

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 2010
No. 73

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From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton



The Alumni Association's First Annual Lectureship is on schedule for August 6th and 7th of this year. The schedule is posted on the School Web Site, along with the Association's Web Site, which can be seen at ([http://](http://btsopalumniassociation.blogspot.com)

btsopalumniassociation.blogspot.com.

As you can see, the Lectureship will have speakers from each "era" of the school in so far as "eras" associated with the various Directors that have served BTSOP since its beginning in 1965.

Please plan to attend the Lectureship, and encourage others from your congregation to do so also. It will be a wonderful time for both alumni and others to gather for a period of study and fellowship.

NEW SCHEDULE

If things go as planned, we will change the times of admission to school to one enrollment a year beginning January, 2011. For several years, following the institution of the school, this was the procedure followed. Then, in the middle 1980's, the change was made to two enrollments per year.

With the change to one enrollment per year, we would see a decrease in paperwork, and a better way to arrange classes that are now scheduled in such a way that causes difficulties.

With this said, if you plan to attend BTSOP in 2011, please begin to make plans to start in January.

Hispanic Department

Willie, Jessie, and Obed continue to do a great job working with the Hispanic Department. Little did we know, a few years ago when plans were made to begin this department, that we would see such an interest. The word is out, Spanish speaking brethren who want a quality biblical education need to attend the Hispanic Department at BTSOP.

With the construction that is being done at the Brown Trail building for the addition of the new Truth In Love recording studio, and moving the Library to its new location, the Hispanic Department is finally going to get a dedicated classroom. Since its beginning, they have had to share with the existing Library due to the lack of space. We are thankful to the Brown Trail elders for providing things necessary for this growth.

Speaking of growth, as we separate the old Library space into two large classrooms and an office, one will be used for recording purposes of our own. Equipment has been donated that will allow the Hispanic Department to record radio programs for distribution. This, along with the fact that within a year or so we should be done with the video recording of all the classes taught in Spanish, our outreach efforts should be intensified. If you are interested in quality Spanish material (audio, printed, or video), please contact Willie for information.

Fill In Preaching

We are happy to do what we can to assist congregations within driving distance of the school with fill in preachers. This both assists the congregation and the students. If you are in need of someone, please let us know as soon as possible, and we will do our best to have someone come your way. Please keep in mind that if you call at the "last minute" we may not have a student available.

Field Representative

J.J. Hendrix started his work as Field Representative a few days early, and is already staying busy making contacts. His responsibilities are in the areas of recruiting and raising support for the school. As indicated previously, we have not had anyone in this capacity for several years, and are happy to having J.J. working with us in this area for the benefit of the school.

J.J., and his wife Lisa (Stapleton), are visiting congregations raising the necessary support to do the work set before them. If you would like to speak with him, he can be reached at 817-995-4358. You can, also, email him at j.j.hendrix@gmail.com.



Ways To Help

Yes, I would like to financially assist with the work of BTSOP.

Willie Alvarenga's Support _____ Monthly
 _____ One Time

English Department _____ Monthly
 Student Support _____ One Time

Hispanic Department _____ Monthly
 Student Support _____ One Time

Hispanic Instructor _____ Monthly
 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 tabletop, that is in good working order, and you are not using it, we would appreciate you donating it to school. We will be happy to supply you with a Tax Donation Receipt.

Graduates

Eight students graduated from BTSOP this past June. Paul Delgado, is working with the Shannon church of Christ, Sherman, Texas, and the Bedford Road congregation, Bedford, Texas. J.J. Hendrix, as previously indicated, is working with the School as Field Representative. Michael Hildreth is working with the Mankato church of Christ, Mankato, Minnesota. Sergio Luna is working with the Iglesia de Cristo, Edinburg, Texas. Alberto & Mabel Suarez are working with the Spanish North church of Christ, Tyler, Texas. Carlos Vazquez is preaching for the Welch Street Spanish church of Christ, Denton, Texas. Rudy Villegas returned to Soldotna, Alaska, and is working as an associate with that congregation. Please pray for their success, as they reach out with the saving gospel.



L-R Robert Stapleton, J.J. Hendrix, Michael Hildreth, Sergio Luna, Paul Delgado, Rudy Villegas, Carlos Vazquez, Mabel & Alberto Suarez

New Students

July saw eight new students begin classes at BTSOP. Just a few days before classes began we were wondering if we were going to have any new students. Then, "all of sudden," it seems like the phone rang "off the wall" with people calling asking if they could start. We are thankful for the new students, as we are thankful for the students who are carrying over from previous sessions.

Please be mindful of each of these men, and their families as they prepare themselves for the work before them.



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.

PAULINE BROWN
Gary & Mary Murphy

JERRY BULLARD
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Walter & Gwen Woodard

SHANNON GIFFORD
Bill & Vivian Wren

BETTY JETER
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

MAC McKIM
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

JIM POOR
Gary & Mary Murphy

BILL WICKLIFF
Mike & Terri Roberts

HONORARIUMS

PHIL & ROSA LEE POPE (For their many years of service to the Brown Trail congregation.)
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

Ways To Help

One time financial donations from congregations or individuals.

Monthly student support by congregations or individuals.

Monthly general fund support by congregations or individuals.

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, etc.

Putting the school in your will.

Informing others of the good that the school is doing, and enlist their support.

