

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 ————

January 2012
No. 79

From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton

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Larry McWilliams
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Bobby Watts

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School began January 2, 2012 with 31 full and part time students. This is the largest enrollment in several years. Some of this had to do with the schedule change last year concerning our having only one enrollment of students per year. Also, in part, was the hard work put forth by several as the “word” went forth about the program here at **BTSOP**. Whatever it was, I have to admit, it was exciting to see such a large number of students show up!

Every day I am reminded of the need to stay the course set before us, as we seek to train men to preach the greatest message ever spoken. As the world’s population increases, the number of people outside of Christ grows in proportion to it. We dare not sit by and do nothing! But what can we do? It may be that we feel as if we are like Moses, who saw himself as “not eloquent” (Exodus 4:10). But the gospel still needs to go forth. Perhaps realizing that although we may not possess the ability to stand and preach the gospel, most of us to have the ability to support those who prepare themselves to do so.

We are reminded of Paul’s words to the Romans, concerning the sending forth of others “to preach” (Romans 10:14, 15). Please recognize that your financial support of men and their families at **BTSOP** may well fulfill these words of **Paul**. Your regular donation of \$25.00, \$50.00, \$100.00 or more per month may make all the difference in a student being able to continue his studies here, or who has to give up and go home.

Please take note if you would like for someone to come to your congregation to give you an update on what is happening with the School, or to provide you with information on how you might assist us, someone will gladly come see you. Our Field Representative, **J.J. Hendrix**, is available to come as am I, **Willie** or **Pat McIntosh**.

Speaking of **J.J.** and **Pat**, both are still in need of additional support to allow them to work as they are with the School. Your financial support of either of these men will be a good investment in the future of training men to preach God’s Word. If you are able to help, please let us hear from you.

Spanish Department

The **Spanish Department’s** new classroom is full! I do not think we could fit another student in there if we wanted to. How exciting! Recognizing the fact that the only boundaries associated with the “Great Commission” are those erected by us, seeing these men and their families come from various locations here in the U.S., and also from Mexico, knowing that they will take the message of hope to our Spanish speaking neighbors and friends, makes all the work we do worth while.

Willie, Jesse and **Obed** are doing a great job making this program the success that it is. We could not do what we are doing without them. We are still in need of additional support for **Jesse**, specifically, as he is short of the full amount needed to cover his salary. Any amount that you might be able to give would be appreciated.

Please be reminded, if you speak Spanish, and if you are looking for sound Biblical material that you can use to teach classes with, our Spanish Department has a number of outlines that are available. We, also, have material in CD and DVD format.

www.browntrailsofpreaching.com

School Events - 2012

Granbury Street Open Forum - February 11, 2012, 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

BTSOP Student Introduction - February 12, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

Finals - March 13 - 15, 2012

Spring Break - March 16 - March 25, 2012

Classes Resume - March 26, 2012

Campaign/Gospel Meeting - Sedalia, MO - April 22 - 25, 2012

Campaign/Gospel Meeting - Alba, Texas - May 4 - 6, 2012

Memorial Day - No Classes - May 28, 2012

Finals - June 5 - 7, 2012

Graduation Banquet - June 8, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Graduation - June 10, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

Summer Break - June 11 - July 8, 2012

Classes Resume - July 9, 2012, 8:00 a.m.

Campaign/Gospel Meeting - Andover, KS, August 5th - 8th, 2012

Labor Day - No Classes - September 3, 2012

Heidenheimer Campaign/Gospel Meeting - September 7 - 9, 2012

Finals - September 18 - 20, 2012

Fall Break - September 21 - 30, 2012

Classes Resume - October 1, 2012

Spiritual Sword Lectures - October 14 - 17, 2012

Thanksgiving Holiday - November 21 - 23, 2012 (classes dismissed at 12:00 on the 21st)

Finals - December 11 - 13, 2012

Graduation Banquet - December 14, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Graduation - December 16, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

Winter Break - December 17, 2012 - January 6, 2013

Please note that some of these are subject to change.

Future Campaigns

All of our Campaign/Gospel Meeting openings are filled for 2012. If you would like to have us come in 2013 or at some time later, please get in touch with us as soon as possible. At the present, we have several openings available for 2013. If you have any questions on having such an activity, please contact us so we may be able to provide you with the necessary information to assist you in planning one.

Specific Financial Needs

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

Jesse Martinez Support	_____	Monthly
	_____	One Time
J.J. Hendrix 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.

Director's Schedule

Granbury Open Forum - February 11, 2012

BTSOP Introduction - February 12, 2012

Shenandoah Lectures - February 18, 2012

Southwest Lectures - April 10, 2012

Briar, Texas - May 16, 2012

Heidenheimer Gospel Meeting - September 7 - 9, 2012

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.

