

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 2015
No. 94

From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton

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2015 is rapidly heading into the history category of **BTSOP**. In less than two months, graduation will be upon us. Those who will be graduating in December will be experiencing many changes in their lives and their service to God. May each of them be determined to serve to the fullest of their ability as they begin new works. Please keep them in your prayers as they make this transition.

An Urgent Appeal

With all of the changes, updates, and such with the School, facilities, and personnel, it has become necessary to concentrate on the **General Fund**, which pays the salaries, provides the equipment, supplies and everything necessary to provide the quality of education that we are accustomed to providing. For the past several years, we have been fortunate enough to have a number of large one time donations made either in the form of funds or items that were sold for the benefit of the School. 2015 has been different, though, with our not receiving any such donations. Due to this short fall, we are ending each month with a deficit of several thousand dollars. Because of the past donations, we have had funds on hand to cover this deficit, but those funds are quickly running out. With Tax Season and Congregational Budget time coming up, please consider helping with this urgent need. To stay ahead of our expenses, we need to raise \$15,000.00 per month in new funds for, at least, the upcoming new year.

If you have any questions concerning how you might help, please contact me or **Tavaris Armstrong**. Either of us would be happy to visit with you or your congregation to provide additional information.

Spanish Department

If you are searching for good Bible materials in Spanish may we recommend **La Palabra Publisher**, a recent venture begun by **Azael Alvarez, Juan Garcia, Juan Luna and Roger Medina**, all graduates of **BTSOP Spanish Department**. You can see what is available at www.lapalabrapublisher.com.

You may, also, be interested in knowing that these brethren have established the **La Palabra Publisher Lectureship** that will be conducted each July. It is great to see them reach out as they are doing with efforts such as these that glorify God!

In addition to these materials, **Willie Alvarenga** has written a number of books in Spanish that are available on his Web Site at <http://regresandoalabiblia.com/libros-por-alvarenga-publications/> These material are true to God's Word and readily available at a minimal cost.

If you are looking for sound biblical materials in Spanish, you cannot go wrong in obtaining material from either of these locations.

MTSM Program

Our **Moving Toward Spiritual Maturity** program continues to reap great benefits for those that take part in it. This program is for students that have recently graduated from High School, and who may be planning to attend college. If interested, please call us to set up an appointment to visit with you.

BTSOP Lectureship

“The Book of Matthew”

January 10-12, 2016

Sunday, January 10th

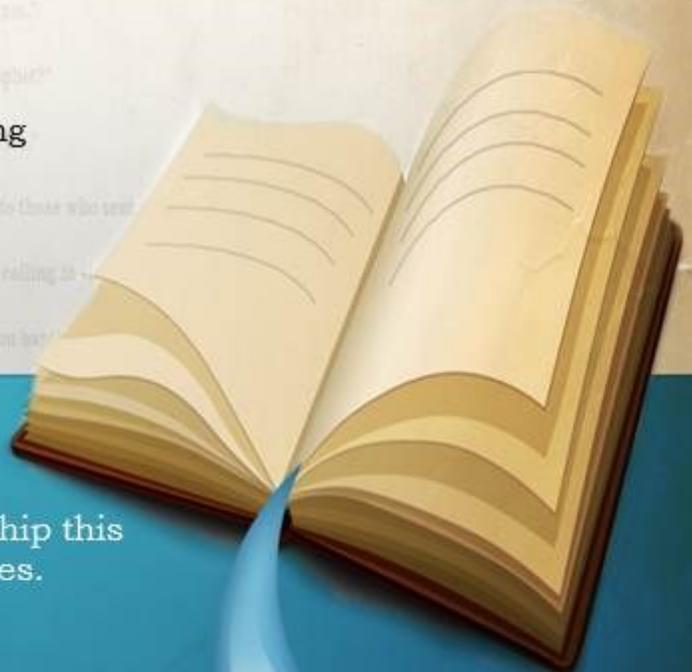
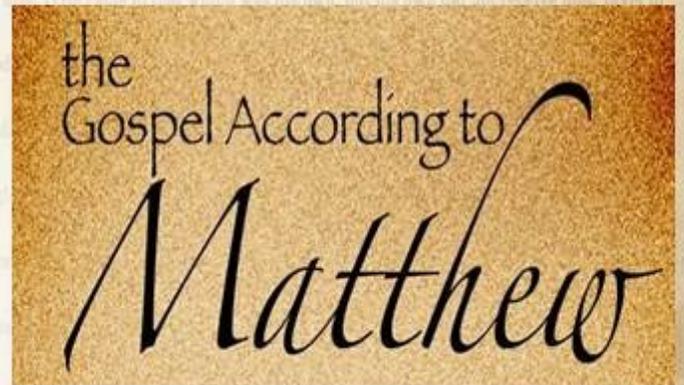
- 9:00 am “Matthew 1-2” - Kerry King
10:00 am “Matthew 3-4” - Juan Luna
6:00 pm “Matthew 5-7” - Rick Popejoy

Monday, January 11th

- 10:00 am “Matthew 8-10” - Rogelio Medina
11:00 am “Matthew 11-13” - Corey Johnson
3:00 pm “Matthew 14-16” - Mike Roberts
4:00 pm “Matthew 17-19” - Willie Alvarenga
7:00 pm “Matthew 20-22” - Obed Rodriguez

Tuesday, January 12th

- 10:00 am “Matthew 23-25” - Sergio Luna
11:00 am “Matthew 26-28” - Tavaris Armstrong
11:55 am “State of the BTSOP”
Robert Stapleton & Willie Alvarenga



Each of our speakers have written a verse by verse manuscript to create a commentary on Matthew. This will be available at the lectureship this year along with last years on the Prison Epistles.



