

# Fulfilling the Ministry

Brown Trail School of Preaching

## New Students, New Courses, New Beginning

*Kevin W. Rhodes, Director*



The first week in July we started a few new traditions at Brown Trail School of Preaching. We began with a three-day orientation designed to prepare students for the rigors of our program. This

included the essentials, such as a facilities tour, photographs, signing forms, and picking up books, as well as Roy Gafford, our Dean of Students, walking students through the rules in place, their accompanying purposes, and the various policies necessary for day-to-day operations. Our Academic Dean, Pat McIntosh, provided recommendations for note-taking as well as laying out the school's new grading policies. Jon Warnes spoke with the students about maintaining their family life while in school, and Willie Alvarenga gave the students tips on memorization. Scattered throughout all of these efforts I offered the guiding principles of the school and provided tips on how to develop good study habits, how to outline, how to organize for productivity, and the essentiality of disciplining yourself for success. On Independence Day, my wife and I hosted a cookout for the students and administration, and then on Friday, Mike Vestal presented a day-long seminar on preaching to educate and motivate the students as they begin their studies.

This quarter we welcomed five new students into the program, which officially begins the policy of only admitting new students in July. This will ensure that our students receive the material in the best order possible so that they can learn and grow to their potential. Every class and every quarter builds on those that precede it, and we hope that the students will recognize this as they progress through the curriculum. Teachers will lay down a foundation this quarter

as first-year students take Introduction to the Old Testament, Introduction to the New Testament, Introduction to Public Speaking, English I, Apologetics, Genesis/Exodus, Mark, Evangelism and Missions, and Technology in Preaching. Meanwhile, the second-year students will have a text-heavy quarter that includes History of Israel II, the Psalms, Isaiah, Matthew, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Church History, and a new course, Getting and Keeping a Job. The interaction with the students, both during class and outside of class, is a joy.

During this quarter, besides fulfilling the requirements of a full quarter, students will travel twice. In August we will travel to Sevierville, Tennessee to attend Polishing the Pulpit. Students will take a mixture of required courses and electives, take notes, and provide this to the faculty for grading after returning to Texas. Some of the faculty will also be speaking. We hope to see you there! And if you attend, please say hello. We would love to talk with you about what we are doing. In September the students will travel to Sedalia, Missouri to work with the local congregation and conduct a campaign in conjunction with a gospel meeting held by Heath Stapleton, our Director for Development.

We now have twelve students in the English Department and five in the Spanish Department. These seventeen men want to preach the gospel. And we are excited for the opportunity to mentor them. We are also extremely thankful for all of those who willingly offer their support--for the students, for the administration, staff, and faculty, for the general fund that is essential to day-to-day operations, and for the various efforts that we undertake trying to provide the very best experience for our students as we seek to do our best for the kingdom. We have plans for growth, but this depends on Christians who see the need and make it possible through their generosity and sacrifice.

### Elders

Stephen Alexander  
Kevin Carroll  
Russ Floyd  
David Hamrick  
Bobby Watts

### Director

Kevin W. Rhodes

### Director Spanish Department

Willie Alvarenga

### Academic Dean

Pat McIntosh

### Dean of Students

Roy Gafford

### Director for Development

Heath Stapleton

### Field Representative Spanish Department

Salvador Del Fierro



## What Does Mentoring Mean?

**B**rown Trail teachers and students alike have grown accustomed to hearing me talk about mentoring. This emphasis, included even in the naming of our website address, [www.wementorpreachers.com](http://www.wementorpreachers.com), matters because it speaks not only to our commitment to teach preachers over a two-year period, but also to take interaction beyond the classroom to build relationships designed to last a lifetime. Paul Gustavson, a senior member of the John Maxwell Leadership Team, describes mentoring as “building character into the lives of others, modeling and teaching attitudes and behaviors.” Students need to know their teachers as Christian men who love and preach the gospel as much as they know them as knowledgeable teachers and tough graders. Likewise, teachers need to know the challenges their students face personally and offer more than a passing comment in class to resolve a difficult issue.

The challenges of preaching can be very personal, extremely emotional, and highly exhausting. Mentoring preachers requires preparing them for these challenges by walking through not only their studies but also how their studies affect them and how they can best meet the challenges of school first. Mentoring preachers means welcoming students into our lives as much as we welcome them into the school or into the classroom. If we expect students to invest themselves in deep study for two years, we must show them we are willing to invest in them too. Mentoring preachers includes having the tough conversations that go beyond gaining knowledge and developing new skills to make spiritual application vivid and spiritual growth a reality.

We want our students to feel comfortable talking to us about anything while also feeling confident in the guidance they will receive. We want our students to know we care about their souls, about their families, and about their future. We want our students to see our Christianity rather than just hearing us talk about it. We want to welcome them into our lives and be part of theirs.

Perhaps you can remember fondly someone who took the trouble to teach you the gospel and walk you through the early growth stages of your newfound faith. Perhaps you found someone as you matured who showed interest in you as an individual, who recognized your potential, and who came to feel like family to you. Perhaps you have experienced the joy of learning so much from someone and about someone that your relationship changed over time from student to friend to colleague. Perhaps you know someone who shares wisdom freely and loves deeply. I hope so. Because, if you do, you can understand the power of mentoring. Learning to preach is about so much more than knowledge, and we do our best to exemplify that in our training.

