

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

October, 2004
No. 51

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From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton



We are so happy to be able to report that our August intake of students for 2004 saw seven new men begin full time classes, along with two new part time students. In addition to this, with the quarter that began early October, three more part time students begin their studies. This brings us to a total of 20 students who are presently taking classes. We are truly excited to see the progress as we seek to rebuild the program here. Please continue to keep each of the students in your prayers as they devote themselves to the work of becoming gospel preachers.

The new Hispanic Department is off and running, with three students having begun their studies in August. Our instructors in this Department are carrying a heavy load as they work to teach all the necessary classes. If this area of the school is to be successful, it is necessary that we raise additional funds to assist with the support of the students and to be able to provide the instructors with a little support for their efforts. Needless to say, the laborer is worthy of his hire (Luke 10:7). If you or your congregation would like to assist with this specific area please note on your check that your funds are for the Hispanic Department, and whether they are for student support or instructor support.

It is our hope that we can soon begin the Monday night classes that once were a part of the Brown Trail program. These classes are for anyone who would like to attend, and the only cost is for the books necessary for the course. If you live within driving distance of the Brown Trail building, and would like to take part in

such classes please let us hear from you. It is possible that the first quarter's class will be devoted to a study of First Principles. It may be that you have some recent converts in your congregation that such a class would benefit.

It will not be long until the school "celebrates" its 40th anniversary. It is amazing what all has been accomplished by men who have graduated over the years from this institution. Something over 350 men have graduated, and are now scattered over the US and in numerous foreign countries. Because of so many who have, and who continue, to support this work, many precious souls will be in heaven for eternity. We, no doubt, will never know this side of judgment just exactly what affect this school has had on the world, but, I believe, it has been great.

“Wait And See”

Over the past several months, as we have spoken with people concerning supporting the work here, we often hear the same thing, *“Well, you know, the school went through some problems a while back, and we are just waiting to see what happens before we begin supporting the work again.”* Brethren, I can tell you what is going to happen if the amount of support that is needed is not found, we won't be able to continue. It is that simple. I recently explained it this way. A tree in your yard has some sort of deadly fungus on it. You say, *“Well, I am not going to feed it or water it. I will just wait and see what is going to happen.”* What do you think will happen? We both know, don't we? Brethren, the past is just that, the past. Won't you join me in seeing that the future is bright for the school?

News from the School

Student Enrichment Fund

We have mentioned this fund in the past couple of issues of this publication. It is such an important part of the program in providing the necessary funds to allow our students to be provided with opportunities to attend lectureships, etc. In mid-October we attended the Spiritual Sword Lectures in Memphis. Although the Getwell congregation was kind enough to pick up the tab for the rooms for the students, there are other expenses involved. Please give consideration to this part of the program, and assist as you can. I am sure the students will appreciate your kindness.

Alumni Information

It remains our hope to get the Alumni Association up and running in the not too far off future. We believe that it can be of great benefit to the program here at Brown Trail. With the number of men who have graduated from this school we should have an active Association, working on behalf of the school and each other.

We would like for our graduates to give some consideration to this matter and plan on meeting with Larry and myself during Lectureship week this coming January. Keep in mind the PTS Dinner on Monday afternoon (4:30—6:15) of the Lectures. Plan on attending, and then plan to meet later during the week to discuss what can be done to implement the Association.

If you cannot make it to the Lectures, but have some suggestions on how we can set this up, how about sending along that info in an email? We would appreciate it.

Student Body

As you are aware, there are two times a year in which we start classes with new full time students, early January and early August. On August 3rd we began classes with a large increase in the student body over the January intake. We are thankful that things are “turning around”, and we can report this information to you. Presently, our student body is composed of Seniors Randy Mathis, Leon McManus, and Rick Parker. Our Juniors are Joe Gibbs, Landon Rowell, and Larry Jones. The Sophomore class is composed of only one student, Brent Fluegel, while our Freshman Class is composed of Shane Coleman, Miguel Garcia, Daniel Haynes, Osvaldo Herrera (audit), Martin Ibarra, Donald McKinnon (audit), Jesus Montoya, Tom Taylor and Clarence Walker. Additionally, in October, Brian Bynum began auditing classes.

We are excited about the growth of the school, and ask your prayers on behalf of the students.



August 2004 Student Body

Preachers Available

We do want to keep before our readers that we are able to provide fill in preaching for those congregations that may be in need of such. Not only do we have the students, but Larry and I are frequently available, and would be happy to visit with your congregation and fill in. If your preacher is going to be out of town, or if you are in between preachers, why not give us a call?

Owen Cosgrove Update

Owen continues to fight the cancer. At the present we are unsure as to whether he will be able to teach his classes for the first quarter of next year. Please continue to pray for him so that he will soon be able to carry on his work for the Lord. Owen has expressed his appreciation for all the prayers offered.

Ways To Assist

Brethren, besides the prayers that go up on behalf of Brown Trail, there are, at least, three other things that are necessary for the work to carry on. These three areas are of utmost importance.

First, we need students. A school without students would not be much of a school. We are sure that there are men “out there” who are contemplating attending a preacher training school. Why not Brown Trail? If you are thinking about attending a school of preaching, or if you know of someone who is interested, let us hear from you.

Secondly, we need qualified instructors. A school will only be as good as its instructors. We believe we have some of the best in the world teaching right here at Brown Trail. In total there are several hundred years of accumulated experience “wrapped” up in our instructors. Our instructors are not only men of “the book”, but they have also lived the life of the gospel preacher, and bring a wealth of information along with their teaching ability.

