you and we will pass on the info to them.



L-R—Neal Massey, Stephen Hetherington,
Dezmond Stevens

Preachers Available

We are in a unique position to be able to assist congregations, within driving distance of the school, with men who are able to do fill in preaching, hold gospel meetings, assist with Vacation Bible Schools, etc. If you are in need of such, why not give us a call? We can either send a student or Larry or myself can come. If you have a special series of lessons that you would like taught at your congregation we are sure that we would be able to assist.

Owen Cosgrove Update

In our last issue of Fulfilling The Ministry we mentioned that Brother Owen Cosgrove had been diagnosed with colon cancer. Since then he has had several treatments and is looking at a possibility of surgery later this year. I am sure that Owen would appreciate your prayers on his behalf.

Perry B. Cotham

Early in May Perry suffered a heart attach and was out of service for a few days. However, he has improved considerably and is now back to "full steam." Brother Cotham is an amazing man. Please pray for him so that he will be able to continue his service to the Lord.

School Presentation

Now that Larry is on board we are busy putting together our newest Power Point/DVD Presentation for the School. Earlier this year Eddie Parrish and I put one together, but it was soon out dated. If it has been some time, or if you have never had someone come by and bring you up to date on the activities of the school, now would be a good time to schedule such a visit. We would be more than happy to come to your location and present this presentation and answer any questions you may have about the school. We believe that once you see what all is going on here you will be glad you are supporting the work. Let us hear from you if you would like for us to come.

A STATEMENT OF CONVICTION...

With all of the changes that are affecting the brotherhood it has become necessary for us to qualify where we stand in relation to the faith. As much as we dislike saying it, there are certain brethren who seem “bent” on leading the church away from the “old paths” (Jeremiah 6:16) and down the path of liberalism. Some would have us bury our heads in the sand, believing the problems will soon disappear. Brethren, we can assure you they will not! This practice has never resulted in good coming from it.

At the Brown Trail School of Preaching we have very strong convictions regarding the truth. They are firmly rooted in the inspired and eternal word of God. While the Bible itself is the only complete “statement of belief” to which anyone should cling, the following statements will highlight some of the fundamental principles that we at Brown Trail are committed to teach, uphold, and defend.

We believe that the Bible is the complete, inerrant and inspired word of God, and that it is all-sufficient for the purpose God intended – 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:3.

We believe that Jesus built only one church, and that His church is not denominational in nature. Christian fellowship, therefore, is limited to those in Christ’s church who are walking in the light – Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 4:4; Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:7.

We believe that baptism is a burial in water unto the remission of sins, and is therefore necessary for salvation – Romans 6:4; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21.

We believe that the Lord’s Supper is to be observed by Christians on the first day of every week and only on the first day – Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:20, 24-29.

We believe that singing in worship to God is to be done without addition of mechanical instruments of music – Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.

We believe that marriage is intended to be enjoyed by one man and woman until they are separated by death. We believe that the only exception to this arrangement is outlined in Matthew 19:9 – namely, that a fornicator may be put away by the innocent spouse, thus allowing that innocent one the freedom to contract another marriage. All other divorce and remarriage situations constitute adulterous unions – Romans 7:1-3.

We believe that God has directed men to occupy the positions of leadership in both the home and the church – Genesis 3:16; Ephesians 5:22-31; 1 Peter 3:1, 2.

We believe that elders in the local congregation setting have authority over that congregation in matters of expedience, and that the congregation should have input regarding who serves as elders – Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-11; 1 Peter 5:1-3.

We believe that we are bound by the Scriptures to “contend for the faith,” but while we do so we should exercise love in these activities – Jude 3; Ephesians 3:15; John 13:34, 35.

We believe that there is no place in the church for the doctrines or practices of men – Psalms 127:1; Matthew 15:9; 1 Timothy 1:4; 4:7.

We believe that man can know the truth, and by adhering to that truth, be saved – John 8:32; 17:17; James 1:21.

Our commitment is to continue to teach, uphold and defend these and all other biblical truths. If you would like to attend Brown Trail to prepare yourself for preaching the gospel, please contact us. Or, if you would like to become a partner with us through a one-time donation or monthly financial support, please let us know. Above all, pray that Brown Trail will continue to be a place “where the old paths are still new.”

The Elders of the Brown Trail church of Christ

The Administration and Faculty of the Brown Trail School of Preaching

News from Alumni

Wayne Horton (1974)

Wayne is preaching for the Cactus Drive church in Level-land, Texas. He has three sons, Mike (37), Ken (35) and Landon (25). He also has three “wonderful” (as he puts it) grandchildren.

Greg Knight (1977)

Greg has recently moved to Pottsborro, Texas where he is serving as the preacher for the church there. His address is 110 Herberta St., Pottsborro, TX 75076 and his telephone number is (903) 786-2798.

Charlies Ivie (1978)

Charles has an address change due to the 911 system—Charles Ivie, 219 Dogwood Street, Wilson, OK 73463.

Felipe M. Palomar (1990)

Felipe’s address is Villa Sto. Nino, Barrio Burgos, 2206 San Antonio, Zambales Philippines. His telephone number is (047) 621-0421 and his email address is fpalomar@hvisions.com.

Phillip Brown (2000)

Home address is 520 Parkside Drive, Apt. 307, Waterloo, Ontario. Phone (519) 746-5231, phillkare@hotmail.com, or phillip.b@sympatico.ca.

Patrick McCary (2001)

Patrick is now preaching for the church in Hooks, Texas. He and his family moved there from Lemon Grove, California, where he has preached for several years. They are happy to be back in Texas.

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@aol.com. 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 Starters

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY 2 Timothy 2:15

Introduction:

Not enough can be said about Bible study and Bible Classes. It always amazes me the number who for-sake public opportunities for Bible study. Perhaps if we understood how important they are we would be more willing to attend.

1. **Bible Classes Help The Local Church**
 - A. **The local church is taught and grounded by such—1 Tim. 3:15.**
 - B. **All can take part—teachers, helpers, and students—thus all grow.**
 - C. **Let our “lights” shine—Mt. 5:16.**
 - D. **Provides a way to “feed the flock” - Acts 20:28.**
 - E. **We become stronger— Mt. 4:4.**
2. **Bible Classes Help Individual Christians**
 - A. **We are helped to know God in a personal way—Heb. 8:11.**
 - B. **Helps us to learn to make the Lord Master of our lives— Eph. 6:9.**
 - C. **We learn to love, respect, and obey the Lord— Mt. 22:37.**
3. **Bible Classes Help the Nation**
 - A. **They encourage Godly homes—Eph. 6:1-4.**
 1. **Homes need to be rated G (Godly).**
 - B. **They encourage honest leaders.**
 1. **In business, politics, and society.**
 - C. **They curb the crime rate**
 1. **Criminals don’t come from Bible Classes.**