BROWN TRAIL
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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.

IRENE ALDRIEDGE

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

JO ANN BECK

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

BONNIE BELLOWS

Larry & Pat Benedict

GARY BRYSON

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Julia Bridges
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Paul & Barbara Petree

CARMEN HERRERA

Dennis, Sheri, Kacie &
Michael & Charissa Miller

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Jerry & Janet Presswood

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This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____

Web Site

Please be aware of the School's web site address and share it with those that are interested in knowing more about us, how to enroll, etc. Also, take note that we have a location on the Web Site where sound congregations and preachers can place their ads as they are searching for preachers or churches to work with. These are free and have a wide distribution.

www.browntrailsschoolofpreaching.com

Sermon Starters

MAKING CHRIST OUR TOP PRIORITY Matthew 6:31-33

INTRODUCTION:

1. As human beings, we are always setting certain things in our lives as priorities.
 - A. These are things that we believe are of utmost importance.
2. God has always expected people to make Him their top priority - Exodus 20:1, 2, 5; Mark 12:28-31.
3. Even though God expects people to make Him their top priority, He leaves them the choice - Deuteronomy 30:19; Joshua 24:15; Matthew 16:24.
4. Our lesson is entitled "Making Christ Our Top Priority."
 - A. With that in mind, let's define what it is that we are talking about.
 1. Priority - precedence, especially established by order of importance or urgency; an established right to precedence; an authoritative rating that establishes such precedence; a preceding or coming earlier in time; something afforded or deserving prior attention.
5. I am sure that we would all agree that some things are deserving of more attention than other things.
 - A. Priority Mail
 - B. That which is top priority.
 - C. A heart attack.
6. In our lesson we wish to examine what should be priority number one in all of our lives.

BODY:**1. MISPLACED PRIORITIES LEAD TO A WASTED LIFE**

- A. Both the pages of sacred and secular history reveal to us that a life of misplaced priorities lead to an empty existence.
 1. An example of this can be found in the book of Ecclesiastes.
 - A. The word "vanity" is found thirty-four times and is used denoting the emptiness of worldly pursuits apart from God.
 1. Example of Gentiles - Ephesians 4:17-19.
 2. Example of the rich farmer - Lk. 12:15, 20.
 - B. Too often it requires some horrible event in our life to remind us that the things of this world are not that important.
 1. September 11, 2001 brought many people face to face with priorities.

2. MAKING CHRIST TOP PRIORITY IN OUR LIFE

- A. How do we make Christ "top priority" in our life?
 1. The answer to that important question is found within God's Word:
 - A. We must lose our mind - Philippians 2:5; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23; Colossians 3:10.
 - B. We must surrender our body - Romans 6:12, 13; 12:1 .
 - C. We must center our life around the church - Matthew 6:33.

Sermon Starters - Continued

- D. We must respect the authority of Christ - Colossians 3:17.
 - E. We must work at supplementing our faith by adding the Christian graces - 2 Peter 1:5-7.
 - F. We must resolve that we will do God's will regardless of opposition - Acts 5:29.
 - G. We won't let worldly matters take precedence over spiritual things - Philippians 2:19-21.
 - H. We keep heaven set before our eyes as our goal - Hebrews 11:24-27.
2. If we are "looking unto Jesus" we will have our priorities in proper order - Hebrews 12:1, 2.
- A. The word "looking" means "to consider attentively."
 - B. Jesus kept His priorities in order - John 4:34; 6:38; 9:4; 19:30.
 - 1. And so must we.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. For a productive life, and in lieu of death and judgment, we must make Christ our top priority.
 - A. To do anything other than that is to endanger our soul's salvation.

Sermon Outline Books

My latest Sermon Outline Books, in the series of Outline Books entitled "**50 Sermons I Have Preached**," are now finished. These are the eleventh and twelfth in the series. The cost for each is \$5.00, plus shipping. If you order all of them you will receive a free CD with all of the books on it. I, also, have an additional Outline Book entitled, "**66 Sermons From God's Word**" that has one sermon from each book of the Bible. All proceeds from the sale of these books go to the School.

*"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."
2 Timothy 4:2*

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.

News from Alumni

Leon McManus (2004)

Leon passed away September 23, 2015. Leon's wife, Joyce, continues to reside at Seven Points, Texas.

Specific Financial Needs

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

Jesse Martinez Support	_____	Monthly
	_____	One Time
Tavaris Armstrong Support	_____	Monthly
	_____	One Time
Willie Alvarenga Support	_____	Monthly
	_____	One Time
English Department Student Support	_____	Monthly
	_____	One Time
Spanish Department Student Support	_____	Monthly
	_____	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 desktop, that is in good working order, and you are not using it, we would appreciate you donating it to the school. We will be happy to supply you with a Tax Donation Receipt.

Return Service Requested

FILLING 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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