

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 2012
No. 82

From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton

ELDERS

Maxie Boren
Kevin Carroll
Guy Elliott
Larry McWilliams
Eddy Parker
Larry Rice
Bobby Watts

DIRECTOR

Robert Stapleton

DEAN OF STUDENTS

Pat McIntosh

FACULTY

Willie Alvarenga
Gerald Ball
Charles Billingsly
Bill Burk
Robert Dodson
Ken Gardner
Ken Hope
Jesse Martinez
Pat McIntosh
Randall Morris
Hardeman Nichols
Obed Rodriguez
Robert Stapleton
Richard Stevens III

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

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As it is often the case, good news seems to come with bad news on its heels. On the 22nd of August, **Pat McIntosh** became the new Dean of Students for **Brown Trail School of Preaching**. For some time I have needed to turn over some of these responsibilities to someone other than myself. However, it just never seemed to be the right time to do so. After experiencing some medical issues that landed me in the hospital for a day in mid August, I figured now was the time to do so. I am thankful for Pat's willingness to take on the extra responsibilities that go along with this job. His doing so has definitely made my "plate" smaller since he is doing a great job with this new assignment.

We want to extend our congratulations to **Robert Dodson**, one of our adjunct instructors, who has recently been chosen to be the new "face" of **The Truth In Love** television program that is recorded in the recording facility located in the Brown Trail building. Robert is well known in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, having preached in this area for a number of years. I am sure that if you can find **The Truth In Love** on your local station, you will find it is well worth watching on a regular basis. If you would like further information on this work, please call **The Truth In Love** office at 817-285-9047 and ask to speak with **Chad Seaton** or **Sheri Miller**.

We are happy to report that we have quite a number of potential students for our January 2013 enrolment. Of course, their ability to attend depends on their ability

to raise the necessary funds needed to cover their living expenses while in school. With budgets being planned for 2013, if your congregation could assist with one or more of these men, it would be greatly appreciated. If this is something that your congregation can help with, please contact us and we will provide you with the names of potential new students in need of support.

Moving on to the bad news. On October 10th, **Marie Pennington**, one of our instructors in the **Wives' Program**, suffered an aneurysm and passed away shortly thereafter. Marie was loved by the Brown Trail congregation and the wives that attended her class. She will be sorely missed by so many. Please keep the Pennington family in your prayers as they make the adjustments in their lives brought on by her passing.

Spanish Department

Not enough can be said about all the good that is being done with this department of the school. **Willie, Jesse** and **Obed** are doing a great job preparing the men that attend to be the kind of gospel preachers that is needed today! We are finding that many more of our inquiries about preachers are such that involve congregations that are either looking for Spanish speaking or bi-lingual preachers. We are happy to be able to provide such men, although we are having more requests than men to fill the openings.

Your financial support, along with your prayers, are so needed to see that this work continues to do the good that it can do. Salaries have to be paid, and student support must be available if we are to continue with the work done by either department. Things may be "tight" around the house right now, but please keep in mind the great need for training men to take the gospel to a world of over 7 billion people. We dare not allow the things of this world to get in the way of our training men to take the "power of God unto salvation" to the lost!

School Events - 2012/2013

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

School Begins - January 7, 2013

Future Campaigns

As 2012 winds down, we are looking to plan campaigns for 2013 and later. 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 a couple weekend 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.

New Students Needed

As we look to the future, there is nothing that is needed more than gospel preaching! It remains the "power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). It is still the message whereby man might be set "free from condemnation" (John 8:32; Romans 8:1; James 1:21). We are looking for a few "good men" in the brotherhood who aspire to take the truth to a world that is lost in sin. As the world's population continues to grow, so does the need for men to prepare themselves to take the gospel to it. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please contact us at 817-268-3222.

Fill In Preaching

Please be aware that we want to assist as often as possible congregations in the area that are in need of fill in preaching. However, our number of students is limited, which some times mean we may not be able to help, especially when we are contacted at the "last minute." We realize that some times this cannot be helped. But if you know you are going to need someone well in advance, please contact us as soon as possible.