JOYCE HUMPHREY

Gary & Mary Murphy
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

LINDEN PUCKETT

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

ALTA TANKERSLEY

Julia Bridges

EDITH TROUT

Charles & Carolyn Curtis

DORIS WREN

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

MELVIS PINSON

Larry & Pat Benedict
Henry & Nancy Hart
Bobby & June Watts

MARY ANN SHEPPARD

Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts
Bill & Vivian Wren

SHARON WASHBURN

Kathy Brewer
Charles & Carolyn Curtis
Henry & Nancy Hart
Gary & Mary Murphy
David & Marie Pennington
Phil & Rosa Lee Pope
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Jack & MaryLea Stephens
Bobby & June Watts
Morgan & Sue Wilson
Bill & Vivian Wren

This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To:

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donated By _____



January 2012 Student Body

Sermon Starters

ARE YOU READY?

Matthew 24:42-44

INTRODUCTION:

1. Quite often, as we study the scriptures, we come across phrases that teach important facts.
2. Likewise, we find words that call our minds to certain thoughts.
 - A. In the Bible, we find the word "ready" used numerous times in regard to a variety of things.
 - B. In this lesson, we are going to examine some of the texts wherein we find this word.
 1. As we do this, let us ask ourselves, are we ready to comply with the thoughts that are found therein?

BODY:

1. **PETER CLAIMED TO BE READY TO GO WHERE HE WAS LED**
 - A. Luke 22:33
 1. Wherever he was led he claimed he was ready to go.
 - B. However, as we know, he was not ready.
 1. It was just that he thought he was.
 2. It was not long after this promise that Peter denied the Lord - Matthew 26:69, 70.
 - C. We should be ready to go with the Lord wherever He leads us - Matthew 16:24.
 1. Our following Him should be like a soldier under sealed orders.
 - A. The question of obedience has been settled before the orders are opened.
2. **PETER WAS READY TO GIVE AN ANSWER**
 - A. 1 Peter 3:15
 1. Each of us needs to be ready to do just as Peter said.
 - A. There is no excuse for a Christian that cannot give an answer for his beliefs.
 - B. It will take study of the Word to be able to do this, but are we not told to study? - 2 Timothy 2:15.
 - C. To be able to "always give an answer" we need to have the right disposition of heart.
 1. It is easily realized that a person might win a discussion, but while he is doing so he might lose a soul.
 2. As we give an answer, we need to do so with the type of love for the lost that Jesus would want us to have.
 3. Instead of winning the discussion at all cost, let us win the soul - Proverbs 11:30.
3. **PAUL WAS READY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL**
 - A. Romans 1:15
 - B. It is plain to see that he was ready to preach the gospel - Romans 1:16.
 - C. Because he was not ashamed of the gospel, he was ready to proclaim it as he should.
 - D. These same reasons should motivate each of us to be ready to preach the gospel.

News from Alumni

Randy Mathis (2004)

Randy and his family have located with the church in Lake City, Florida. Their address is 525 SW Chapel Hill St., Lake City, Florida 32025. Randy's email address is: cocminister77@yahoo.com

Spencer Ross (2008)

Spencer and his family are now working with the Northwest church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas. Their address is 6312 N. Hill Lane, Fort Worth, Texas 76135.

I am sure either of these men would appreciate hearing from those they attended school with.



"Freshman Class" - 2012

Fill In Preaching

If you are in need of fill in preaching, please let us know as far in advance as you can. This will help us help you.

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

4. **PAUL GAVE INSTRUCTION CONCERNING BEING READY TO ALL GOOD WORKS**
 - A. Titus 3:1
 1. In regards to good works, we need to be ready to see that they get done - Galatians 6:10.
 - A. We should be ready to do it ourselves, and not wish it off on somebody else.
 - B. Works, according to James, are the fruits of faith, as we show our faith by our works - James 2:18.
 - C. Each of us needs to be ready to show our faith through the good works that we perform, and as such glorify God - Matthew 5:16.
 - D. We must be careful to not grow "weary in well doing" - Galatians 6:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:13.
5. **PAUL WAS READY TO DIE FOR THE NAME OF JESUS**
 - A. Acts 21:13
 - B. This statement was correct, he later died for Jesus.
 - C. As we think of what Jesus must have meant to Paul, does He mean that much to us?
 1. We have not been, as of yet, asked to die for Jesus.
 - A. We have only been asked to live for Him.
 1. Are we ready to do so as He asks?
6. **JESUS COMMANDS US TO BE READY FOR HIS RETURN**
 - A. Matthew 24:42-44
 - B. The tragedy of the foolish virgins of Matthew 25 was that they were not prepared for the coming of the bridegroom.
 1. Likewise, the tragedy for countless souls will be their failure to prepare for the coming of Jesus.
 - A. We must know that this preparation does not come accidentally.
 1. We must make it on purpose.
 2. We do this by obeying the gospel.

CONCLUSION:

1. In conclusion, are you ready for that day to come?

Return Service Requested

FULLFILLING 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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