

# 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

April 2009  
No. 68

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## From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton



The work of training preachers here at BTSOP continues to be an exciting and rewarding effort. The encouragement and support that we receive from you helps us to keep from growing weary (Galatians 6:9). Please know that

you are never taken for granted by any of those who are associated with the school. Seldom does a Chapel Service pass without the supporters being mentioned at least once, if not in both prayers.

I have yet to be released by my Oncologist, but I hope that is soon to come. My next appointment is approaching, and I hope I have progressed enough that he is tired of seeing me, and I will be released. Some of the other medical issues seem to be taking care of themselves. I do so much appreciate the number of you who have expressed your concern, and those who have prayed on my behalf.

You may have noticed a couple additions to our list of Faculty to the left of this column. Brother Pat McIntosh, a 1989 graduate of BTSOP, has come on board as a full time instructor. For the past several years Pat has worked with the Bear Valley Extension Program. Pat told me coming here was the culmination of a several year “dream” that he has had. Pat has an earned Doctorate from Ambridge University, and will be teaching several courses in both the first and second year classes.

It is necessary for Pat to raise his support. Fortunately, he was able to bring with him most of what he raised to work at Bear Valley. For the remaining he is seeking opportunities to speak with

congregations and individuals who might be able to assist him in his efforts. Funds for his work are to be sent to the Granbury Street church of Christ, 1211 N. Granbury St., Cleburn, Texas 76031. You may contact him at p.mcintosh@hotmail.com or 254-592-2234.

Richard Stevens is a native of the Dallas/Fort Worth area and graduated from BTSOP in 1999. He has served the Hawn Freeway church of Christ in Dallas, Texas, since September of 1998. He has spoken on many brotherhood events, including local television and radio.

It is great to have these men here, and ask you to keep them in your prayers.

## Hispanic Department

Willie Alvarenga continues to do a great job in overseeing the efforts of the Hispanic Department here at BTSOP. He recently participated in the Lectureship in Baytown, Texas. I am sure his participation was of great value to all who attended, including the students from the Hispanic Department.

We have several Spanish speaking students who have expressed a desire to attend classes starting in July of this year. Of course, the issue at hand is the support necessary to allow them to be able to do so. If you, or the congregation you attend, would like to share in the efforts of this area of our work we would so appreciate hearing from you. The fact is, the number of Spanish speaking people in the world continues to increase and, as such, so does our responsibility to reach them with the gospel. The greatest commission ever given to man speaks to the fact that we are to reach out with the saving message of hope to a world needing salvation more than anything else. Training preachers is one way we can fulfill that responsibility.

## Rohan Jones Family

Rohan and his family are still looking for a congregation to oversee the work they will be doing once they return to South Africa after the completion of school this December. They are also seeking financial support that will allow them to work with congregations that are unable to provide the necessary financial support. If you can assist with either of these areas, I am sure Rohan would like to speak with you. He does have a PowerPoint Presentation that he can bring to show you where they will be working. You can contact him at (817) 718-1185 or email him at rohjones@gmail.com

## Gospel Meeting/Campaign

The students and I will be conducting two Gospel Meeting/Campaigns over the next few weeks.

The first will be April 26th–29th for the church of Christ in Carthage, Texas. Robert Jones, who graduated in June of 2008, preaches there.

The second will be for the Blooming Grove, Texas church of Christ. This is the congregation that I have been fortunate enough to preach for on a part time basis since late 2004.

I am sure both of these congregations would be happy to have you visit with them during their respective Gospel Meetings.

## 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.

## Gospel Meetings/Campaigns

Although 2010 is some time off, it is time to begin making plans for Gospel Meetings and or Campaigns for next year. Each year we plan to conduct two longer (Sunday–Wednesday) such activities and two shorter ones (Friday–Sunday). These are conducted during the second and third quarters of the school year. As such, we are available during the end of March to the end of May and the end of July to the end of September. If you are interested, and if we can be of assistance, please contact us as soon as possible.

## Resources

Issues of “Preach The Word”, a two page paper, are placed monthly on our Web Site. This brief paper consists of a sermon outline and a bulletin article that are free for use. The only thing we ask is for “credit” to be given as to the source of the article.

We have the Sermon Series, Fifty Sermons I Have Preached, Volumes 1-6 still available. The six volume set of sermon outlines, along with a CD of all the outlines, are available for \$30.00 plus shipping costs. If interested in these, please contact the office.

For over a year we have been recording our classes in the school to make them available to those who would like them. We have had one problem after another but, finally, we have five classes completed (English II–3 DVD set, Fundamentals I - How We Got The Bible–4 DVD set; New Testament Survey–6 DVD set; The Preacher's Life & Work–4 DVD set; and The Life and Teachings of Christ–4 DVD set). They are available through the school office for \$5.00 per DVD. Course Notes are also available for \$5.00 each for some of these classes. Supplemental Notes are also available for some courses at the same price. If interested, please contact the school office.

Eddie Parrish has recently started a blog that will be of benefit to students and preachers alike. It can be accessed at <http://godspreacher.wordpress.com/>

Landon Rowell recently started a BTSOP Alumni Blog. It is: <http://btsopalumniassociation.blogspot.com/>

## New Web Site

Our Web Master is busy developing a new Web Site for the School. I am not sure when it will be up, but it should not be too long. We will have a new school video that will be on the Web Site once everything is completed. Be sure to check it out.