Director's Schedule

Gospel Meeting - Thorp Springs church of Christ - November 11th - 14th, 2012

Fort Worth Lectures - Brown Trail church of Christ - January 6, 2013

Sunday Preaching - Blooming Grove church of Christ

Wednesday Bible Class - Brown Trail church of Christ

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 _____ Monthly
Student Support _____ One Time

Spanish Department _____ Monthly
Student 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 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.

Graduation—2012

This will be the last issue of *Fulfilling The Ministry* before graduation in December. Please take note that our Banquet will be December 14th at 6:30 p.m. and the Graduation will be at 2:00 p.m., Sunday December 16th. This December we will have three men graduate, along with the wife of one of our students, and **Meagan Teske**, who will graduate from our *MTSM Program*. **Bob Lewis** and **Charles Page** will graduate from the *English Department* and **Enrique** and **Veronica Morales** will graduate from the *Spanish Department*. This will bring to a total of nine that have graduated this year.

Please, if possible, make plans to attend one or both of these activities. It is always an exciting time to see the men, that have studied so hard, make their way to the podium to receive their Diploma.

Graduation is, also, a time when the wives that have completed the *Wives' Program* receive their Diploma. Although the *Wives' Program* is not as rigid as the program that the husbands go through they, never the less, have put in much time to get to this point and are to be congratulated. We are always proud of both the husbands and wives that complete all the necessary work that will allow them to graduate and pray that they will be successful in the work that they will do for the kingdom.

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.

BEN BOWEN

Bill & Vivian Wren

BRUCE BOWEN

Bill & Vivian Wren

RACHAEL BREWER

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

MATTIE DABNEY

Richard Dabney

ROBERT FRIESEN

Gary & Mary Murphy

KATHRYN LAUDERDALE

Jim & Shirley Willcox

MARIE PENNINGTON

Carolyn Bell
Julia Bridges
Larry & Vicki McWilliams
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Jack & MaryLea Stephens
Bobby & June Watts
Gwen Woodard

BERNICE RANKIN

Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts

ELSIE ROPER

Bob & Marcia Stapleton

MARGARET SAMPLES

Gary & Mary Murphy

BILL STROUD

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Jack & MaryLea Stephens
Bobby & June Watts
Bill & Vivian Wren

HELEN STURGEON

Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts

GWYNETH SURBER

Lennis & Jean Cearley

WARREN TITUS

Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Jack & MaryLea Stephens
Bobby & June Watts

STEVE WILSON

Jack & MaryLea Stephens

MIL WEAVER

Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts

WALTER WOODARD

Jack & MaryLea Stephens
Jim & Shirley Willcox
Bill & Vivian Wren

ELLEN LUCILLE YORK

Charles & Carolyn Curtis
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Bobby & June Watts
Bill & Vivian Wren

Sermon Starters

IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST TOO DOGMATIC? -

Matthew 7:21 - 23

INTRODUCTION:

1. The religious world has often been critical of us, claiming that we are too dogmatic in matters of faith.
2. The word dogmatic actually means "positive in manner or utterance."
 - A. However present usage implies that when one is dogmatic he contends that the position he is holding is true and all others cannot be true.
 1. It means, "It just cannot be any other way."
3. Many say that to be dogmatic is wrong in religious matters.
 - A. But these same people see no problem at all with being such in other areas.
 1. For example 1 & 1 is 2, and it just can't be any other way.
4. Look into God's Word for the truth on this.
 - A. Does the Bible teach that it is wrong to be dogmatic when it comes to religious matters?

