

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 2011
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From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton

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Prayers are being answered as we look forward to beginning our new year and the number of students who will be attending. At the present we have 11 men who have been accepted, along with the paper work

having been submitted for several others. With the change of entrance procedures earlier this year, we did not have an enrolment in July. This cut our number of students down considerably. However, things are looking much better for our January intake. Please continue to pray on behalf of this, along with providing us with information on potential students.

Nearly a year ago, **J.J. Hendrix** left the position of Field Representative for the School to enter full time preaching. He has now come back to resume that work, and is doing a good job. If you are interested in attending classes, or if you know of someone who might be interested, you may contact him at (817) 268-3222 (office), (817) 255-0060 (cell) or email him at j.j.hendrix@gmail.com. J.J. is available to make presentations on behalf of the school Sunday and Wednesday nights.

As I prepare this issue of **Fulfilling The Ministry**, our students, along with **Willie Alvarenga**, are in Memphis, Tennessee attending the Spiritual Sword Lectureship. Each year our students attend two lectureships, the Fort Worth Lectureship in January, and the Spiritual Sword Lectureship in October. These opportunities provide them with the opportunity to “sit at the feet” of seasoned preachers, and be encouraged in their preaching efforts. We are thankful for the assistance we get from the Getwell

congregation as they pay half of the motel expenses for the students while there.

If you would like to contribute to our **Student Enrichment Fund**, from which we pay the other half of these expenses, it would be deeply appreciated. As you are probably aware, most of our students attend school on a “shoe string” budget and would be unable to attend this Lectureship were it not for the assistance they get from this Fund and the Getwell congregation.

Please be aware that with the increase in students comes the need for additional funds to assist them with their support. We have students in both the English and Spanish Departments that are in need of assistance in order to begin classes in January.

Spanish Department

If you would like to know more about the efforts being put forth by the Spanish Department here at **BTSOP**, please give us a call, send us an email, or stop by and visit with us. We would be happy to have you sit in on a class or two if you speak Spanish. You will find, if you do so, men who are well qualified to do the work of teaching men to become Gospel Preachers.

The number of people all over the world who speak Spanish as either their first or second language continues to increase. As such, the church needs to prepare itself to reach out to them with the gospel. We cannot sit by idly while they head toward eternity outside of Christ. As we have done with other languages, we need to do so with Spanish.

As you prepare your Budgets for 2012, please keep in mind the words of Paul in Romans 10:13-15, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”

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.

MAZEANNIE CASTLEMAN
Julia Bridges

MATTIE DABNEY
John & Betty
McClester

CHARLOTTE HAAG
Julia Bridges

BENNY JEFFCOAT
Julia Bridges
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Bob & Marcia Stapleton
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Sermon Starters - Continued

CONCLUSION:

1. We have received more than the minimum from the Lord.
 - A. We, therefore, must be willing to give more than the minimum back to Him.
2. Are you willing to go the second mile?
 - A. Will you give your all?
 1. There is a story about a little girl who, on the way home from worship, turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the preacher's sermon this morning confused me." The mother said, "Oh! Why is that?" The girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?" "Yes, that's true," the mother replied. "He also said that God lives within us. Is that true, too?" Again the mother replied, "Yes." "Well," said the girl, "If God is bigger than us, and He lives in us, wouldn't He show through?"

Sermon Starters

ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE THE TRIP ON AN EMPTY TANK? Matthew 5:38-42

INTRODUCTION:

1. Before starting a long trip, the wise person fills up his tank with gasoline.
 - A. However, some try to make life's journey with a dollar's worth of "fuel" in their "spiritual tank".
2. The attitude of many is to do as little as they can get by with on the job, in school, or even with the church.
3. Christ taught the lesson of the second mile in Matthew 5:41.
 - A. The whole point here is to do more than expected.
 1. In other words, do more than the minimum.

