

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 2017
No. 101

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From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton



It is not uncommon for institutions such as **BTSOP** to have changes in personnel as time passes. Presently, we are in the process of adding two men to the efforts of the School.

First, **Salvador Del Fierro**, a 2015 graduate, has begun volunteer work with the **Spanish Department** in the capacity of **Field Representative**. His primary efforts will be directed at recruiting students and raising awareness within Spanish speaking congregations of the financial needs of the School.

Secondly, **Heath Stapleton** will soon be working full time as **Assistant Director for Development**. His primary area of work will be directing the efforts to strengthen both the English and Spanish Departments financially and with student recruitment. **Heath** has been serving as the preacher for the Brown Trail congregation since September 2015. During this time he has also been serving as one of the Adjunct Instructors. **Heath**, along with **Tavaris**, **Willie**, **Jesse** and myself are available to visit with you or your congregation to discuss the School's needs and how you may assist it in its efforts.



Salvador



Heath

Urgent Financial Needs

One of the reasons the elders made the decision for **Heath** to begin full time work with the School is due to the recurring problem that we have been experiencing for the past few years. That being insufficient funds coming in to provide support for the students and pay the day to day operational expenses. In 2015, we made an urgent appeal to brethren for assistance and the funds came to help us with the 2015 and 2016 budgets. Now, though, in 2017, the one time funds have been spent, and we are back running in the “red.” The only way to overcome this is to raise sufficient regular monthly funds to cover these expenses rather than concentrating on the larger donations. Please note the inserted page that will give additional information on this pressing need.

Spanish Department

Your continued support of the efforts of the **Spanish Department** are deeply appreciated. We realize that without the efforts of good brethren that support us, we would not be able to accomplish what we do in this area. If you would like information about supporting any area of the **Spanish Department**, please call the School and ask to speak with **Willie**, who will be happy to set up an appointment for someone to visit with you.

If you are in need of sound class material in Spanish let me encourage you to contact **Willie** as he has a number of books available that will provide you with material that can easily be trusted and used.

The **Spanish Department** will be conducting three door knocking campaigns later this year: August 9-13, DeLeon, Texas; September 8, 9, Bedford, Texas; and September 10-13, Rhome, Texas. Please pray for success for these campaigns/Gospel Meetings.

Btradio.net

Please help us in passing the word to congregations and individuals, that our regular programming is aired over the Internet at:

www.btradio.net and
www.KnowTheTruthRadio.org.

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

Please note our schedule for 2017 below. Some changes have been made with the speakers and the times the programs are aired.

2017 Btradio.net Schedule

Searching the Scriptures (Robert Stapleton)	Mon.-Fri.	6:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
What is Truth? (Tavaris Armstrong)	Tue.-Thur.	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
Let the Truth Be Told (Ronnie Fisher, Jr., Ronnie Fisher, Sr. & Victor Miles)	Monday	7:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
Behold, I Thought (Michael Windham & Adrian Sampson)	Tuesday	4:35 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Life in the Son (Brandon Ferguson & DuJuan Johnson)	Wednesday	6:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Contending for the Faith (Dale Choate & Charles Murrell)	Thursday	4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Foundational Principles (Rickey Brown, Joe Nimock & Joe Harris)	Friday	7:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
In Search of the Truth (Cody McCoy, Nathan Boyd & Joe Moon)	Friday	4:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.

Campaigns/Gospel Meetings

Each year we endeavor to conduct at least four door knocking Campaigns by both the **English** and **Spanish Departments**. There are two Sunday through Wednesday Campaigns and two Friday through Sunday Campaigns. As 2017 winds down, we have two campaigns scheduled for the **English Department** this Fall. Both will be the week of September 10-13 with the Lone Grove, Oklahoma and the Rhome, Texas congregations where our **English Department** students will be divided with half of the students going to each location. If the congregation that you attend would be interested in such an event in 2018 or beyond, please get in touch with us so your name can be added to the upcoming schedule.

MTSM Program

Our ***Moving Toward Spiritual Maturity*** program continues to reap great benefits for those that take part in it. This program is for students that have recently graduated from High School, and who may be planning to attend college. If interested, please call us to set up an appointment to visit with you.

Fill In Preaching

We want to remind you that students and staff are available for fill in preaching. If your congregation is in need of someone to do so, please contact us as early as possible, so we may be able to assist you. If you cannot reach us by phone, please leave a message giving your name, congregation name, dates when someone is needed, and a call back phone number and email address. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Class Material Available

Class notes are available on a number of books of the Bible. Each outline costs around \$5.00, 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. We would be more than happy to add your name to our email list!

Also, please, if you are relocating, send us an update with your new mailing address as we have to pay First Class postage for each one that the Post Office returns.

Alumni Association News

Recently the ***BTSOP Alumni Association*** sent the following information to me, "After seeing the generous donation made by Brother and Sister Rice, the Brown Trail School of Preaching Alumni Association would also like to donate \$1,000 to the general fund to match their donation. We encourage others to take up the charge Brother Rice had laid down and help this beloved work." We, of course, are thankful for the efforts of the ***Alumni Association*** and specifically for this gracious donation. If all of our graduates would help personally and seek others to do so, we would be able to get on a solid foundation and stay on it.

In addition to the ***Alumni Association's*** help, ***Brother Richard Stevens, III*** has personally taken up the challenge to help recruit students and raise support and challenges all graduates to follow his example. If you would like to discuss with ***Richard*** how you can help, please give him a call at (972) 849-3561. Thank you Richard!