Individuals can sell personal items they no longer need and donate the funds to the school.

Support for Student Enrichment Fund, which allows students to attend lectureships, etc.

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.

Sermon Starters

BE YE HOLY AS CHRIST WAS HOLY
1 Peter 2:21, 22

INTRODUCTION:

1. There can be no doubt that the Bible clearly indicates that Deity is holy.
 - A. Within the pages of the Bible we find several hundred passages which refer to the holiness of Deity.
2. Christ has left us an example that we should follow His steps - 1 Peter 2:21, 22.
 - A. With this in mind, let us turn to the Scriptures to see how we are to walk when walking in His steps.

BODY:

1. SCRIPTURES WHICH POINT TO THE HOLINESS OF CHRIST

- A. Mark 1:24
 1. The one making this confession is very important to a proper view here.
 - A. It is not an Apostle, disciple, or friend of Jesus.
 1. Instead, we see one who had been possessed with demons who confesses that Jesus was indeed "the Holy One of God."
 2. In many places within the New Testament we find such references which carry great weight in this matter.
 - A. When the enemies of Christ confess His holiness, we see greater proof than when His friends do.
 - B. Luke 1:35 prophetically speaks of Jesus as "that which is to be born shall be called holy, the son of God." (footnote A.S.V.)
 1. Gabriel affirms the holiness of Jesus even before His birth.
 - C. In Acts 2:27 Peter refers to Psalms 16:10 as he speaks of the "Holy One" not partaking of corruption.
 1. This, of course, speaks of the time when Jesus' body was in the grave and his soul was in Hades.
 - D. Peter refers to Jesus as the "Holy One" in Acts 3:14 as he seeks to glorify Jesus instead of himself.
 - F. Many other places point to the holiness of Jesus - Acts 4:27, 30; 13:35; Revelation 3:7; 6:10; 15:4.
 - G. As we seek to follow in the steps of Jesus, we seek to attain the same degree of holiness that He attained.
2. **CHRIST WAS HOLY IN HIS DEEDS**
 - A. When one examines the life of Christ one thing instantly comes to the forefront - Christ was holy in deeds.
 1. He was without sin - Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22.
 2. He was morally good - Revelation 5:2-5.
 3. He complied with the will of the Father - John 5:19, 30; 6:38; Matthew 26:42.

News from Alumni

Jerry Leifeste (1973)

Jerry now resides at 1922 N. Wilhite, Cleburne, TX 76031. His email is montyruss53@charter.net

Neal Massey (2004)

Neal recently passed away due to a heart attack. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

Sam Matthews (1991)

Sam's wife, America, passed away June 19th due to cancer. Sam can be reached at samatm@comcast.net. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

James McDonald (2008)

James' new address is P.O. Box 5450, Laguna Park, TX 76644. His phone # is (940) 206-1609 and his email is jmsmcdonald164@gmail.com

Sermon Starters - Continued

10. CHRIST WAS HOLY IN RESPECT TO WORSHIP

- A. Christ customarily attended the service of the synagogue - Luke 4:16.
- B. He taught and practiced the necessity of worshipping the One True God - Matthew 4:10; Luke 4:8.
- C. He further taught that true worship was to be in spirit and truth - John 4:20-24.

11. CHRIST TAUGHT WE ARE TO BE HOLY IN RESPECT TO OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHERS

- A. We are to love our neighbors - Matthew 5:43.
- B. We are to love our enemies - Matthew 5:44.
- C. We are to forgive those who sin against us and who repent of their sin - Mark 11:25, 26; Luke 17:10.

Sermon Starters - Continued

3. CHRIST WAS HOLY IN WORD

- A. Jesus spoke those things which he had been taught by the Father - John 8:28; 12:48-50.
- B. Jesus spoke the truth - Matthew 22:16.
- C. Jesus was full of grace and truth - John 1:17.
- D. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life - John 14:6.
 1. Lying is contrary to the will of God, and will condemn men to hell eternally - Psalms 5:6; 101:7; Proverbs 12:22; Colossians 3:9; Revelation 21:8.

4. CHRIST TAUGHT HOLINESS IN RESPECT TO MARRIAGE AND THE HOME - MATTHEW 5:27, 28; 10:4-9

5. CHRIST TAUGHT HOLINESS IN RESPECT TO JUDGING - MATTHEW 7:1

- A. Hypocritical judging is forbidden by the Lord - Matthew 7:5.
- B. Jesus taught to judge righteously - John 7:24.

6. CHRIST WAS HOLY IN LIVING

- A. Both the Bible and history verify the fact that Jesus lived a holy life.
 1. We have seen that there was no guile nor deceit in the mouth of Christ.

7. CHRIST WAS HOLY IN PREACHING

- A. Contrary to many preachers today, Jesus preached the truth - John 8:31, 32.

8. CHRIST TAUGHT HOLINESS IN REGARD TO THOUGHTS - MATTHEW 15:19, 20

- A. We must remember that the Word is a discernor of the thoughts and intents at one's heart - Hebrews 4:12.

9. CHRIST TAUGHT MAN TO BE HOLY IN HIS PROMISES

- A. One's word must be that which binds him - Matthew 5:37.
 1. One who makes idle promises normally ends up committing other sins to cover his first sin.
 - A. For example, the person who asks for the loan of money but fails to repay on time sins - Romans 13:8.

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.

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.

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