

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 2006
No. 59

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Phil Pope
Larry Rice
Bobby Watts

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Robert Stapleton

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From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton



It is so exciting to see the men grow over the time they are with us! Your support, through your financial support and prayers, help to make our work successful. We are unable to fully express our appreciation to

those who support this effort. As this year comes to an end we are drawing close to the time to bid farewell to several men who will go forth, taking with them the most precious message ever proclaimed. Please keep each of these men and their families in your prayers as they begin their work for the Lord in their respective areas.

We were so saddened to learn that **Kristin** and **Landon Rowell** lost the quadruplets they were expecting. They are such a sweet couple, and I know they will grow stronger through this as they rely upon God and their brethren for strength. Please keep them in your prayers over the next several weeks.

Time is swiftly moving toward the time that **Kenny Gardner** and **Willie Alvarenga** will be added to the staff here at BTSOP. Both are planning on coming on board January 1, 2007. Your financial support of these men will help make the school better in many ways. Please, as you prepare your budgets for 2007 and beyond, consider supporting one or both of these men. Only the future holds the great good that will come from having these men here at the school. If you would like to speak with either of them concerning their efforts you can do so at the following telephone numbers - Kenny Gardner—469-323-6017; Willie Alvarenga—936-414-4496.

If everything works out as planned, the physical facilities of the school will be increasing by almost double next year. The Brown Trail congregation will be adding a new multi-purpose building to the overall facility and plans are to turn the old multi-purpose room into class rooms and offices for the school. This is going to allow us to better operate the school, along with providing us the space to begin looking at growth. We are excited about the potential for the school and ask for your prayers on behalf of what is happening here.

We also want to encourage each one who reads this to help us find new students for both the English and Hispanic Departments. As the world continues to grow so does the need for gospel preachers.

Hispanic Department

Our Hispanic Department continues to stay active in many ways. The men of this Department are preaching and teaching the gospel every opportunity that they might have. The last weekend of the month of October found them conducting a Gospel Meeting for the new Hispanic congregation in Tyler, Texas where **Martin Ibarra** is working. This work is under the oversight of the elders of the Broadway congregation in Tyler. Please keep these men, their families, and their work in your prayers.

Your assistance is sorely needed relative to this work. Our plans are to begin some time next year video recording all of the classes in this department. Your financial support will allow us to do this, along with being able to distribute the videoed class material to congregations throughout the US and abroad. If you are able to help, please mark your checks Hispanic Department. Thanks!

Graduation—December 2006

As already indicated, Graduation will soon be upon us. Finals Week will be the week of December 11th through the 15th. Our Graduation Banquet will be on the 15th of December at 6:30 p.m. at the Brown Trail building and Graduation will be at 2:00 p.m. on the 17th of December. Your attendance, as a supporter of the School, or as an alumnus, would be an encouragement to the students. If you plan to attend the Banquet, please contact us so that we can set a plate for you.

As we look forward to graduation, it is great to be able to report that most of the graduating men have already located a work. This, I believe, speaks well of the students and the school as we see our men being sought after.

Ways To Help

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

Kenny Gardner's Support _____ Monthly
_____ One Time

Willie Alvarenga's Support _____ Monthly
_____ One Time

English Department _____ Monthly
Student Support _____ One Time

Hispanic Department _____ Monthly
Student Support _____ One Time

Hispanic Instructor _____ Monthly
Support _____ One Time

Amount: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone or email: _____

Student Enrichment Fund

Our students recently returned from a week of studies at the Spiritual Sword Lectures in Memphis. Each year they are provided the opportunity to do so, and they look forward to this opportunity to sit at the feet of the speakers, and to be able to fellowship with their fellow students from other fine schools of preaching such as MSOP.

The Student Enrichment Fund is so valuable in regard to providing the funds necessary for our students to attend such wonderful activities. Your financial assistance in this area is always appreciated. Please mark any donations appropriately on your check.

