

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



The ad goes something like this, “Wanted, Gospel Preacher, Degree in Bible, or Diploma from a recognized brotherhood school of preaching.” Almost every congregation that is looking for someone to “fill their pulpit”

is looking for someone who has some “formal education.” Not a bad idea, in any sense of the word. However, how many of the congregations that want someone like this are supporting such schools of preaching? It seems as if we want trained men, but we want someone else to train them.

Preaching is peculiar in many ways in comparison to secular professional jobs. One of the very significant differences is in the area of salaries. Most men who enter the preaching field do so at an “entry level” salary and, fairly much, stay there the rest of their lives. As such, schools of preaching like Brown Trail provide them with a quality education at very little cost to the student. The sad reality is, if those men who are trained at “our” schools of preaching had to pay for their education, most would be unable to attend school.

This is where local congregations come in. We that want trained men, must help train them. We may not have the facilities, the instructors, or the congregational ability to do so, but Brown Trail, and others like us, have the necessary things already set up. The only thing missing is students and the finances necessary to support them and pay the bills.

Your assistance is needed in both areas. Budgets are being prepared right now. Why not include us in your budget for 2011? You may think that since you are

not a large congregation, and could only help with \$50.00 or \$100.00 a month, that it is not something we would be interested in. Not true! As a matter of fact, most of our donations are smaller ones.

Also, why not look around your congregation, and encourage those men who have the ability and desire to preach to contact us. Or, you might contact us on their behalf, letting us know about them.

Hispanic Department

We cannot possibly say enough good about the work of the Hispanic Department here at Brown Trail. Each of the men who are preparing themselves to preach are working hard to do so. Day in, and day out, they are busy in their activities that involve classes, after hour studies, campaigns, gospel meetings, etc. We are so thankful that God has granted us this opportunity, and beseech Him His continued blessings upon the work of this Department.

Willie, Obed and Jessie are so valuable to this effort. When I came to Brown Trail I did not know any of these men. Over the years, I have come to love and appreciate each one of them for their dedication to the work set before them.

Your financial support is so necessary to keep this area of the work financially stable. I know we are in a “financial slump” at the present time in America. But this cannot be allowed to bring the work of training men, whether in the Hispanic Department or the English Department, to a standstill. As I write this, souls are in jeopardy that might be reached if the funds are made available to assist us in training men to go forth with the good news of salvation.

You can be a “co-laborer” in this effort. Whether a congregation or an individual, your financial support may be the difference between someone being lost or saved for eternity. Please contact us if you would like further information.

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.

JOHN FUTRELL

Dennis & Sheri Miller
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

VIRGIL GRAF

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

JOANNA HOLMES

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bill & Vivian Wren

FLOYD HUTTO

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bill & Vivian Wren

ELLEN & GARLAND JEAN

Gary Bailey Family

LaJUANA JONES

Kenny & Belinda Gardner

MAC McKIM

Larry & Pat Benedict
Jessica Birchfield
Marilyn Birchfield
David & Marie Pennington
Carl & Doris Powell
Walter & Gwen Woodard

THELMA MERGELE

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Bill & Vivian Wren

JEANETTE WADKINS

Bill & Vivian Wren

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In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

Fill In Preaching

With the smaller number of students that we presently have, along with the number of local congregations that are using our students "full-time," assisting congregations that need fill in preachers has become quite a task. If you are in need of such, please let us know as far in advance as possible. This will increase the chances of our being able to assist. Thanks!

Sermon Starters

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH CHRIST?

Matthew 27:19-22

INTRODUCTION:

- The question asked by Pilate in the text is one of the most important questions ever asked.
 - If we do the right thing with Jesus, we get everything that is worth having.
 - However, if we do the wrong thing, we lose everything that is worth having - Mark 8:36, 37.
- I'd like for us to give some thought to this all important question.

BODY:

- WHAT DEPENDS UPON WHAT WE DO WITH JESUS**
 - Our acceptance or rejection before God depends upon what we do with Him in this present life - Matthew 10:32, 33.
 - If we accept Christ, God will accept us.
 - If we reject Christ, God will reject us.
 - We must understand that our acceptance of Jesus is the very basis of our Christian life.
 - The vilest of sinners who accepts Christ will be accepted by God.
 - While the most moral and upright man, that rejects Christ, will be rejected by God.
 - Inherent within the concept of the acceptance of Christ is acceptance and obedience of His word - John 14:15; Hebrews 5:9.
 - Whether we become children of God, or remain the children of the Devil, depends upon whether we accept Christ - John 1:12; Romans 8:14-17.
 - It is extremely important to understand that our salvation is dependant upon our becoming children of God.
 - We are not saved by pure living, Bible study, prayer, giving or a whole host of other things separate from Christ.
 - We are saved by our acceptance of Jesus by obedience to His word.
 - All these other things are the results or the indicators of our acceptance of Him.
 - Our having peace depends upon what we do with Christ - Romans 5:1.
 - The one who rejects Christ cannot hope to experience peace in this present life, nor the one to come.
 - The establishment of a proper relationship with God, through Christ, will result in peace that passes understanding - Philippians 4:7.
 - Our having joy depends upon what we do with Jesus - 1 Peter 1:8.

News from Alumni

Robert Pipes (1973)

Sympathy is extended to the Pipes family at the death of Patsy, September 28, 2010.

Bob Martin (1981)

The Martins are now working with the Highway 36 congregation in Abilene.

Jimmy Young (1991)

Jimmy is now doing full time counseling work. He can be reached at jy201jy@yahoo.com or 870-933-6843.

Jeremy Jones (2000)

Jeremy is now working with the Celeste church of Christ, Celeste, Texas. You may email him at Jeremy_jones@msn.com or call him at 903-568-4710.

Grant Sullivan (2007)

Congratulations to Grant and Dara on the birth of their daughter Aurora Marie, October 10th.

Robert Guinn (2008)

Robert is working with the Red Walnut congregation in Henderson, TN. He can be contacted at preacherman87@gmail.com or 731-879-6505.

Tim Campbell (2009)

Tim is now working with the congregation in Commerce, Texas.

Darrin Stapleton (2009)

Darrin is now working with the congregation in Raymer, TN. Their phone #s are - 731-412-6772 (6773) and 731-645-5095.

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

1. True joy cannot be expected by the one who continues to reject Christ.
- F. Our having eternal life depends upon what we do with Christ - Matthew 11:28-30.
 1. Eternal life awaits the faithful child of God - Matthew 25:46.
2. **WHAT WE MUST DO WITH CHRIST**
 - A. We must do something with Jesus.
 1. We have Him on our hands.
 - A. Pilate attempted to wash his hands.
 - B. But, of course, he failed.
 - C. Neither can we wash our hands of Him.
 - B. We must, either accept Him or reject Him.
 1. There is no middle ground - Matthew 6:24.
 2. We either let Him into our lives or we shut Him out - Revelation 3:20.
 3. We confess Him or deny Him - Matthew 10:32, 33.
 4. We stand with Him or against Him - Matthew 12:30.
 5. We obey Him or we do not - Matthew 7:21.

CONCLUSION:

1. What will you do with Jesus?
 - A. This is an individual question.
 1. It cannot be answered collectively.
 2. Neither can it be escaped
 - A. You will do something with Jesus.
 - B. If you do not accept Him, you reject Him.
 1. It doesn't demand a verbal rejection or denial like Peter - Matthew 26:69, 70.
 2. Just simply fail to accept Him and you have rejected Him.
 - C. As you consider the choice, think what all depends upon what choice you make.
 1. What will you do with Jesus?

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