Third, of course, is finances. Due to the work load our students must devote full time to their studies. Support is needed to provide the necessary funds to allow them to devote the time needed to their studies.

Hispanic Department Update

There is no doubt that the new Hispanic Department here at Brown Trail is needed. According to the US Census Bureau, the Total Hispanic/Latino Population in the USA, as of July, 2003, was 39.9 million. Needless to say, that number has increased since then. As a matter of fact, the Hispanic/Latino population is increasing at the approximate rate of one million a year. With those figures before us we begin to appreciate the work that is set before the church in reaching out to these people. The number of non-English speaking residents in the US has increased dramatically over the last decade. Something has to be done to reach them.

Let's face it. How many of us are capable (and or willing) to learn a new language in order to evangelize the Spanish speaking population in our communities? If the truth be known, very few. But that does not mean we cannot do "our part" to reach them. We can train men here at Brown Trail who already speak Spanish fluently.

As we work to reach out to this ever growing population, we have been made ever aware of the need to have on the staff here a full time Spanish Speaking Dean of Students. We have been in contact with a man who is well qualified to do the job, and who has accepted the challenge. However, before he can come it is necessary to raise his support. We are in need of, at least, \$3,000.00 in monthly support. This is the time of year that congregations are making their new budgets for the next year. Will you not, please, consider, supporting this effort?

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call and I will do my best to provide you with the answers.

Larry Evans Update

Larry has settled in well with the work as Dean of Admissions/Students. Due to the accident that he was involved in, as they made preparations to move here, things took a little longer to get set up. However, that is now out of the way, and things are "full steam ahead." For Larry to be able to come work with the school it was necessary for him to commit to raise at least half of his monthly support. Due to the accident he was unable to go about the business of doing so until after he settled in the area. Now, it is important that he do so.

Please, as you consider your budget for the upcoming year give consideration to this matter also. We cannot allow a few hundred dollars a month to cause this work to come to a stand still. Let us know if you have any questions.

Larry will be happy to come visit you or your congregation and give you first hand information on the work that he is doing. I feel quite confident once you realize how valuable this position is to the school you will agree that such is needed.

son who was severely injured in the accident is doing remarkably well, and is now in school. Please, though, continue to keep them in your prayers as he continues to make adjustments.

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, goes a long way in training men to be gospel preachers. (Please note that this is the first time this section has been included, therefore not all donations will be included.)

JACK HAGAR HILL

Mary Lou Parker
Kay & Gay Hill

C H A R L E S

Martha

M/M HLUCHAN BARD

Christine Bartlett
Bell
Bob & June Watts
June Watts

MR. HUB-

Lorena

Bob &

DALE KING

Adeline Hill
Bob & June Watts

QUIDA LEE

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

MILTON MASSEY

Imogene Ross

ROSS MIL-

LER

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience.

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

School Presentation

Larry or myself would be more than happy to visit with you and bring you up to date on the school. If you are interested in such please give us a call and we will set up a time to meet.

News from Alumni

Katsuya Odajuma (1972)

Brother Odajuma recently called to inform us that he is still preaching in Japan after 32 years. He has recently had heart surgery, but is recovering well from it. He was interested in knowing how the school was going, and spoke fondly of it.

Royce & Susie Frederick (1973)

Royce and Susie have recently located in the Fort Worth, Texas area, although they continue to work on behalf of the India Evangelism, which is overseen by the Central church of Christ in Lufkin, Texas. Their telephone number is (817) 367-0603.

Geoffrey Bohanon (1998)

Geoffrey has recently moved from Georgia to the Eastside church of Christ in Mesquite, Texas. His address is 1405 Clearview Drive, Mesquite, Texas, 75181. His telephone number is (972) 222-9291 and his email address is gbohanon@yahoo.com.

Matthew Morine (2000)

Brother Morine has accepted the pulpit position at the church of Christ in Waynesboro, Tennessee. His address is 513 Michael Drive, Waynesboro, Tennessee, 38485 and his telephone number is (931) 722-5520.

NOTICE

Information sent for this page cannot be verified in so far as the faithfulness of those who submit changes. Recently, Jeff Hood sent in information indicating that he was now preaching for the Gateway Community Church in Ingleside, Texas, which does not appear to be a faithful congregation of the church. We, inadvertently allowed this to escape our attention. We apologize for the oversight.

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. 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.

Sermon Starters

LESSONS WE LEARN FROM THE ARK Genesis 7:15

INTRODUCTION:

1. We learn from many O.T. events—Rom. 15:4.
2. From Genesis 1 to Malachi 4 there are lessons to be learned on every page.
3. In this lesson we learn from the ark.

BODY:

- 1. THE ARK WAS THE ONLY ONE**
 - A. Not two or more—like the one way of salvation— John 14:6; Acts 4:12.
 - B. Rich or poor, there was but one way.
 1. The same is true today.
- 2. THE ARK WAS LARGE ENOUGH TO SAVE ALL WHO WOULD GET IN IT**
 - A. Note the size in Genesis 6:15.
 - B. The church is, likewise large enough to save all who would enter it—Revelation 7:9.
 1. There is plenty of room— Luke 14:22.
 2. All who are saved are added to the church—Acts 2:47.
 - C. The ark was a safe refuge, just as the church is.
 1. As the ark did not sink, neither will the church fail— Matthew 16:18.
 - D. With the ark there was one source of light—the same is true with the church—John 8:12.
- 3. DIFFERENT KINDS OF ANIMALS**

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