

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

Robert Stapleton



As I write this, the students are in Memphis, attending the Spiritual Sword Lectures. For the past several years, the Getwell congregation has been kind enough to assist the students by paying half of the Motel bill and we

pay the other half. If you would like, you may contribute to our Student Enrichment Fund that was set up to help with these kind of expenses.

As this year winds down, we are making preparations for the Graduation Banquet, which will be held December 18th at 6:30 p.m., and the Graduation service, which will be conducted Sunday, December 20th at 2:00 p.m. If you are planning on attending the Banquet, please be sure to RSVP so we can add your name to the list. Once Graduation is past, we will have a few days in between classes before we resume on January 4th, 2010.

If you know of any potential students, we would love to receive information on them. Brown Trail School of Preaching will begin its 45th year of operation in 2010. Since its beginning, approximately 400 men have graduated from B.T.S.O.P. Many of these men are still preaching the gospel. Presently, we have alumni serving in several locations here in the U.S., along with various locations beyond our boundaries. Their efforts are a testament to their love for the Lord and the lost, along with their serving as an example of what your support dollars can do. Without our support base, we would soon have to close our doors. Please be aware that we deeply appreciate each of you who support the efforts being put forth here and encourage to not grow “weary in well doing” (Galatians 6:9).

Hispanic Department

On Tuesday, October 13th, Willie had surgery to remove a tumor from his face. It is believed that the tumor is benign, for which we are thankful. Almost immediately after the surgery he was diagnosed with Bronchitis, which had caused his temperature to rise, causing some concern. At the present time he is recuperating at home, and hopes to be back “in the saddle” soon. Your prayers are appreciated on his behalf.

Even as I write this, Willie continues to be in need of additional support for the work he is doing here at B.T.S.O.P. If you would like to discuss this opportunity with him please contact him through the school office at (817)268-3222. I am sure he would be more than happy to bring you up to date on the work of the Hispanic Department, and the needs associated with this area.

We are presently finishing up the first year recording of the classes taught in Spanish in the Hispanic Department. Once we are completed, with them, and we do the second year classes, they will be available through the School office.

At the present time, we have no idea how many total DVD's there will be, or the cost. However, if you are interested, please contact Willie for further information. We are confident that these DVD's will be of great asset to Spanish speaking works both here in the United States and in other countries where Spanish is spoken.

The students in the Hispanic Department rely heavily upon “Anglo” congregations in order to obtain the necessary support to attend school. Your support of this effort will reap great spiritual benefits in the kingdom of God. We keep in mind the Great Commission to “go into all the world.” (Mark 16:15). As such, whether we are supporting and training English or Spanish speaking students, the results are the same, people are being saved, and the church is being strengthened.

Comments

Each year we conduct several campaigns/Gospel Meetings that are designed to assist local congregations, along with providing experience for our students. Whether the English Department or the Hispanic Department, the comments that come back are always commendations of the work done. The edited letter below was recently received, and serves as an example of what I am saying.

“As a former student of the school, I was very impressed by every man that you sent. Your seniors were scholarly, and did well with their delivery. All of the men who preached did well...Thank you so much for lending your students to us, especially on such short notice. Prior to the meeting, we have been on an upswing, and the preachers coming gave us a real boost. The brethren who kept the students were the most edified...Many of the brethren wanted the students to come back every couple of months, so I had to explain to them how impractical that was due to the nature of BTSOP’s curriculum.”

Of course, we appreciate these kind words but, more importantly, we are thankful for the opportunities such as this one to assist congregations with the work they are doing. If we can assist your congregation in such an effort, please let us hear from you. Presently, we have an opening or two for 2010, and would be happy to work with you to make this a reality.

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: _____

We, also, have students who come to school who do not have computers. If you have a computer, laptop or tabletop, that is in good working order, and you are not using it, we would appreciate you donating it to school We will be happy to supply you with a Tax Donation Receipt.