## 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.

### GENE BAGGETT

Julia Bridges  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

### A.V. ISBELL

Allen C. Isbell

### RUTH ORBISON

Mike & Terry Roberts

### TOLA ORBISON

Mike & Terry Roberts

### VONCIL REYNOLDS

June Lewis  
Carl & Doris Powell  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

### IMOGENE ROSS

Jimmy & Marilynn  
Wagoner

### FRED HALL

Julia Bridges  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton  
Bill & Vivian Wren

### LON MONHUNDRO

Carl & Doris Powell  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

### ROY PETTY

Julia Bridges  
David & Marie  
Pennington  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton  
Bobby & June Watts  
Jim & Shirley Wilcox  
Walter & Gwen Woodard  
Bill & Vivian Wren

### WILMA WILLIAMS

Julia Bridges  
Mattie Dabney  
Bill & Vivian Wren

## Honorariums

### MAJORIE ANDERSON

Perry B. Cotham

*“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? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! - Romans 10:13-15*

### This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Donated By \_\_\_\_\_

# Sermon Starters

## WHAT SIN CAN DO

James 1:12-15

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Today man has many enemies.
  - A. Of these enemies, sin is number one.
  - B. Because of sin man has:
    1. Physical infirmities, of which many are due directly to sin.
    2. Man is separated from God unless something is done - James 1:15.
2. There is a tendency to place a false label on sin.
  - A. When was the last time anyone has heard of an old-fashioned sinner?
    1. The problem is one is sick, or it is societies fault.
      - A. People call drunkenness an illness, while God calls it a sin - 1 Corinthians 6:10.
  - B. Satan is doing a fantastic job of picturing sin as some thing good.
    1. We are being told to “grab all the gusto” that we can.
    2. But we're not being told of the heartaches, starving children, and deaths that go along with this so called “gusto.”
  - C. Sin is even being dismissed by some who claim to be Christians.
    1. “Everybody is doing it.”
  - D. We need to realize is, changing the label on poison to say “Orange Juice” doesn't change the contents.
    1. And changing the label on sin won't change the results - Romans 6:23.
      - A. Adultery - affair.
      - B. Homosexuality - gay.
3. The New Testament gives us the true picture of sin as God sees it.

### BODY:

#### 1. SIN ENSLAVES

- A. Romans 6:16
  1. Servant - stronger - slave, therefore one became a slave to sin.
- B. John 8:34
  1. This is not speaking of the one who sins in a moment of weakness, but one who continues to sin.

#### 2. SIN SPOTS

- A. James 1:27
  1. In God's eyes, one who is in sin is spotted, or unclean.
- B. The story of the Prodigal son serves as an example of contamination by sin - Luke 15:11-32.
  1. “Give me my portion” (v. 12) - “far country” (v. 13) - “wasted” all on riotous living (v. 13).
  2. His fair-weather friends forsook him, and he ended up in a pig pen, which to the Jew, there was nothing more loathsome.
- C. Peter uses this exact figure to show how dirty sin is - 2 Peter 2:22.

#### 3. SIN SCARS

- A. Galatians 6:7, 8

# News from Alumni

## Sermon Starters - Continued

### Jason Stapleton (2003)

Jason and Madesha are expecting twins later this year. Their address is 504 Village Lane, Whitehouse, TX 75791, and they can be reached at (817) 201-3990 or [jmstapleton4@gmail.com](mailto:jmstapleton4@gmail.com).

### Grant Sullivan (2007)

Grant and Dara are the proud parents of their new baby daughter, Acadia, born January 23, 2009. You can send them a congratulations email at [lvn4him68@aol.com](mailto:lvn4him68@aol.com).

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Exciting things are beginning to happen with the Alumni Association. As you can see from Landon's blog, a recent meeting was held to discuss the involvement of the Association with the school and ways which it, along with others, may be of assistance to the school.

Please continue to pray for the efforts of those involved in the Alumni Association, and get involved if you are an alumnus.

## Fill In Preaching

Once again I remind you that our students are available for fill in preaching. As we have said before, this helps them "hone" their skills and provides them with additional income. If you are in need of someone to fill in, please give us as much advance notice as possible. Some times when we receive a call at the "last minute" it is difficult to line someone up. Normally, though, we have several men who are willing and ready to help with these requests.

**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](mailto: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.

1. Sin is like smallpox, if it doesn't kill you, it will most likely scar you for life.
  - B. No doubt Peter was scared due to his denial of Jesus - Matthew 26:34, 74, 75.
    1. Probably every time Peter heard a rooster crow he remembered what he had done.
      - A. Even though he was forgiven, his memory was not erased.
  - C. Psalms 51:3
    1. As David looked back on his life and reflected on his sin with Bathsheba and Uriaah, he always was aware of it.
  - D. 1 Timothy 1:15
    1. Paul, many years after his conversion, remembered his sin.
  - E. Story of father who drove a nail in a post for each error of his son and withdrew one when he was good. Boy saddened by scars left.
    1. God's law of sowing and reaping cannot be mocked.
4. **SIN SEPARATES**
- A. Isaiah 59:1, 2
    1. During this point in time in which Isaiah wrote, the Jews were calling upon God in prayer, but getting no apparent answer.
    2. They thought there was something wrong with God's ability to answer.
      - A. Maybe his arm was shortened.
    3. Others thought there was something wrong with His hearing.
    4. However, Isaiah explains the problem.
      - A. It's not with God.
        1. He can hear.
        2. He can answer.
      - B. The problem was sin.
        1. It severs fellowship with God.
        2. Prayers seem to fall upon deaf ears, and worship is rejected.
        3. Families and friends are separated.
        4. There is eternal separation from good.

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