

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 2008
No. 66

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From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton



I am happy to report that the treatments and medications that I am taking seem to be keeping things under control. As I write this near the end of October, I await results of several tests and a x-ray that I recently took.

I am still dealing with some of the side effects of the treatment, but, hopefully, these will soon come to an end, and I will be back to full strength. I appreciate so much those who have expressed their concern and who continue to keep me in their prayers. This has meant so much to my family and me.

Our students recently had the opportunity to travel to Memphis, Tennessee to attend the Spiritual Sword Lectures. This is, in part, due to the gracious invitation from the Getwell congregation, and their financial assistance in paying for half the expenses for the motel for the students. The remaining motel expense is paid by the school from funds donated to our Student Enrichment Fund. If you would like to help with this, it would be deeply appreciated.

During the month of November, the Brown Trail congregation will host a Gospel Meeting with Frank Chesser speaking. The dates for this will be November 16th through 19th. In preparation for this, our students and several members of the congregation will conduct a door to door campaign in the area inviting our neighbors to attend. This is good experience for our students and part of the overall program.

Your continued financial assistance of the

efforts of the School is so appreciated. It is not possible for us to put in words just how much this means to each of us who work with the school and each of the students who receive financial support. On a regular basis, prayers of thanks go up to the Throne of Grace on behalf of those who provide the necessary support to allow our efforts to continue.

As this year comes to an end, and budgets are being considered for 2009, please keep our efforts in mind and, if possible, consider adding a little "extra".

We would ask that you continue to look for students that you could recommend to us. We will be more than happy to make contact with them, and do what we can to help them get on the road to a quality education here at BTSOP. As we look around about us, we are constantly made aware of the need for more men to prepare themselves to preach the word.

Hispanic Department

Over the last few years since the beginning of the Hispanic Department here at BTSOP, we have seen a continued slow increase in our student body. The truth is, we could have even more students here right now if the funds were available. We are constantly making contact with Spanish speaking brethren who would like to attend BTSOP, but who cannot do so due to the lack of funds. Your financial assistance, no matter how small the amount, will help to see that those who are here can receive the needed support to stay, and those who would come may do so with a sufficient amount.

As indicated above, budgets are being made. Willie or I would be happy to speak with you about what you could do to help in 2009. Please give us a call.

Willie is still in need of support to help defray the funds that are being taken from the General Fund to cover his salary. If you can help with this, please let us hear from you.

Campaigns/Gospel Meetings 2009

Special Thanks

Recently, sister Kathy Carroll indicated she would no longer be able to fill the role of Wives' Program Coordinator due to an increased load of responsibilities at home and other areas. We so appreciate Kathy's efforts over the past few years, and are thankful that she will remain as one of the instructors.

Filling Kathy's shoes will be Michele Teske. Michele is a graduate of the University of New Orleans and is both the daughter and wife to gospel preachers. Michele's husband, Mark, is the Director for the Truth In Love Television Program here at Brown Trail. Mark and Michele went through the Bible Program here at BTSOP, which provides Michele first hand knowledge of what is needed to make it a success.

What Can I Do To Help?

The above question is often asked by those who are interested in BTSOP. Needless to say, there are numerous ways to assist with the overall program. The list below is a short list of ways. Funds can always be used for the Student Enrichment Fund mentioned earlier. We have also begun recording all the classes which required an expenditure of nearly \$8,000.00 for cameras, computers, and other equipment. It would be great if these funds could be raised to replace them in the General Fund. We can always use good used laptop computers if you are planning on replacing yours.

As you may be aware, each year we seek to conduct four Campaign/Gospel Meetings for congregations that are interested in our help. It is time to complete our schedule for such activities for 2009. We already have one Sunday through Wednesday Campaign/Gospel Meeting scheduled for April 26th–29th at the Carthage, Texas church of Christ where Robert Jones, a recent graduate, preaches.

We, also, have another Sunday through Wednesday Campaign/Gospel Meeting scheduled later in 2009 (dates not yet confirmed) at the Cottonwood church, Wylie, Texas where my middle son Darrin preaches. In view of these already scheduled longer events, we only have openings for two Friday–Sunday activities left for the year. If you would be interested, please let us hear from you soon. Once we have filled these openings for 2009 there will be no more for the year.

Please keep in mind these may be conducted in various ways. A Campaign with the students knocking doors and me doing the preaching. Or, a campaign with the students knocking doors and also doing the preaching. We are here to help. I am also available for Gospel Meetings not involving the students if I may be of help to you.

Ways To Help

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

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: _____



A Recent Campaign

Sermon Outline Books

Over the past several months, I have put together a total of six sermon outline books entitled "50 Sermons I Have Preached," Volumes I-VI. Each book contains 50 sermon outlines, with a total of approximately 100 pages per book. There is no claim of originality for all of the outlines, as I do not recall where they were gathered over the 31 plus years of full time preaching that I have been involved in. If you would be interested in obtaining these, you can contact the School office. Each volume is \$5.00, plus the necessary postage. All proceeds from the sale of these books goes to the School. If you purchase all six at one time, we will include a free CD that contains all six books.

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.

