

# 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 2011  
No. 77

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Larry McWilliams  
Eddy Parker  
Larry Rice  
Bobby Watts

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## From the Director's Desk

*Robert Stapleton*



Classes began June 10th with the fewest students that we have had in a long time. Several things contributed to this. First, this is the first year since 1985 that we have not had two enrollments of students per year. As you are aware, we changed our enrollment policy this year, allowing students to only enroll in January in order to better design our class schedules. Secondly, due to varied circumstances, some students that had previously began classes dropped out, leaving us with only one second year student in the English Department. Had we have known this was going to happen, we might have changed our date to adopt the new policy. However, there was no way that we could foresee what happened. Additionally, as I have mentioned more than once in past issues of Fulfilling the Ministry, it is getting more difficult to find men who want to preach the gospel.

We are still looking for someone who might assist us in locating men who desire to prepare themselves to be preachers, along with helping to make additional congregations aware of the work that is being done here at Brown Trail. If this is something that you think you would like to do, please get in touch with us.

Several changes have recently been made at the school facility that will better allow us to provide the quality of education that we so desire. First, the library has been relocated to a new and larger area of the Brown Trail church building. This has allowed us to remodel the area that previously housed the library, turning it into an office, classroom and an audio recording studio. Willie has been doing a considerable amount of recording on

the Internet and other means for distribution of materials. We have had donated to us the necessary equipment, and now we have the space to do this work. Please pray for these efforts as we not only seek to train men to be preachers, but as we put into practice what is being taught.

The statistical information that indicates that although the world's population is increasing, our inability to reach them all with the gospel is alarming. Although churches of Christ have experienced spurts of growth over the past several years, we are never going to see her grow as she should until we have a much larger number of members who are interested in spreading the gospel. You can help see this becomes a reality by your efforts both financially and personally.

## Spanish Department

We continue to be thankful for the great work that the Spanish Department is doing in preparing men to be “men of the Book” who speak Spanish as their first language. This Department of **BTSOP** has already seen several good men graduate from it who are holding forth the truth of God's Word in places where those of us who do not speak Spanish could not be successful. We appreciate so much the good work being done by **Jesse Martinez, Obed Rodriguez, and Willie Alvarenga**. Each of these men are committed to the Book of books, and determined to see that those who come to the Spanish Department receive a great education. Many who have heard our students speak are amazed at the great job they do. Such words of appreciation speak well of our Instructors.

We have several men who wish to attend classes beginning in January and you can help them make that a reality by your financial support. If you are interested, give **Willie** a call, or contact him via email, as I am sure he can provide you with detailed information on each of 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.

### JOHN BOREN

Norman & Susan Green

### R.C. CARSON

Bob & Marcia Stapleton  
Bill & Vivian Wren

### MATTIE DABNEY

Kathy Brewer  
Julia Bridges  
J.B. & Betty Clark  
Sam & Betty Harding  
Henry & Nancy Hart  
Pansy McClendon  
Melvin & Monett Speering  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton  
Bobby & June Watts

### MARTHA HAYS

Joseph & Sandra Smith

### RAYMOND HENRY

Gary & Mary Murphy

### MAURINE JEFCOAT

Julia Bridges  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

### MARY COCO LARKIN

Gary & Mary Murphy

### GARY SMITH

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

### ANITA VICKERS

Bobby & June Watts

### KEVIN VICKERS

Gary & Mary Murphy

### This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

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

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

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

## Sermon Starters - Continued

### CONCLUSION:

1. Do you believe the Bible?
2. Are you willing to be as narrow as the Bible - Ephesians 4:1-6?
3. May we all learn to be as narrow as God's Word and as broad as His Word.
  - A. To bind where God has not bound is too narrow.
  - B. To loose where God has bound is too broad.
4. It takes courage and conviction to stay in harmony with God's word.

## Sermon Starters

### THE NARROWNESS OF TRUTH

Ephesians 4:1-6

### INTRODUCTION:

1. The church of Christ is often charged with being narrow minded.
  - A. I do not deny that charge, we must be.
2. Truth is narrow.
  - A. Historical truth is narrow.
    1. When did Columbus discover America?
      - A. 1496 is close, but wrong!
  - B. Teachers teach a narrow truth.
    1. In Math we want them taught  $2+2=4$ , not 3 or 5, even though both answers are close.
  - C. Religious truth is narrow - John 14:6; Matthew 7:14.
3. I do not apologize for being as narrow minded as the Bible, and neither should you.

