

# 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

July 2007  
No. 61

## ELDERS

Maxie Boren  
Guy Elliott  
Eddy Parker  
Larry Rice  
Bobby Watts

## DIRECTOR

Robert Stapleton

## FACULTY

Willie Alvarenga  
Gerald Ball  
Charles Billingsly  
Bill Burk  
Owen Cosgrove  
Perry B. Cotham  
Robert Dodson  
Ken Gardner  
Ken Hope  
Jeff Jenkins  
Randall Morris  
Hardeman Nichols  
Obed Rodriguez  
Heath Stapleton

\*\*\*\*\*

Contact Info:

**P.O. Box 210667  
Bedford, TX  
76095**

**(817) 268-3222  
www.browntrail  
schoolof  
preaching.com**

## From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton



It hardly seems possible that yet another Semester has begun. On July 9th, at 8:00 a.m., orientation for the new quarter and semester took place in the auditorium of the Brown Trail Building. Present were all of the previous and new students, along with several of the elders, faculty and staff members, Eddie Parrish, Brown Trail Preacher, and Dave and Christi Bell, who recently graduated from BTSOP and are laboring with the Kennedale church of Christ.

Following orientation, the students were provided a nice brunch by the wives of the Brown Trail elders. Then classes began. The first week of school is always a busy time for everyone as we settle into the regular routine. It is always somewhat of a difficult time for the new students as they seek to fit into the program.

We presently have 26 full and part time students who are taking part in the program here. It continues to be rewarding to see the men, and some times their wives, come to study and prepare themselves to serve the kingdom as full time gospel preachers and preacher's wives. There is so much that needs to be accomplished, with so few to do the work (Matthew 9:37).

We continue to be "blessed" with numerous opportunities for the students to preach as "fill in preachers" for congregations between preachers, smaller congregations in our area who do not have sufficient funds to hire a full time man, and congregations whose preachers are on vacation. If we can be of help in

this way please feel free to contact us.

You, as our contributing base, are such an important part of the work here. Nearly every day in chapel you are prayed for by the students as they recognize the valuable role you play in their being able to be here. Please be aware of the fact that we do not, for a moment, take you for granted.

Now that this semester has begun it is time to start looking for men for the January intake. At the present we already have one man accepted. If you know of any who might be interested in serving as a Gospel Preacher please have them contact us, or provide us with information and we will be in touch with them. Only eternity will reveal the good done by such an act.

## Hispanic Department

Our Hispanic Department continues to struggle in having sufficient funds to provide the necessary support for incoming students. When we began this Department we knew it would take some time for word to get out about the good work that is being done here. We continue to need your assistance in spreading that word. Time and time again prospective students must be turned away due to the unavailability of funds.

We are also sorely in need of support for Willie Alvarenga, who is serving as full time Dean of Students and teaching full time. Additionally, we are in need of funds to be able to locate another man to help with the teaching. At the present Willie and Obed Rodriguez are doing all of the teaching, which means they more than have their "plates" full.

Please prayerfully consider these areas and help where you can.



## 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.

**ILA BRUFFELS**

Gary & Mary Murphy

**PEGGY COULTER**

Bobby & June Watts

**NORMAN GIBSON**

Perry C. Cotham

**JOHNNY JOHNSON**

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

**LUCILLE VIOLET NUTALL**

Gary & Mary Murphy

**LOIS ALVERINE PONDER**

Mary Lou Parker

**BILL THOMASON**

R.C. Otwell

**SUE WARD COLE**

Bobby & June Watts

**JACQUILINE DILLON**

Leroy & Pansy  
McClendon

**WILLIAM LEROY  
JAMES**

Bill & Vivian Wren

**JEAN LANE**

Bobby & June Watts

**MIKE NEEL**

Paula Neel

**ETHLYNE SNELSON**

Leroy & Pansy  
McClendon

### This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Donated By \_\_\_\_\_

## World Video Bible School

WVBS has recently produced the "Searching For Truth" DVD in American Sign Language. This program helps one to come to an understanding of what they must do in order to become a Christian. They have also produced two DVDs dealing with Christian Evidences that are well worth viewing. The first is entitled "Out With Doubt", with Kyle Butt, and is designed for Jr. High and up. The second is "Fortify Your Faith" by Brad Harrub.

