

# 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 2014  
No. 90

## From the Director's Desk

Robert Stapleton

### ELDERS

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Kevin Carroll  
Guy Elliott  
Larry Rice  
Bobby Watts

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Robert Stapleton

### DEAN OF STUDENTS

Pat McIntosh

### FACULTY

Willie Alvarenga  
Gerald Ball  
Bill Burk  
Robert Dodson  
Ken Gardner  
Ken Hope  
Jesse Martinez  
Pat McIntosh  
Randall Morris  
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Richard Stevens III

### FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Tavaris Armstrong

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As this issue of *Fulfilling the Ministry* is being written Willie Alvarenga and the students are attending the *Spiritual Sword Lectureship*. I do not know how many years our students have been attending

these lectures, but I know it has been several. We appreciate the *Getwell* congregation for their efforts, along with the financial support that they provide in paying for half of the motel expenses. We are confident that the students will benefit from attending this year, as they have in the past. If you would like to help offset the other half of the expenses for the motel please send your donation, and mark your check *Student Enrichment Fund*.

The Campaign/Gospel Meeting that the English Department students conducted for the *Antioch church of Christ in Ramer, Tennessee* was a success. Each year our students assist congregations in this way, providing the students with learning experiences and assisting the local congregation in their outreach program. If your congregation is interested in such an effort in 2015 or beyond, please contact us, indicating your interest.

It hardly seems possible that 2015 is right around the corner. If you know of any potential students that would be interested in learning more about *BTSOP*, please contact us. Our field representative, *Tavaris Armstrong*, will be in touch with them. Additionally, *Tavaris* would be happy to visit with your congregation and discuss our program with you.

## MTSM Program

Our *Moving Toward Spiritual Maturity* program continues to reap many benefits for both the students and the school. This program is for students that have recently graduated from High School, and who may be planning on attending college. Recently, I spoke with a man and his wife (at different times) that indicated they sent one of their sons to a university associated with the church, thinking he would be safe, only to have him leave the church after attending there. Both, with tears in their eyes, said that was the worst mistake they made in rearing their children. This program can help with this problem. If you have a student getting ready to graduate High School, why not contact us about how we can help?

## Spanish Department

We are receiving regular requests from congregations throughout the brotherhood that are looking Spanish speaking preachers that can work with their Spanish works or for bilingual preachers that can work with their congregation, and fit into their bilingual communities. Our *Spanish Department* is helping to fill that void. We appreciate the efforts being put forth in this area that will have eternal benefits. Your continued support of this effort provides us with the ability to train men that can go forth here in the US, and other places preaching the Word in Spanish. If you would like to support this work, please contact us and we will let you know how.

## Fill In Preaching

With holidays coming up, many congregations will need assistance with someone to fill in for their preacher that is away visiting. Please take note that with graduation coming up, our list of students will be dramatically decreased, so we will be short handed. If you need help, please call as soon as possible

## Btradio.net

Please help us pass the word that **BTRADIO.NET** is aired over the Internet at **www.btradio.net** and **www.KnowTheTruthRadio.org**.

For those of you who have a smart phone or tablet, you can download the **TuneIn Radio** App and access our programs on your portable device. Once you have downloaded the App, search for **Brown Trail Radio** and select it. You can then save that in the Favorites area and be able to access our programs whenever and wherever you are, so long as you have phone service.

## Btradio.net Schedule

Do You Know the Truth? Sounding off on the Scriptures	Monday	6:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
What is Truth?	Monday	7:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
Life in the Son	Tuesday	4:30 p.m. 7:45 p.m.
The Way and The Truth	Wednesday	6:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Contending for the Faith	Thursday	6:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Following the Scriptures	Thursday	4:00 p.m. 7:45 p.m.
Biblical Foundations	Friday	7:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
	Mon.-Thur.	7:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
Searching the Scriptures	Mon.-Fri.	6:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

## BTSOP Graduate Program

Our **Graduate Program** will officially begin January 1, 2015. So far several have expressed an interest in it, with one having already sent in his application. If you are interested in this program, please contact us and ask to speak with **Pat McIntosh**. Please note that there is a \$75.00 "application fee" which will help offset extra time spent in record-keeping and costs of diplomas. The courses listed below are being offered. Please look the list over carefully. We think you can see a wide range of courses that will help you grow in your knowledge of God's Word.