Resources

Our hope is that we may be able to provide resource materials that will assist both our graduates and any others who would like to avail themselves of these materials. Presently, we have the following materials available:

Sermon Series—Fifty Sermons I Have Preached—Volumes 1 -7 (**volume 7 is a new addition**). Each outline book is \$5.00, plus shipping. If you order the complete set, the cost is \$35.00, and we will include a free CD with all the outlines on it. I have, also, just completed another sermon outline book entitled, 66 Sermons From God’s Word. This includes one sermon from each book of the Bible. The cost for it is \$6.00, plus shipping.

In addition to these sermon outline books, we have several of our classes recorded on DVD’s. If interested, please contact us for an updated list of courses available, and the costs.

I recently started a blog (<http://robertstapleton.vox.com>) on which I am placing an article from time to time. I, also, have signed on to Saints Meet, a social network for members of the Lord’s church (<http://www.saintsmeet.com/profile/RobertStapleton>). You can become members of the school group (<http://www.saintsmeet.com/group/browntrailsschoolofpreaching>) by accessing my account and signing on where it indicates such. This is a good way to keep up with one another. There is also a link for the Alumni (<http://www.saintsmeet.com/group/browntrailsschoolofpreachingalumni>).

You may also find numerous resources on our Web Site, including my monthly paper, “Preach The Word,” which includes a bulletin article and a sermon outline.

New Web Site

Our new Web Site is fully operational now. Everything is working as it should. We are thankful to our Web Master, Marie Kinsella (church of Christ Web Hosting & Design, LLC) for the great job she did in putting this all together.

With the site up and operational, I now have the ability to do what is necessary to add or edit the ads for congregations seeking preachers, and preachers seeking congregations. If you would like to avail yourselves of this area of the web site we will be more than happy to place your ad. We do place this caveat before you, though. We will not knowingly place an ad for a congregation or preacher that is not faithful to the teachings of the New Testament. However, since we do not know everyone who submits an ad, it is possible for one to slip past us. Therefore, please do not view the placing of an ad as an endorsement of the congregation or preacher listed.

Please note from time to time a link that once used to be sound no longer is. As such, not all links found on our site are recommended sites due to such changes. If you find a link to an unsound location please let me know. Thanks.

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.

BETH BARTEE

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

JOANN BROWN

Carl & Doris Powell
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Walter & Gwen Woodard

JIMMY GULLION

Julia Bridges
Pansy McClendon
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

GUTHRIE HITE

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

JUDY MEYER

Terry & Yvette Johnson

GARY PARKER

Tammy & Rosalind Scivally
Susan Stuart

TAFT & NONA SMITH

Millard & Nancy Smith

CATHY SPIVY

Terry & Yvette Johnson

LINDSAY WARREN

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

IRENE BRIDGES

Carl & Doris Powell
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bill & Vivian Wren

MARTHA CURRY

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

STEPHEN GARLISH

Julia Bridges

MARTHA HAYS

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

SABINE LABORD

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

BILLIE LOU NORMAN

Bedford Rd. church of
Christ

Phil & Rosa Lee Pope
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

WAYNE SMALLING

Julia Bridges
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JOHNNY TRIGG

Julia Bridges
Pansy McClendon

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

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Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

Sermon Starters

THE MAN WHO IS READY TO DIE 2 Timothy 4:6-8

INTRODUCTION:

- The Bible speaks of two classes of people.
 - Those who are ready to die, and those who are not.
- There is no middle ground.
 - Either we have lived our lives in such a way so as to be ready or we haven't.
- I would like for us to think about the person who is ready to die.
 - And while doing so, if we are not ready, be encouraged to get ready while we can.

BODY:

- THE MAN WHO IS READY TO DIE KNOWS THE NEARNESS OF DEATH**
 - Regardless of our age, death is at hand - Job 14:12.
 - In comparison to eternity, this present life is nothing more than a vapor encouraged to get ready while we can - James 4:14.
 - The one who is ready to die realizes that there is but a "step" between life and death - 1 Samuel 20:3.
- THE MAN WHO IS READY TO DIE KNOWS THAT HE HAS BEEN A GOOD WARRIOR**
 - Paul speaks of the faithful child of God putting on the "whole armour of God" - Ephesians 6:10-17.
 - As we think of this text, we realize that as Christians we are warriors with God against sin.
 - If not, then there is no merit in the point of our putting on the whole armor of God.
 - In serving as warriors we have an obligation to contend for the faith - Jude 3.
 - Notice, again, what Paul had to say about having "fought the good fight" - 2 Timothy 4:7.
 - The man who is ready to die knows that he stayed with the battle against sin and won.
- THE MAN WHO IS READY TO DIE KNOWS THAT HIS EARTHLY TASK IS ACCOMPLISHED**
 - This one knows that his labor has not been in vain in the Lord - 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Fill In Preaching