BODY:

1. **JESUS TAUGHT US TO DO MORE THAN THE MINIMUM**
 - A. Jesus clearly taught the principle of going the second mile - Matthew 5:41.
 - B. The wise virgins did more than the minimum - Matthew 25:1-13.
 1. They took their lamps and plenty of oil.
 2. If the bridegrooms came early, they were ready.
 3. If they came late, they would still be ready.
 - C. The second mile brings satisfaction, a sense of accomplishment, and joy.
 1. The first mile is required while the second mile is on account of love.
2. **WE RECEIVE MORE THAN THE MINIMUM**
 - A. I am constantly thankful that God did not try to see how little He could do for us - Ephesians 2:8, 9.
 - B. The Lord really went the second mile.
 1. He came to give life, but not just life, but abundant life - John 10:10.
 2. He not only has slaves, but also sons - Romans 6:16-18; 1 John 3:1, 2.
 - C. The blessings that come from God are more than the minimum - Ephesians 3:20.
3. **WE SHOULD LIVE EACH DAY WITH THE ATTITUDE TO DO MORE THAN THE MINIMUM**
 - A. As Christians we should aim to be more than average.
 1. The average person in Noah's day died - Genesis 6:8; 1 Peter 3:20.
 2. The average Israelite man who left Egypt died in the wilderness - Numbers 14:22-24, 30, 37.
 - A. By the way, about 600,000 men left Egypt - Exodus 12:37.
 - B. It takes more than the minimum to be saved - Matthew 7:21-23.
 1. Christians are called upon to present themselves as living sacrifices - Romans 12:1.
 2. They are new creations in Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:17.

News from Alumni

Bill Burk (1993)

Bill's new address is P.O. Box 194, Crandall, TX 75114. His phone number is (972) 989-3072 and his email address is bjburk@flash.net.

Jason Stapleton (2003)

Jason's new address is 384 Lazy Daisy Rd., Gilmer, TX 75645. His phone number is (903) 797-2673, and his email address is jmstapleton4@gmail.com.

Randy Mathis (2004)

Randy's new address is 614 Arcadia St., Apt. 1410, Hurst, TX 76053. His phone number is (903) 421-1664, and his email address is remathis7@hotmail.com.

Brent Fluegel (2005)

Brant's address is 17554F St. Hwy. 76, Lindsay, OK 73052. His phone is number (405) 822-0491 and his email address is godswordstruth1@hotmail.com. Brent recently had his house severely damaged by a tornado.

Tim Campbell (2009)

Tim's address is 991 Aldridge St Commerce, TX 75428. His phone number is (903) 413-1785 and his email address is timc1028@gmail.com.

J.J. Hendrix (2010)

J.J.'s address is 6529 Smithfield Rd., Fort Worth, TX 76182. His phone number is (817) 255-0060 and his email address is j.j.hendrix@gmail.com.

John Ratliff (2011)

John's address is 189 RS County Rd. 4400, Point, TX 75472. His phone number is (903) 268-5866 and his email address is johnratliff82@yahoo.com.

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

If you know that you are going to be needing assistance in this area, please let us know as far in advance as possible. Due to the smaller number of students that we have at the present that is not a guarantee that we will be able to help, but it will make the chances better. Hopefully, once the new year comes around, and we have additional students, we will be able to fill more of these requests.

Class Outline Books Available

We have several Class Outline Books that are available through **BTSOP**. Most concentrate on the New Testament. We, also, have books on Bible Geography, Church Leadership, Current Issues Facing the Church, Denominational Doctrines, Evangelism, Hermeneutics, and The Life and Teachings of Christ. The average cost is \$5.00 plus shipping. If interested, please contact the School Office at 817-268-3222 or email us at marcia.stapleton@sbcglobal.net. If you would like a list of what books we have available, please contact us by email and we will email you a list.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of **Owen Cosgrove** who passed away earlier this month. Owen was an Adjunct Instructor at BTSOP when I came here in 2003 as Director. Due to health reasons he soon was forced to stop teaching. Over the years following, his health continued to decline.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to both family and friends of Brother Cosgrove. I am sure he will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him!

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