Student Campaigns and Gospel Meetings

Once again students from BTSOP had the opportunity to conduct a Gospel Meeting designed to strengthen a local congregation of the Lord's people. This time it was for the Lipan, Texas church of Christ. It began on the 29th of October and continued through the 1st of November. The following is a list of speakers and their subject.

Gary Murphy – The Lawless One

Grant Sullivan – Action & Reaction

Courtney Henderson – Keeping Our Faith

Jeramie Sweet – I Stand Amazed

Aren Haggard – We Have a Hostage Situation

Ed Stover – Restoring Church Growth

These opportunities are of great value for the students and the congregations that they serve.

Please keep in mind that we conduct several such meetings during the year, and if you would be interested in our assisting you with your work, please let us hear from you.

Class Rings, Pendants, Etc.

As we have indicated in previous issues of Fulfilling the Ministry, class rings and pendants are available. You can get information about them by contacting Dunham Jewelry Manufacturing, 7365 Remcon B-204, El Paso TX 79912. Phone: 915-845-1722 Toll Free: 1-866-545-1722 7365; Fax: 915-845-7584; Email: lulumartinez@dunham-mfg.com—Web Site: www.dunham-mfg.com. We will soon have some pendant patches that can be sewed to a coat that will have the crest of the school printed on them. You can contact us for the price. We do not make any money off of the sale of these items.

Web Site, PowerPoint Presentation

Please keep our Web Site in mind when talking to people about the school. All of the information that we have printed is available there, along with additional information such as a PowerPoint Presentation that you can use to inform congregations and individuals about what all is going on here.

With budgets being prepared, now would be an excellent time to call your friends in other congregations informing them of the school, and encouraging them to help us financially. We would be happy to come visit your congregation, or any others you know, if that would help spread the word.

In Honor * In Memory

(As of October 24, 2006)

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.

DELTON ALEXANDER
Gary & Mary Murphy

ALAN BRYAN
Don & Alma Payne

VIA DAMERON
Rosa Lee Nations

GERALD NATIONS
William & Flavia Bigham

CLED PRUITT
Kevin & Kathy Carroll
Henry & Nancy Hart
Carl & Doris Powell
Bobby & June Watts

JOHNNY RAMSEY
Kevin & Kathy Carroll
Henry & Nancy Hart
Dennis & Sheri Miller
Gary & Mary Murphy
Carl & Doris Powell
Bobby & June Watts

PAUL ROGERS
Bobby & June Watts

WARREN TURNER
Gary & Mary Murphy

TIM WYNN
Henry & Nancy Hart
Phil & Mary Pope
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bill & Vivian Wren

FERN ALEXANDER
Lee & Carolyn Rayl
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts
Bill & Vivian Wren

CHARLES HILL
Adeline Hill

JAMES PARKER
Kevin & Kathy Carroll
Mattie Dabney
Gary & Mary Murphy
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Walter & Gwendolyn
Woodard
Bill & Vivian Wren

AL RICE
Kevin & Kathy Carroll
Mattie Dabney
Henry & Nancy Hart
Gary & Mary Murphy
Carl & Doris Powell
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts

ROWELL INFANTS
Carl & Doris Powell
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

MIKE TYLER
Kevin & Kathy Carroll
Phil & Mary Pope

Sermon Starters

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BORN AGAIN

John 3:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

1. The term "born again" is used quite often today.
 - A. Often too indiscriminately.
 - B. In many areas it just seems right to be "born again."
2. To be saved one must be born again—John 3:1-3.
3. But what do we mean when we say "born again"?
 - A. Some confused—as was Nicodemus—John 3:4.