Brown Trail School of Preaching is in the unique position of being able to provide students for fill in preaching at congregations that are in between preachers, or for those whose preacher has gone on vacation. This is good for the congregation and for the students as it supplies a little financial "icing on the cake" of income for them. Many of our men come to school on "shoestring" budgets, and any additional income that comes from fill in preaching is appreciated.

Presently, we find ourselves in the position where the number of requests for fill in preachers out number the number of students we have. A good problem, indeed. In view of this, if you know in advance that you are going to be in need of a student, please let us know as far as possible in advance. Recently, I have really struggled to come up with someone to fill in for last minute requests.

News from Alumni

Junior Cole (2003)

Junior is now the minister for the Elleston Road church of Christ, 16 1/2 Lower Elleston Road, Kingston, Jamaica. He can be contacted at (876) 382-0636—Mobile or (876) 620-6612—Home. His email address is jukarcol@yahoo.com. I am sure Junior would be happy to hear from you.

Jason Stapleton (2003)

Congratulations to Jason and Madesha at the birth of their twins, Canaan and Sawyer, October 20th. Jason and Madesha can be reached at (903) 312-4336—Mobile or via email at jnstapleton4@gmail.com

Randy Mathis (2004)

Congratulations to Randy and Kim at the birth of their twins, Noah Quay and Caleb Paul, August 1, 2009. Randy and Kim can be reached at (903) 421-1664—Mobile or via email at remathis7@hotmail.com

Shane Coleman (2006)

Shane is now the preacher for the Sayre church of Christ, Sayre, Oklahoma. His address is 20 West Locust, Sayre, Oklahoma 73662. He can be reached at (682) 551-5744—Mobile or (580) 928-3656—Home. His email address is shane777coleman@yahoo.com

Sermon Starters - Continued

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you ready to die?
 - A. I'm not asking, do you want to die, I'm asking are you ready?
 - B. Seldom is it the case that man is wanting to die.
 1. Likewise, seldom is it that man is ready.
 - C. Matthew 24:42-44

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.

Sermon Starters - Continued

- B. He realizes that his labor in the Lord's harvest is accomplished - John 4:35, 36.
 - C. He knows that he is ready for the promised rest - Hebrews 4:9.
4. **THE MAN WHO IS READY TO DIE KNOWS THAT HE HAS BEEN FAITHFUL**
- A. Living unfaithfully, one has no confidence.
 1. There is no hope.
 - B. But the one who is ready to die knows that he has been faithful even to the point of death - Revelation 2:10.
 - C. The one who is ready to die is such because he knows he has obeyed the gospel - Romans 6:17.
 1. He has followed Christ faithfully - John 10:4.
 - D. This one can look forward to death in confidence instead of fear - 2 Corinthians 5:8.
5. **THE MAN WHO IS READY TO DIE KNOWS THAT HE HAS A HEAVENLY REWARD AWAITING**
- A. This one relies upon the promises of God in regard to his eternal inheritance - 2 Timothy 1:12.
 - B. He knows that an incorruptible inheritance awaits him - 1 Peter 1:4.
6. **THE MAN WHO IS READY TO DIE KNOWS THAT THE LORD IS A RIGHTEOUS JUDGE**
- A. It is because of this righteousness of God that the one who is ready fears not his appearance before him - Revelation 19:11.
 - B. Although judgment awaits, the faithful knows his salvation is secure, and therefore fears not - 1 Peter 4:19.
7. **THE MAN WHO IS READY TO DIE KNOWS THAT JESUS IS COMING AGAIN**
- A. Without this knowledge man is miserable - 1 Corinthians 15:19.
 - B. But the faithful know that whether Jesus comes in their lifetime or not he will receive them - John 5:28, 29; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

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