

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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Time passes ever so swiftly! With so much to do, and so little time to finish the work before us, we beseech your prayers on behalf of the work we are doing! There is no greater message, nor greater need, than to see that the

gospel is taken to a lost and dying world. Preparing men to “preach the word” (2 Timothy 4:2) is a task that needs our serious attention. Your continued prayers and support allow us to accomplish this goal.

Although our next intake of students is several months away, we are looking forward to those that will begin their studies with us. If you know of a potential student, we would appreciate you either putting them in contact with us, or letting us know of them so we can be in touch with them. So often you, our friends and supporters, are a vital link when it comes to students. We would appreciate any assistance that you can give in this area!

As we find 2014 winding down, we are quickly approaching a “milestone” in the history of **Brown Trail School of Preaching**. It was January, 1965, that classes began for the first time here at **BTSOP**. Brother **Roy Deaver** was the first Director of the School, and served faithfully from 1965 to 1979. Following him came brother **Wendell Winkler** (1979-1982) brother **Eddie Whitten** (1982-1987), brother **Maxie Boren** (1988-1991), brother **Dave Miller** (1992-2002), brother **Maxie Boren** (2002-2003), and then myself (2003-present). Several hundred men have graduated, and the world has been blessed by the efforts of many of them. May God bless **BTSOP**!

MTSM Program

Our **Moving Toward Spiritual Maturity** program continues to reap many benefits for both the students and the school. This program is for students that have recently graduated from High School, and who may be planning on attending college. So often we send our young people away to school, totally unprepared to handle the skepticism that they will experience. This program can help them be prepared. One of the classes that they will be attending deals with the philosophies of Agnosticism, Atheism and Existentialism. We will provide them with reasons as to why those philosophies are erroneous, and why they should believe in God and His inspired Word. Please contact us if you have any questions about this program.

Spanish Department

The **Spanish Department** continues to do great things in preparing men to “preach the word” in areas where Spanish is the spoken language. It is hard to believe that this Department has been a part of the School for 10 years. We have seen 33 students graduate, knowing that they are well prepared to return home, or to new works in other parts of the world. Please continue to pray for this area of the work here, along with your support of these efforts. Eternity will reveal the number of souls touched by those who have attended here.

Fill In Preaching

We are happy to help your congregation with a student to fill in in case your preacher is ill, out of town, or some other reason resulting in you needing assistance. If you know that you are going to be in need of someone, please contact **Pat McIntosh, Dean of Students**, as early as possible, and he will do all that he can to make arrangements for someone to come your way.

Campaign/Gospel Meeting

Finishing out this year, our students will be conducting two Campaigns/Gospel Meetings held at the following locations:

Blodgett, TX – August 15-16
Ramer, TN – September 19-21

Please keep both of these efforts in your prayers that much good will be done, and God will be glorified.

If you would be interested in having a similar event in 2015, please contact us as soon as possible.

Btradio.net

Please help us pass the word that **BTRADIO.NET** is aired over the Internet at www.btradio.net and www.KnowTheTruthRadio.org.

For those of you who have a smart phone or tablet, you can download the **TuneIn Radio** App and access our programs on your portable device. Once you have downloaded the App, search for **Brown Trail Radio** and select it. You can then save that in the Favorites area and be able to access our programming whenever and wherever you are so long as you have phone service.

Btradio.net Schedule

Do You Know the Truth? Sounding off on the Scriptures	Monday	6:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
What is Truth?	Monday	7:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
Life in the Son	Tuesday	4:30 p.m. 7:45 p.m.
The Way and The Truth	Wednesday	6:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Contending for the Faith	Thursday	6:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Following the Scriptures	Thursday	4:00 p.m. 7:45 p.m.
Biblical Foundations	Friday	7:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
	Mon.-Thur.	7:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
Searching the Scriptures	Mon.-Fri.	6:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