BODY:

1. **ONE WHO IS "BORN AGAIN" IS REDEEMED**
 - A. Ephesians 1:7
 - B. Man alienated from God—Isaiah 59:1, 2.
 1. The penalty for sin is spiritual death—Romans 6:23.
 - C. Christ paid the penalty—1 Peter 1:18, 19.
 - D. We are redeemed when we obey the gospel—Romans 1:16.
2. **ONE WHO IS "BORN AGAIN" IS AN HEIR**
 - A. Romans 8:17
 - B. "Born again" Christians continue to sin—1 John 1:8-10.
 1. But we have continued forgiveness—1 John 1:7.
 2. God does not reject us with no hope.
 - C. The "born again" realize their unique relationship with God as children—Galatians 4:6, 7.
3. **ONE WHO IS "BORN AGAIN" IS REFORMED**
 - A. 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - B. The "born again" one who continues in the old ways are deceiving themselves, misrepresenting Christ to others and displeasing to God.
 1. The "born again" person forsakes sin—Romans 6:11-16.
 - C. "Born again" Christians walk in "newness of life"—Romans 6:4.
 1. They seek to please God.
4. **ONE WHO IS "BORN AGAIN" IS FREE**
 - A. John 8:36
 1. Many who profess to be "born again" remain bound by social pressures or opinions of friends.
 2. They attempt to hold on to God with one hand and the world with the other.
 - A. Yet this is impossible—Matthew 6:24.
 - B. It is when we make a total commitment to God that we are made free from bondage to sin—Galatians 5:1.
5. **ONE WHO IS "BORN AGAIN" WILL RECEIVE A CROWN OF LIFE**
 - A. Revelation 2:10
 1. "Born again" Christians are rewarded here and now with spiritual blessings—Ephesians 1:3.
 2. They are for forgiven, cleansed, accepted and freed from sin.
 - B. Not all rewards are in this present life—Psalms 73:24.

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience.

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

News from Alumni

Joe Chase (1991)

Joe is now working with the Burlison church of Christ as the Educational Director. His home address is 1100 Cottonwood, Crowley, Texas 76036, and his email address is chasejoseph@yahoo.com.

Robert Bain (1994)

Robert recently completed his studies at Southern Christian University, successfully passing his exam for his Master of Divinity. His address is 2651 W. Cerulean Dr., Kuna, ID 83634. His email address is butterball@excite.com.

Phillip H. Brown (2000)

Phillip is working with the Scarborough church of Christ in Ontario, Canada. His address is 801—33 Falby Court, Ajax, Ontario L1S 3R3 Canada. His telephone numbers are (905) 231-9304 (home) and (905) 409-9160 (cell). His email address is phillkare@gmail.com.

Randy Mathis (2004)

Randy is now working with the church in Whitesboro, Texas. His address is 206 Randy St., Whitesboro, Texas, 76273. His telephone number is (903) 564-5361, and his email address is remathis7@hotmail.com.

Larry Jones (2005)

Larry is now working full time with the Talco church of Christ, Talco, Texas. His cell phone number is (940) 395-3726 and his email address is larryjones@yahoo.com.

Landon Rowell (2005)

As previously mentioned, Landon and Kristin lost the quadruplets they were expecting. I am sure they would appreciate a word of encouragement.

Shane Coleman (2006)

Shane's telephone number is (682) 551-5744 instead of what was listed in the previous issue.

Martin Ibarra (2006)

Martin is now working with the Broadway church in Tyler, Texas. His address is 11872 Sycamore, Tyler, Texas 75704. His telephone # is (903) 570-9127 and his email address is ibarras05@sbcglobal.net.

Clarence Walker (2006)

Clarence's address is 909 Swift Dr., Aubrey, Texas 76227. His telephone numbers are (972) 347-9734 (home) and (817) 240-8821. His email address is clarenceminister@sbcglobal.net.

ALUMNI INFORMATION UPDATES

I am attempting to make contact with as many of the graduates of the school as possible. If you have information on any who graduated with you, or others you might know, I would appreciate receiving it, even if I already have the information.

There are so many ways that the Alumni can assist with the school, but if we do not know where they are it is impossible to reach them and encourage them to be a part.

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.

FULFILLING THE MINISTRY is a publication of THE BROWN TRAIL SCHOOL OF PREACHING,
P.O. BOX 210667, BEDFORD, TX 76095. A work of the Brown Trail Church of Christ.

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