Following the example set by ***Brother Stevens***, we would like to set up a network of "ambassadors" that will represent the School in the general area where they live. Recently ***Brother Steve Orduno***, from ***Paso Robles, California*** called enquiring how he might help. Although not an alumnus, he is, never-the-less, willing to help spread the word in regards to our work. You can call him at (805) 610-4272. Thank you Steve!

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.

- | | |
|---|---|
| JACOB BARNARD
Jamestown church of Christ
Don & Renee Cunningham
Jerry Presswood | STANLEY KENT BROWN
Jeff & Rhonda Fox
Lynn & Debbie McClure
Hal & Aletta Smith |
| DIANA HOTTEN
John & Ann Drago | DELLA MAE CROAN
Don & Renee Cunningham |
| JIMMY T. DANIEL
Mr. & Mrs. Hal Smith | SHARLA DEEN
Gary & Mary Murphy |
| JOHN DICKISON
Gary & Mary Murphy | ROSIE DUNCAN
Gary & Mary Murphy |
| HOWARD L. EMERSON
Hal & Aletta Smith | BOB & OVIDA FINLEY
MaryLea Stephens |
| LARRY GRAY
Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton | FRANCES PRETORIUS
Julia Bridges
John & Ann Drago
Bob & Marcia Stapleton |
| ELDRIDGE RICHARDSON
Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton | EUGENE S. SMITH
Hal & Aletta Smith |
| JACK STEPHENS
Gary & Mary Murphy | |

HONORARIUM

- JOHN DARRELL CONLEY**
(For 62 years of service in preaching the Gospel)
Jeff & Rhonda Fox
Lynn & Debbie McClure
Hal & Aletta Smith

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience
In Honor Of/Memory Of _____
Send Acknowledgement To:
Mr./Mrs./Miss _____
Address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Donated By _____

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”
2 Timothy 4:2

Sermon Starters

OBEYING THE VOICE OF THE LORD Jeremiah 38:20

INTRODUCTION:

1. Today many claim God speaks to them directly as He did to Jeremiah - Jeremiah 38:20.
 - A. Televangelists all over the nation are claiming God speaks to them so as to speak a biblically unauthorized message, and to motivate their listeners to provide large financial gifts to them.
 - B. Jeremiah was an inspired prophet of God, who was directly guided by the Holy Spirit - 2 Peter 2:20, 21; Jeremiah 1:4-10.
 1. Jeremiah did not claim to have written by his own wisdom.
 2. Several times in the book he wrote, “The word of the Lord came to or unto me” and then he recorded what God revealed through him.
2. In Jeremiah 38, God revealed what would happen to Israel if they did not submit to the king of Babylon, who was taking them into captivity for 70 years.
 - A. He, also, warned them what would happen if they did not submit, for their captivity was a part of God’s plan to discipline and preserve His people for their rebellion.
3. Jeremiah’s words to Zedekiah, who was King of Judah, have many lessons for us to learn as Jeremiah wrote of “obeying the voice of the Lord” - Jeremiah 38:20.
 - A. In this lesson we want to examine the “voice of the Lord.”

BODY:

1. **THE VOICE OF THE LORD IS A REVEALING VOICE**
 - A. Zedekiah and the Israelites had to be humble enough to recognize that they had sinned, which would bring them to the point of being taken captive into Babylon - Jeremiah 38:2, 3.
 - B. Today, people have to be humble enough to recognize their sins before obedience.
 1. The Israelites on Pentecost did so - Acts 2:36, 37.
 2. People need to recognize that the “wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23) in order to come to know why they should obey the gospel.
 - A. In Old Testament times, God ruled over the kingdoms and nations of men, and wanted Israel to be preserved as He wants righteous nations today to be preserved - Proverbs 14:34
 - B. May we pray that we will recognize that what is about to happen in America may be God’s providence in bringing us back to Him and righteousness.
2. **GOD’S VOICE IS A WARNING VOICE**
 - A. Zedekiah was warned of the consequences of rebelling against the king of Babylon, as they were being taken captive - Jeremiah 38:3, 21-23.
 - B. Today, God warns us of the sin of rebelling against Him in following the works of the flesh as He warned in the past - Numbers 32:23; Galatians 5:19-21; 6:7, 8; Hebrews 10:30.

News from Alumni

Please forward to us any news you would like posted in this section.

Sermon Outline Continued

3. GOD'S VOICE IS A HATED VOICE

- A. The Jewish rulers hated God's messenger Jeremiah, and had him cast into a dungeon - Jeremiah 38:4-6.
- B. Today, many hate the Word of the Lord.
 - 1. They turn against the messenger who speaks for God such as in the time of Stephen - Acts 7:54-60.
 - 2. Our civil leaders want God and the Bible removed everywhere from the classroom to the courtroom, and are more concerned about being "politically correct" than anything else.

4. THE VOICE OF GOD IS AN ASSURING VOICE

- A. God promised that if Israel would obey His warning, it would be well with them and their souls would be saved - Jeremiah 38:20.
- B. God assures us that if we will obey His will, we can be forgiven and our souls will be spared the agony of an eternal hell - Matthew 10:28; 16:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9.

5. THE VOICE OF GOD IS AN INFALLIBLE VOICE

- A. Those who immediately failed to heed God's voice were dealt with severely - Jeremiah 39:4-8.
- B. Sin will keep us out of heaven and destroy our souls - Romans 6:23.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. God's voice is Revealing, Warning, Hated, Assuring and Infallible.
 - A. May we give heed to it while we can!

Specific Financial Needs

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

Willie Alvarenga Support _____ Monthly
_____ One Time

Tavaris Armstrong Support _____ Monthly
_____ One Time

Jaime Luna Support _____ Monthly
_____ One Time

Jesse Martinez Support _____ Monthly
_____ One Time

General Fund _____ 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.

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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