Student Duplex

In our last issue of *Fulfilling The Ministry*, we indicated that we were in the process of trying to buy a duplex that is located not far from the school. We are happy to report that we were able to finalize the sale, and the duplex is now property of **BTSOP**. However, due to the conditions of the sale, although we have taken possession of the duplex, the tenants that were living there still have a year contract, which means that it will be sometime in 2015 before we can begin placing students there. If everything works out as planned, the actual costs to a student will be considerably less than renting a similar apartment in the area. We are confident that this is going to be a great asset to the school, and if all goes as we have planned, we hope to add other units in the years to come. Of course, to purchase the property was a sizeable expense to the school. If you would like to donate to this, your donation would be appreciated!

Specific Financial Needs

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

Jesse Martinez Support _____ Monthly
_____ One Time

Tavaris Armstrong 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.

Graduate Program Continued

Courses

Advanced Hermeneutics
Old Testament Theology
Leadership
Ethics
The Church in a Postmodern Society
Bible Geography and Archaeology
Advanced Introduction to the Old Testament
Advanced Introduction to the New Testament
Advanced Church History
Advanced Apologetics

Each course will require a similar workload. As noted above, each course will have a required reading load of three to five books. There will be a booklist provided with the syllabus. If a book is unavailable, the student may substitute a book with the approval of the instructor. Each student will also submit a book critique/review, using the format provided in the syllabus.

This critique will be some five to six pages in length. The student will write a 20-25 page paper on a topic provided by the instructor. If no topic is provided, the student will have the freedom to write on a topic of his choosing included in the subject matter. Outlines/Introductions may also be required, based on the desire of the instructor.

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.

EDDIE HILL

Robert & Amy Bain &
Family

WANDA MASON

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

REX OWENS

Lennis & Jean Cearley

PATRICIA KAYE SMITH

Patsy Ainsworth

FRANCIS THOMPSON

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

OPAL WATTS

Mrs. Verna Cage

MORRIS WEBB

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

VIOLET WEBB

Four Mile Hill church of
Christ

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

Director's Schedule - 2014

Men's Day - August 9th - Graceton church of Christ, Diana, Texas

Summer Series - August 20th - Beltline church of Christ, Irving, TX.

Gospel Meeting - September 17th - 21st - Wagoner church of Christ, Wagoner, OK

Class Material Available

Class notes are now available on the Book of James.

This is in addition to the class material that we have available on a number of the books of the Bible. Each outline costs around \$5.00 per outline, plus shipping. If you would like a list of what is available, please let us know, and we will email you the list.

Also, we have a number of sermon outline books available. There are 50 outlines in each book, and the cost is the same as the class outline books.

Fulfilling the Ministry

Please let us know if you would like to receive your copy of *Fulfilling the Ministry* via the Internet.

Sermon Starters

SOME IMPOSSIBLE THINGS

Hebrews 9:12-15

INTRODUCTION:

1. In a study of the Bible, we find within its pages numerous things that we might refer to as impossible.
 - A. In consideration of these matters, we can come to a better understanding of how we are to relate to our Creator.

BODY:

1. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE

- A. In study of God's Word, we see that it sets forth the eternal principle that it is impossible for God to lie - Hebrews 6:18.
- B. It is impossible for God to lie because it is against His nature.
 1. God can create a universe, raise the dead, and many other things, but He cannot lie.
- C. Every promise of God is like Himself, absolutely unchangeable.
 1. No opposing power in Heaven, Earth, or Hell, can ever nullify or set aside a decree or promise of God.

2. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO NEGLECT SALVATION AND BE SAVED

- A. Too many people are neglecting salvation and risking eternal punishment, simply because they have not realized the impossibility of being saved, if they neglect salvation - Hebrews 2:3; 12:25.
- B. It is essential to our eternal salvation that we obey the gospel and obey it today - 2 Corinthians 6:2.
- C. There is a day of salvation, and that is why it is so important that we obey before that day of salvation ends and we no longer have the desire or the opportunity of doing so.

3. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE SAVED WITHOUT THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

- A. We should all be made aware of the impossibility of our salvation apart from the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ.
 1. Had there been any other way that we might have been redeemed, then I am sure that it would have been done that way, but there wasn't - 1 Peter 1:18, 19.
 2. It took the shedding of the blood of Christ for us to have life, and without it, we would have no life - Hebrews 9:12, 14, 15, 22; 10:4, 10.

4. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE SAVED WITHOUT FAITH

- A. Throughout the Bible see that faith is essential in order to be pleasing to God.
 1. Hebrews 11 teaches very plainly the part that faith played in the lives of many Old Testament characters.
 2. It is without doubt, that to be saved an individual must have faith in God - John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6.
 3. In a study of the conversions in the Book of Acts, we see that faith is set forth as a part of the scheme of redemption for mankind.
 - A. Each occasion shows the necessity of obedient faith in the plan of salvation.

Sermon Starters - Continued

5. **IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE AND OBEY CHRIST AND NOT BE SAVED**
 - A. If we believe in Christ, as He demands, and obey Him, in all that He would have us to do, it is impossible not to be saved.
 - B. I am not saying it is impossible to fall away from Christ, as that contradicts other scripture - Galatians 5:4; 1 Corinthians 9:27.
 1. But I am saying, that it is impossible not to be saved if we believe in Christ and obey him - Mark 16:16; Hebrews 5:9.
6. **IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ENTER THE KINGDOM EXCEPT THROUGH CHRIST**
 - A. If we desire entrance into the kingdom of God, we must go through Christ - John 14:6; Acts 4:12.
 - B. There is no other way into the kingdom.
7. **IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FORSAKE THE WORD AND BE SAVED**
 - A. We have previously seen that faith is essential for salvation, but faith cannot be attained without the word - Romans 10:17.
 - B. Thus, we easily see that it is impossible to forsake the Word and still be saved.
8. **IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ENTER HEAVEN WITHOUT THE NEW BIRTH**
 - A. Being born again or born anew is something that one must do in order to enter heaven.
 1. We should all realize the impossibility of entering heaven without the new birth - John 3:3.
 2. The words of Jesus emphatically show the impossibility of entering heaven if one has not experienced the new birth.
9. **IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE SAVED AFTER THIS LIFE IS OVER**
 - A. In Luke 16, where we find the story of Lazarus and the rich man, we quite easily see this point - Luke 16:26.
 - B. Thus the need to be prepared, for there is no second chance - Hebrews 9:27.

BTSOP Graduate Program

Several of our past graduates and current students have expressed their desire to continue their studies upon graduation from **BTSOP**. There are various options available, some of them very expensive. Our students can transfer their credits to **Heritage Christian University** and **Freed-Hardeman University**, basically entering the bachelor's programs in those institutions as a Junior. The **Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver** offers a bachelors program at a cost of about \$500.00, but also requires two trips to Denver for what is called "blitz week."

With this in mind, it is our intention to provide a quality, **non**-accredited program for a minimal cost and the opportunity to study from home or office. We will charge a one-time "application fee" of \$75.00. This will help offset extra time spent in record-keeping and costs of diplomas. The primary expense in this program will be books, and this can be somewhat expensive. Each course will require reading three to five books. The student will be free to select used books or even Kindle format books (if available) to help cut those expenses.

Once we get this up and running, we will place an application on our school webpage. The interested student will download that application, fill it out and mail it in with their \$75.00 fee. Interested students graduating from a school other than **BTSOP** need to provide a transcript with that application. Students having graduated from the **Hispanic Program** at the **BTSOP** are welcome to enroll in this program if they have the capacity to do the workload with the English texts and submit their work in English.

There will be no time limit for this program. The students will work at their own pace and can take the classes in any order they choose (list of courses provided below). The student can only enroll in one course at a time. Any questions need to be directed to Pat McIntosh. He can be contacted by phone at 254-592-2234 or by email at pmcintosh1957@gmail.com.

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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.

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