### BODY:

1. **BIBLE TRUTH IS NARROW - EPHESIANS 4:1-6**
  - A. One body (church) - Ephesians 4:4; 1:22, 23; Colossians 1:18.
    1. Does  $1 = 1$  or does  $1 = 5$  or does  $1 = 5,000$ ?
    2. How many bodies are there?
  - B. One Spirit - Ephesians 4:4; John 16:13; Romans 8:14.
  - C. One hope - Ephesians 4:4; Psalms 39:7; Titus 1:2; 2:13.
  - D. One Lord - Ephesians 4:5; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:36.
  - E. One faith - Ephesians 4:5; Acts 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Jude 3.
    1. Some speak of many faiths.
    2. There are different kinds of faith such as the faith of the devils versus the faith of Abraham.
    3. But when the Bible speaks of the faith, there is only one.
  - F. One baptism - Ephesians 4:5.
    1. Baptism as a burial - Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12.
    2. Baptism into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - Matthew 28:19.
    3. Baptism for the remission of sins - Acts 2:38.
    4. Baptism in water - Acts 8:38.
      - A. Does  $1+1=1$  or does  $1+1=2$ ?
        1. Water baptism plus Holy Spirit baptism equals 2 baptisms.
        2. Water baptism plus no other baptism equals 1 baptism.
    - G. One God - Ephesians 4:6.
  2. **ONE CAN EASILY SEE THAT BIBLE TRUTH IS NARROW**
    - A. In Ephesians 4 we have one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God.
    - B. When God says there is one there cannot be more than one.

## News from Alumni

### David Rogers (1992)

Our condolences are extended to the Rogers family at David's passing, May 23, 2011.

## New Class Outline Books Available

We have recently added two new Class Outline Books to our list of books that are available through **BTSOP**. The first is on Denominational Doctrines and includes some 133 pages. This book outlines the teachings of various denominational groups, documenting what is said from their own sources. The cost for this is \$6.00 plus shipping. The second is on the Book of Philippians, and includes 47 pages that covers each verse of the Book of Philippians. The cost is \$3.00 plus shipping. If interested in one or both, or any other book that we have available, please contact the School Office at 817-268-3222 or email us at [marcia.stapleton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marcia.stapleton@sbcglobal.net). If you would like a list of what books we have available, please contact us by email and we will email you a list.

## Web Site

Please be reminded of our Web Site, and all the information that is available on it. You can access it at [www.browntrailsschoolofpreaching.com](http://www.browntrailsschoolofpreaching.com). We actually have all information on the school that we have in print. This is a great place to tell people who are interested in the school to go to first as they seek information on us. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us. I can be reached at the office -817-268-3222, my cell - 817-937-3981 or via email at [chimalabob@yahoo.com](mailto:chimalabob@yahoo.com).

**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.

## Fill In Preaching

We want to remind congregations, within driving distance of **BTSOP**, that our students are available for fill in preaching appointments on a "first come, first served basis." Since we have a smaller number of men who are attending classes, we are limited on the number of men that we have available to do such work. I do have a short list of sound preachers available for fill in work if we cannot provide someone from **BTSOP**. We offer their names as a means of assisting congregations that are in need.

If you know that you are going to be needing some assistance in this area, please let us know as far in advance as possible. That is not a guarantee that we might be able to help, but it will make the chances greater.

## Blog

Each month I place online a "Blog" article. Over the past several months I have posted articles that covered the following subjects - New Testament Baptism, The All Sufficiency of the Bible, The Goodness of God, The Greatness of the Church, The Truth About the "Sinner's Prayer", Why You Should Belong to the Church, Some Things Baptism Will Not Do, along with several other articles that deal with a wide arrangement of subjects. These are available at <http://chimalabob.wordpress.com>.

Please be aware that these are posted for the benefit of those who might be able to use them. The only requirement that we have is if you publish any of them, please give proper credit. This is not because I am desirous of the credit, but it is unethical to publish another's work and claim credit for it yourself.

If you have a subject that you would like to see written on, please feel free to email us your request.

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