

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

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The challenge of preparing men to be preachers is not always as easy as some might think. Besides trying to cover every book of the Bible, English and Greek, Bible Geography, Hermeneutics and Homiletics, plus

several other important subjects, we are confronted with trying to assist them in understanding exactly what it means to hold a job that is not a 9:00 to 5:00, five days a week job. This is often done by word and by example.

My “normal” day at school begins around 3:45 A.M. Monday - Thursday, and ends around 3:30 p.m. Add to that an additional seven hours or so on Friday, plus time on the phone, purchasing office supplies, etc., etc., etc. “after hours” and it does not take long to add up a considerable number of school related hours per week. On Sundays we usually leave the house around 7:30 a.m. and get home around 8:30 p.m. In addition to all of that, I teach a class on Wednesday and Thursday nights several times a year.

Preachers learn very early on in their preaching careers that when the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy concerning his doing the “work of the evangelist,” (2 Timothy 4:5), he actually meant “work.” It takes the kind of “work” (to the point of exhaustion) that Paul had in mind to be successful. Part of our “work” is to instill in our students this kind of a “work ethic.” Lazy preachers will never be what God demands of those who claim to be “laborers” in the kingdom! We must understand the “rest” for our “labors” (Revelation 14:13) is that which is awaiting those “which die in the Lord.”

In addition to this, we have a number of exercises that are designed to assist our students to better prepare themselves to be responsible. We live in a world today where personal responsibility seems to be a thing of the past. But Christians (including preachers) must be responsible when it comes to our time and efforts. Paul commanded the Ephesian brethren to “redeem the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16). Such involves the wise and responsible use of the limited time that we have to bring glory to God (Matthew 5:16).

We are blessed to have this opportunity to assist these men and their families as they train to “preach the word” (2 Timothy 4:2). Your financial assistance is greatly appreciated as we labor together in this necessary effort!

Spanish Department

Depending on where you live today, your involvement with people who speak Spanish as their first language will vary. Here in Texas, we find that the Spanish speaking population has grown considerably over the past several years. With that growth in population, along with the increase in population of Spanish speaking people in other countries, the necessity of having men who can preach the gospel in Spanish is easily seen.

Just as it was in Acts 2, where clarity of teaching came from “every man heard them speak in his own language” (Acts 2:6, 8) so it is today. If we want people to understand what they hear, we must prepare men to preach in the languages of the world. Having worked in Tanzania a number of years, I know well the value in training men to preach and teach in the language of the people. Had we gone there and did all our work in English, we would have reached very few. But being able to reach the “common man” with a “common language,” made all the difference.

May God continue to bless the efforts being put forth by this area of the School!

School Events - 2012

Campaign/Gospel Meeting - Andover, KS, August 5th - 8th, 2012

Third Annual Alumni Lectureship August 3rd & 4th at the Brown Trail building.

Labor Day - No Classes - September 3, 2012

Heidenheimer, Texas Campaign/Gospel Meeting - September 7 - 9, 2012

Finals - September 18 - 20, 2012

Fall Break - September 21 - 30, 2012

Classes Resume - October 1, 2012

Spiritual Sword Lectures - October 21-25, 2012 (This is a revision from the last issue.)

Thanksgiving Holiday - November 21 - 23, 2012 (classes dismissed at 12:00 on the 21st)

Finals - December 11 - 13, 2012

Graduation Banquet - December 14, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Graduation - December 16, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

Winter Break - December 17, 2012 - January 6, 2013

Please note that some of these are subject to change.

Fill In Preaching

Please be aware that we want to assist as often as possible congregations in the area that are in need of fill in preaching. However, our number of students is limited, which some times mean we may not be able to help, especially when we are contacted at the "last minute." We realize that some times this cannot be helped. But if you know you are going to need someone well in advance, please contact us as soon as possible.

Director's Schedule

Beltline church of Christ, Irving, Texas, Summer Series - August 22, 2012

Heidenheimer, Texas, Gospel Meeting - September 7 - 9, 2012

Las Vegas Trail church of Christ Fort Worth, Texas, Gospel Meeting - September 23, 2012

Sunday Preaching - Blooming Grove church of Christ

Wednesday Bible Class - Brown Trail church of Christ

Future Campaigns

All of our Campaign/Gospel Meeting openings are filled for 2012. If you would like to have us come in 2013 or at some time later, please get in touch with us as soon as possible. At the present, we have a couple openings available for 2013. If you have any questions on having such an activity, please contact us so we may be able to provide you with the necessary information to assist you in planning one.

Specific Financial Needs

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

Jesse Martinez Support _____ Monthly
_____ One Time

J.J. Hendrix 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.

Class Materials Available

My "Bucket List" consists of completing outline notes on all the Books of the New Testament. To be honest, I am not sure I am going to be around long enough to get this done. At present, I have notes on Genesis, Ezekiel, Daniel, Ezra-Esther, John, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians (new), 1 & 2 Timothy & Titus, Hebrews, and Revelation. Also, I have class notes on a variety of other Bible related subjects - Bible Geography, Church Leadership, Christian Evidences, Current Issues, Denominational Doctrines, Eschatology, Evangelism, General Studies, The Godhead, Hermeneutics, Homiletics, The Home, Life and Teachings of Jesus, New Testament Overview, The Preacher, His Life and Works, and World Religions. If interested in any of these, let us hear from you. The average cost is \$4.00 per booklet (plus shipping), and all proceeds go to the School.

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.