Dictionaries use multiple words to try to describe what a mentor is: adviser, guide, guru, counselor, consultant, confidante, trainer, teacher, tutor, instructor. In truth, a mentor is all of these and more. A spiritual mentor must be willing to make an emotional investment in those whom he leads with as much energy as is required to get the most out of them spiritually—all for their good and for the cause of Christ. A mentor must therefore be active, interested, and available. And we take all of these things seriously at Brown Trail School of Preaching. It is not just a slogan. We mentor preachers.

# Notes and Needs

## In Memorium

The following have recently made a donation to Brown Trail School of Preaching as a memorial or honorarium.

### VIVIAN CRANK

Nancy Hart

### JANIE DUFFIELD

Meredith Sowell

### MICHAEL CAIN

Kerry and Tommie Cain

### JENNY LEE FEELS

Antoinette Mennell

### MELVIN GRAYSON

M. Frances Harwell

### WANDA GREEN

MaryLea Stephens

### TOMMIE GREER

Marcia Stapleton  
MaryLea Stephens

### YOLANDA RITCHWOOD

Keith Krop

### LOU WARD

MaryLea Stephens

### BARBARA YATES

Keith Krop  
Robinson Road church of Christ

## In Honor

### GUY T. ELLIOTT

Joyce Rushing

Your financial contributions to Brown Trail School of Preaching, such as this, help immensely in the training of gospel preachers. Thank you so much for being part of our work in this way.

## Please note...

- **Student Camaraderie.** In July we added another five students to the four who entered in January. These nine will continue together for the next eighteen months. They join the two second-year students scheduled to graduate in December, plus one auditing student, to bring our current total to twelve in the English Department, to which we also add five from the Spanish Department. There is plenty of room for growth, but the interaction that these students have in day to day life, in class and out, is a great benefit that I hope they will treasure for years to come.
- **Thanks abound!** It fills my heart with joy to hear our students pray in chapel, giving thanks for those who support them to go to school. It is especially heartening to be included in prayers such as these because it shows the students realize that teachers, administrators, and facilities need funds too. We are very blessed at Brown Trail. We are blessed with your support, and we are blessed to participate in mentoring preachers for the next generation. We want your support to have an impact for good in the Lord's kingdom for years to come. It is stewardship that we take very seriously. We are honored to partner with you in such an endeavor.
- **Like a Visit?** While the responsibilities of the school are many and time is limited due to a number of speaking engagements, if your congregation would be interested in learning more about some of the new things going on at Brown Trail School of Preaching, please let us know. We love to see our supporters and want everyone to know what we are doing. You help to make this happen on a day to day basis, and we want you to know how much you mean to us.

# Financial Needs

Circle One	Amount
Robert Stapleton Endowment _____	
Student Books and Software _____	
PTP Student Expenses	Goal Met
Willie Alvarenga Support _____	
Jesse Martinez Support _____	
Pat McIntosh Support _____	
Kevin W. Rhodes Support _____	
Heath Stapleton Support _____	
General Fund _____	
Student (English or Spanish) _____	
(Underline which)	
Tomorrow's Men Today _____	
(Future Leaders Camp)	
South Africa Travel Fund	Goal Met
(Cape Bible School)	
Where Needed _____	

# Speaking Schedule

July 8	Valley View
July 11	Aledo
July 17	Centerville Road, Garland
July 24	Beltline Road, Irving
July 31	Justin
Aug 14	Longview
Aug 15-22	Polishing the Pulpit
Aug 28	North Main, Weatherford
Sept 22	Jacksonville, AL
Sept 23-Oct 9	Cape Town, South Africa
Oct 20	Birdville, North Richland Hills
Oct 26-27	Marriage Seminar- West

# Calendar of Events

July 8	Summer Quarter Begins
Aug 2-4	Singing Seminar - Andy Baker
Aug 15-22	Polishing the Pulpit
Sept 8-11	Sedalia Campaign
Sept 23-27	Finals Week
Oct 7	Fall Quarter Begins
Nov 8-11	Evangelism Sem.-Rob Whitacre
Nov 27-29	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec 6	Director's Christmas Party
Dec 16-19	Finals Week
Dec 20	Graduation Banquet
Dec 21	Graduation and Reception

## English Faculty

Willie Alvarenga  
 Dewayne Bryant  
 Bill Burk  
 Will Cammack  
 Robert Dodson  
 Roy Gafford  
 Ken Gardner  
 J.J. Hendrix  
 Bryan Hodge  
 Ken Hope  
 Richard Massey  
 Pat McIntosh  
 Randall Morris  
 Eddie Parrish  
 Rick Popejoy  
 Kevin W. Rhodes  
 Jason Sparks  
 Jeremy Sprouse  
 Heath Stapleton  
 Jon Warnes

## Spanish Faculty

Willie Alvarenga  
 Marco Arroyo  
 Salvador del Fierro, Jr.  
 Jaime Luna  
 Juan Luna  
 Jesse Martinez  
 Rogelio Medina  
 Obed Rodriguez  
 Osbaldo Rodriguez

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