TOMMY DAVIDSON
Bobby & June Watts

ABRAHAM JONES
Mattie Dabney

JAMES ROMINE
Julia Bridges
Jean LaFevers
Pansy McClendon
Larry & Kathy Rice
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts
Bill & Vivian Wren

CHARLES TEEL
Julia Bridges
Nadine Butler
Judi Hatfield
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts

CHARLES HILL
Adeline Hill
Martha Kay Hill
Verlan Gay Knox

JEANETTE MAULDIN
Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

ADELE ROSS
Julia Bridges

BILL SPROTT
Bobby & June Watts
Bill & Vivian Wren

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

Sermon Starters Continued

- Sex is being used to sell everything today instead of it being what God intended it to be - Hebrews 13:4.
- Lust has replaced spirituality in the lives of many.
- Materialism - Luke 12:13-21.
 - "Things" come to matter most.
 - No time for eternal priorities.
 - We forget that we are not to love the world - 1 John 2:15-17.

CONCLUSION:

- We must not give the devil an opportunity.
- We must be on guard!
 - We can do this with the proper attire - Ephesians 6:13-17.

Sermon Starters

AVOIDING THE THINGS THAT DESTROY THE CHURCH Hebrews 12:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

- Good things are always in danger of being undone.
- Majoring on the positive to build a strong church is the first order of the church's business but we must always be on guard against the negative.
- To be forewarned is to be forearmed.
 - In the Lord's church, we face numerous enemies whose design is to destroy it.
 - If we stand by and do nothing, the church will suffer.

BODY:

1. THEOLOGICAL ENEMIES

- Legalism - Luke 18:9-14
 - The service of law for its own sake.
 - Rules rule.
 - Grace given only lip service.
 - Principles minimized, while specific commands maximized, as if the principles are unimportant - Matthew 23:23.
 - Justice distorted so as to leave little or no place for mercy and love.
- Liberalism - Romans 6:1, 2, 14, 15
 - Liberalism is the virtual disempowerment of law.
 - Rules ruined.
 - Commandments given only lip service.
 - Individual commandments minimized while principles are separated from any specific necessary applications - Matthew 22:40.
 - Grace is distorted so as to leave little or no place for obedience and law.

2. BEHAVIORAL ENEMIES

- The works of the flesh are being overlooked by many within the church - Galatians 5:19-23.
- Numerous other behavioral attributes are problematical.
 - Pride - Proverbs 16:18
 - People are seeking to attain and maintain status which becomes job one.
 - Others are used and exploited.
 - Men wrongly seek the office of an elder for the position and end up ruining the church.
 - Selfishness - Philippians 2:3-5
 - For many, it is my way or no way.
 - The feelings of others are ignored while their personal feelings exaggerated.
 - An unforgiving spirit - Matthew 18:21-35
 - This indicates a failure to appreciate what God has done for us.
 - And failure to love others as God does.
 - An indulgent spirit - Ephesians 5:11, 12
 - The necessity of the cross is not understood.
 - Righteousness is marginalized.
 - People are winking at sin instead of taking it serious.
 - Sensuality - Romans 1:26, 27
 - A beautiful thing has become ugly.

News from Alumni

Jason Stapleton (2003)

Jason and his family will soon be returning from Chimala, Tanzania. They originally determined to stay for at least two years, but Madesha developed further complications with a Thyroid issue she has had for some time. Due to the expense involved in trying to treat her illness there, they have been forced to cut their tour short. They will be looking for a congregation to locate with soon after arrival in the US on the 17th of November. If you would be interested in contacting Jason, please contact me and I will provide this information.

Rick Parker (2004)

Rick's new address is 548 South Oak Street, Nowata, OK 74048. He can be reached at 918-273-0899 (home) 918-273-0521 (office) or rickparker@yahoo.com. Rick is now the full-time preacher for the church in Nowata.

Class Videos

We have run into one problem after another as we have attempted to get this material completed in a timely fashion. As we go to print with this issue of Fulfilling The Ministry, it was hoped to have someone working full time editing the material so as to complete what has already been recorded. Due to Mark's busy schedule it was realized that we need to look elsewhere for assistance to get everything done as soon as possible. We found someone to do the work but, true to form, the equipment that was to be used broke. We are now hoping the equipment can soon be repaired, our editor can then get started, and we will finish up what we have on hand. Once that is done, we should be able to finish the editing some time next year since we need to tape a couple of courses over. Please pray for this effort.

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.

Fill In Preaching

Once again I would like to remind you that our students are available for fill in preaching. This helps them "hone" their skills and provides them with additional income. If you are in need of someone to fill in, please give us as much advance notice as possible. Some times when we receive a call at the "last minute" it is difficult to line someone up. Normally, though, we have several men who are willing and ready to help with these requests.

The Importance of Preaching

We live in a world and time where it seems so many underestimate the value of preaching, or who know so little about the actual work of the evangelist. As part of our program we endeavor to prepare men to better understand their role as gospel preachers so they may, in turn, better prepare congregations in this area. As the world's population inches toward seven billion, there is nothing needed more than for man to be provided an opportunity to come to the knowledge of the Truth as found in the New Testament. The Truth still has the power to make man "free" (John 8:32; Romans 1:16; Hebrews 4:12).

Your continued support of our efforts provides us with the necessary tools to do the job of preparing men in this vital area. I can promise you that you will never regret any sacrifice you may make in helping to train men to preach the word. May God bless each of you in His service.

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

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