BODY:

1. GOD IS DOGMATIC

- A. If the Bible condemns dogmatism, then God stands condemned.
- B. God is, was, and will always be dogmatic in every statement of fact, precept, and promise that He has given.
 1. He could be none other way and still be an infallibly true God.
- C. To deny that God is positive and absolute is to limit His righteousness, omnipotence and omniscience.
 1. This would be infidelity.
- D. God says what He means, means what He says, and does not deal in "maybe so" when it comes to His commands.
- E. He demands absolute submission to His will, tolerates no quibbling, and respects no other way but His own.
 1. Actually God is the absolute in dogmatism.
- F. Let's notice some examples:
 1. In the offerings of Cain and Abel he was dogmatic - Genesis 4:3-7; Hebrews 11:4.
 2. When Moses built the tabernacle, God was dogmatic in telling him how - Exodus 25:40.
 3. He was dogmatic when it came to Moses speaking to the rock - Numbers 20:12.
 4. He was dogmatic about the keeping of the Sabbath - Numbers 16:32-36.
- G. God means for things to be done just as He commands.

2. JESUS IS DOGMATIC

- A. If the Bible condemns dogmatism then Jesus stands condemned.
 1. Due to the fact that Jesus was God in the flesh, He could be no different.
- B. Many of the plain, dogmatic, cutting statements

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Sermon Starters - Continued

of Jesus would be shocking to the religionist of today who stands afraid to make definite and plain statements.

1. In Matthew 23 Jesus pointedly speaks of the hypocrisy of the Pharisee, and pulls no punches - Matthew 23:14, 23, 27, 33.
- C. Notice some of the "milder" dogmatic statements:
 1. On divorce and remarriage - Matthew 5:32; 19:9.
 2. On entering the kingdom - Matthew 7:21-23.
 3. On belief - John 8:24
 4. On repentance - Luke 13:3.
 5. On baptism - Mark 16:16.

3. THE APOSTLES WERE DOGMATIC

- A. Here, too, if the Bible condemns dogmatism then all the apostles' stand condemned.
 1. They followed in the steps of the Master.
- B. Some examples of their dogmatic teachings:
 1. Baptism - Romans 6:3, 4; Galatians 3:26, 27.
 2. The one church - Ephesians 4:4; 1:22, 23.
 3. Dogmatic in regards to reconciliation to God "in the body" - Ephesians 2:16.

4. THE APOSTLES TAUGHT OTHERS TO BE DOGMATIC

- A. Paul taught Timothy to be dogmatic - 2 Timothy 4:2.
 1. This is both inclusive and exclusive.
 2. It includes all the Word includes, and excludes all the Word excludes.
- B. Peter's statement in 1 Peter 4:11 was dogmatic.
- C. John's statement taught dogmatism - 2 John 9.
- D. Jude taught dogmatism - Jude 3.

CONCLUSION:

1. Yes, I claim without fear of punishment from God, to be of such an attitude.
 - A. We are dogmatic in standing for the things, and only the things taught in the New Testament.

News from Alumni/Alumni News

Mark Teske (2003)

Mark is serving as the Director of Operations and Programming for **GBN**, effective January 1, 2012. **GBN** provides sound, Gospel programming 24/7 via satellite signal to 20 cable systems, over the internet, and to over 500 million potential viewers through Android, iOS and Roku apps. He will be moving to Olive Branch, MS in November and overseeing the relocation of **GBN** from Ringgold, GA to the new **GBN** building in Olive Branch, in December.

Cesar Guarjardo (2008)

Cesar is preaching for the South Main church of Christ, 1101 South Main Street, Baytown, Texas. His address is 13 W. Nazro, Baytown, TX 77520. He can be reached at 903-376-3571 or andresnatanahel@gmail.com

Alumni Association Information

For the past three years the **Alumni Association** has conducted its **Annual BTSOP Alumni Association Lectureship** at the Brown Trail church building. Each year, the Lectureship is held the first weekend in August, with lessons brought by those that have graduated from **BTSOP**. The only exception to this is the **Alumni Association** has been kind enough to allow me to speak. If you would like to obtain a copy of the Lectureship Book, please contact **J.J. Hendrix** at 817-268-3222.

Additionally, the **Alumni Association** has printed the following books that are on sale and can be ordered postage paid through J.J. for \$10.00 each.

Alumni Amassment - Baptism
3rd Annual BTSOP Spanish Alumni Lectureship
Memorizing God's Word by Willie Alvarenga

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.

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P.O. BOX 210667, BEDFORD, TX 76095. A work of the Brown Trail Church of Christ.