DALE CARPENTER

Julia Bridges

JACK CLAYTON

Gary & Mary Murphy

MARY FERRELL

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

JEAN LA FEVERS

Larry & Pat Benedict
Steven & Rebecca Lehr
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Jack & MaryLea Stephens
Bobby & June Watts

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Julia Bridges
Carl & Doris Powell
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Jack & MaryLea Stephens
Bobby & June Watts

MARY SARRATT

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Bobby & June Watts

STEVE WILSON

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts

LEON SHEPPARD

Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts

JOE WHITMIRE

Gary & Mary Murphy

WALTER WOODARD

Julia Bridges
Dorothy Burrell
Gary & Mary Murphy
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

New Students Needed

As we look to the future, there is nothing that is needed more than gospel preaching! It remains the "power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). It is still the message whereby man might be set "free from condemnation" (John 8:32; Romans 8:1; James 1:21). As such, we are looking for those few "good men" in the brotherhood who aspire to take the truth to a world that is lost in sin. As the world's population continues to grow, so does the need for men to prepare themselves to take the gospel to it. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please contact us at 817-268-3222.

Sermon Starters

THE KIND OF PREACHING WE NEED Nehemiah 8:4-8

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is not any more important challenge today than to have preaching from the pulpit that pleases God.
2. Yet, in many places, preaching has become something that God did not intend for it to become.
3. I have often heard the phrase, "As the pulpit goes, so goes the congregation," and I've found that to be generally true.
4. In this lesson, I would like to address some needs of the pulpit.

BODY:

1. AN OPEN BOOK

- A. Nehemiah 8:4, 5
 1. The Bible has been closed in many pulpits across our land.
 2. Philosophy, psychology, and story telling have replaced book, chapter, and verse preaching.
- B. In 2 Kings 22:8, we note that the book of the law was lost in the house of the Lord.
 1. Much the same today.
- C. In 1 Samuel 3:1, see that the word of the Lord was precious (rare) in those days.
 1. The same is true today.
- D. In Deuteronomy 17:17, 18, we note that the Kings were required to write a copy of the law.
 1. There is irony in the fact that so many are biblically illiterate in a day and age when we have a proliferation of Bibles.

2. PREACHING THAT PRODUCES RESPECT FOR GOD

- A. Nehemiah 8:5, 6
- B. Read the book of Psalms and note the reverence and respect for God.
- C. We are to serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear - Hebrews 12:28.

3. PREACHING THAT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD

- A. Nehemiah 8:7-8, 12
- B. 1 Corinthians 1:21
 1. The aim of preaching is the salvation of souls.
- C. 2 Corinthians 3:12
 1. Paul spoke with great boldness (plainness) of speech.
- D. Someone has said that "Deep preachers aren't really deep; they just muddy the water so that you can't see the bottom."

4. PREACHING THAT MAKES APPLICATION TO PRESENT NEEDS

- A. Nehemiah 8:13, 14
- B. Acts 20:20, 26, 27
 1. Paul's preaching at Ephesus.
- C. Preaching needs to be direct and applicable to the church's situation.

CONCLUSION:

1. Let's put aside our human preferences and our false notions about what preaching should be, and demand the kind of preaching that pleases God.

Graduation - June 2012

On June the 10th, 2012, four students graduated from **Brown Trail School of Preaching**. Three Gospel Preachers, along with **Tania Hernandez**, received their Diplomas. **Tania** attended classes to properly prepare herself to teach other Christian ladies how to better live their lives as Christian wives and mothers. While attending school, **Tania** did so at the expense of her family as they provided the necessary income.

Following graduation, our three male graduates began works in three different areas. **Mark Alvarenga** began working with the Cockrell Hill church of Christ in Dallas, Texas on a full time basis as their located preacher. **Jaime Luna** began full time work with the Birdville Spanish congregation in Fort Worth as their Spanish minister. **Jose Quevedo** is presently preaching for the Spanish congregation in Bonham, Texas as they try to work out the details for him to move to Sedalia, Missouri to work with the church there as their Spanish minister.

Please keep each of these in your prayers as they continue to seek to carry God's Word to those outside of Christ.



L - R - Robert Stapleton, Mark Alvarenga, Tania Hernandez, Jaime Luna and Jose Quevedo

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.

News from Alumni/Alumni News

Updates - Alumni News

This is the first time in a long time that we have not had any updates for this section of **Fulfilling the Ministry**. Please note, when you send in updates, or add them to our Alumni News Page on the Web Site, the information is considered "for publication purposes" unless you tell us other wise.

Alumni Association

Over the years there have been a number of attempts to set up an Alumni Association for the benefit of the Alumni of the School and for the benefit of the School itself. The most recent endeavor began in 2005. Presently, **Landon Rowell** serves as the President, **Larry Jones** as Vice President, and **J.J. Hendrix** as Treasurer. I am sure any of these men would be happy to discuss with you the efforts being put forth by the Association and how you can join the Association.

You can check out the following web site for information on the Alumni Association (Please note that this site is "under construction" as updates are being made).

<http://btsopalumniassociation.wordpress.com/>

Alumni Association Lectureship

By the time you receive this, the **3rd Annual BTSOP Alumni Association Lectureship** will probably be over. Each year, the Lectureship is held the first weekend in August. This year, all of the speakers were graduates of the School except for me. Those planning the Lectureship were gracious enough to assign me a place on the program, for which I express my appreciation for the invitation. If you would like to obtain a copy of the Lectureship Book, please contact **J.J. Hendrix** at 817-268-3222.

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