If interested in these, or any other program produced by WVBS, you can contact them through their Website at [www.wvbs.org](http://www.wvbs.org), or at (512) 398-5211. Over the years they have produced a great wealth of materials designed to strengthen the church and assist people in coming to a proper knowledge of what they should do to come to the Lord.

# Sermon Starters

## THE CHURCH'S GREATEST NEEDS # 2 Hebrews 5:12-14

### INTRODUCTION:

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

### BODY:

1. **Deacon's Who Serve—1 Timothy 3:8-13**
  - A. A deacon is one who is a "servant whether as doing servile work, or as an attendant rendering free service" - Vines Expository Dictionary
    1. Primary responsibility— caring after matters of the church.
    - B. There is work within the local congregation which should be done by the deacons.
      1. Too many congregations have a long list of "deacons" who do nothing.
2. **Teachers Who Are Teaching—Hebrews 5:12-14**
  - A. Examining this text we see:
    1. Some who were weak who should have been strong.
    2. Those who had not applied themselves to study, even though they should have.
    3. Those who were still having to be taught the first principles, when they should have already progressed to the "meat" of the word.
  - B. It is God's intention that there be found faithful teachers who will teach others—2 Timothy 2:2.
    1. This is one of the greatest needs of the church today.
    2. Men and women need to equip themselves to teach as God has authorized them.
      - A. Women can and should teach as shown by Paul—Titus 2:3-5.
3. **Working Members**
  - A. This covers all who have not been specifically mentioned.
  - B. Christians need to set goals in their service to God.
    1. If we do not, we will not accomplish much.
      - A. "Failing to prepare, is preparing to fail."
    2. We prepare for almost everything else we do.
      - A. Goals for our jobs, vacations, etc.
  - C. We need to continue working—1 Corinthians 15:58.
    1. God will take care of the rest.
  - D. We need to work—Philippians 2:12.
    1. There is work on every hand.

### CONCLUSION:

1. We must fill these needs.

# News from Alumni

## Eddie Whitten (1969)

Eddie's new address is 305 Palmetto Dr., Georgetown, TX 78633.

## Jerry Leifeste (1997)

Jerry's new address is 607 Lela St., Lufkin, TX 75904. His telephone number is (936) 637-3231, and his email address is leifeste@consolidated.net

## Jeremy Sprout (1997)

Jeremy's new address is 11155 Steeplepark Dr., Apt. 803, Houston, TX 77065.

## Omar Hernandez (2003)

Omar's new address is 503 N Oak St., Apt. 115, Waco, TX 76705.

## Neil Massey (2004)

Neil's new address is PO Box 652, Hilo, HI 96721.

## Felipe Garza (2006)

Felipe and Dulce are the proud parents of Jonathan, born July 11th. All are doing well.

## Aren Haggard (2006)

Aren's new address is 6250 Rosewood Dr. #1017, North Richland Hills, TX 76180.

## Martin Ibarra (2006)

Martin is locating with the Lewisville, Texas church of Christ as it's Hispanic Minister effective August 15th. The address of the building is Lewisville church of Christ, 901 College Parkway, Lewisville, TX 75077. The telephone number is (972) 353-2518. We will have more information later.

## Address Corrections

Preachers are, so it seems, always on the move. As we do so, our addresses change. Each time you move, and forget to send us a change of address the Post Office charges us 42 cents to notify us of your correction. It would help us considerably if you, as you prepare to move, add us to the list of "must contacts" in so far as address corrections. Thanks.

## Support Needed

I wish I could say that we have all the funds necessary to carry on the work here, but such is simply not true. Every semester men come in without the full support they need, or are unable to come simply because they were unable to raise the funds necessary to pay the bills. Your continued assistance is so needed in this area. I am well aware that one can only do so much financially, but if you would speak to others in congregations you know, and get them interested in our work, they may well "come on board."

We are more than happy to visit with any congregation that my might be able to get our "foot in the door".

*"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?" - Romans 10:14, 15*

**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.

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.

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HURST, TEXAS  
Permit No. 1