### Courses

Advanced Hermeneutics  
Old Testament Theology  
Leadership  
Ethics

The Church in a Postmodern Society  
Bible Geography and Archaeology  
Advanced Introduction to the Old Testament  
Advanced Introduction to the New Testament  
Advanced Church History  
Advanced Apologetics

Please note that each course will require a similar workload with each course having a required reading load of three to five books. There will be a booklist provided with the syllabus. If a book is unavailable, the student may get permission to substitute a book with the approval of the instructor. Each student will also submit a book critique/review, using the format provided in the syllabus.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

## Graduate Program Continued

This critique will be some five to six pages in length. The student will write a 20-25 page paper on a topic provided by the instructor. If no topic is provided, the student will have the freedom to write on a topic of his choosing included in the subject matter. Outlines/Introductions may also be required, based on the desire of the instructor.

Additional information is available on our web site. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

## Fulfilling the Ministry

Please let us know if you would like to receive your copy of **Fulfilling the Ministry** via the Internet.

## BTSOP 2014 Graduation

Please note that the graduation banquet will be Friday night, December 12th at 6:30 p.m. and the graduation service will be Sunday, December 14th at 2:00 p.m. You are cordially invited to each of these activities to encourage those that will be completing their studies.

# 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.

## ABRAHAM DAVID

Julia Bridges  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

## GLORIA HICKS

Julia Bridges  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

## R.E. HOGUE

Julia Bridges  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

## LOUISE MOONEY

Julia Bridges  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton  
Jack & Mary Lea Stephens

## RICK RAMSEY

Julia Bridges  
Debbie Morris  
Carl & Doris Powell  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton  
Jack & Mary Lea Stephens

## RUBY ROBINSON

Julia Bridges  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

## HELON SELF

Julia Bridges  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

## GARY SELBY

Julia Bridges  
Dean & Johna Mannen  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton  
Jack & Mary Lea Stephens

## TERRI SHEARER

Julia Bridges  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

## JERRY STAYTON

Julia Bridges  
Donna Brinkley  
Carl & Doris Powell  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

## RON SNOW

Julia Bridges  
Carl & Doris Powell  
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

# Sermon Starters

## WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A GOSPEL PREACHER 1 Corinthians 9:16

### INTRODUCTION:

1. The gospel message is the purest and sweetest message we can ever hear.
  - A. It is the perfect panacea for sin.
2. Our love for this message should continue unabated over all the years.
3. The only thing comparable to hearing this message is the high privilege and pleasure of preaching it to others.

### BODY:

1. **CERTAIN QUALITIES ARE TO BE POSSESSED**
  - A. Learning is indispensable - 2 Timothy 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:15.
    1. Obtaining a diploma is good, but just to graduate from a learning institution does not make one a gospel preacher.
  - B. There must be compulsion.
    1. Gospel preachers should be compelled by the need and impelled by the beauty and plea of the gospel - 1 Corinthians 9:16.
  - C. There must be conviction.
    1. One must be convicted that there is actually a message that plainly pictures the way back to God, and that this message is plainly pictured in God's Word, and that it is the only message of salvation for a lost world - Romans 1:16; Hebrews 4:12.
  - D. There must be commitment.
    1. There has to be an "I've got to keep on for as long as I can" attitude.
    2. Can one commit their whole life to such a task?
    3. There is a lost world out there, and the only message that can save them is the one we preach.
  - E. There must be humility
    1. It takes buckets of humility to make one a faithful preacher of the Word.
    2. When humility eludes us, we turn to man's philosophies, funny stories, physical theatrics, and ear-tickling sermonettes.
    3. It takes humility to search out the true doctrine of Christ, to learn it, to love it, to live it, and to have an undying urge to preach it to lost and dying men and women.
2. **PAUL'S INSPIRED COMMANDS TO A PREACHER**
  - A. Timothy was assigned a task, and was told he would be a good minister by being faithful to that task - 1 Timothy 4:6.
    1. The word "minister" means servant.
      - A. Thus, Timothy would be a good servant if he performed faithfully his duty as a preacher.
    2. Preachers do have a ministry
      - A. We must earn the right to be heard.
        1. We must pay our dues.
        2. We must model our sermons.

### This Form Is Provided For Your Convenience

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## Class Material Available

**Class notes are now available on the Book of James.** This is in addition to the class material that we have available on a number of the books of the Bible. Each outline costs around \$5.00 per outline, plus shipping. If you would like a list of what is available, please let us know, and we will email you the list.

Also, we have a number of sermon outline books available. There are 50 outlines in each book, and the cost is the same as the class outline books.

## Sermon Starters - Continued

- B. Consider Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 9:20-23.
  - 1. This is literally making your life what your message is.
- C. We, too, must visit the sick, counsel the troubled, and bury the dead.
  - 1. We, too, must be available and accessible.
  - 2. We must "demonstrate" what we preach.
- B. Gospel preachers must exercise themselves unto godliness - 1 Timothy 4:8.
  - 1. Piety and reverence will make rebellion, egotism and arrogance impossible.
- C. "These things command and teach" - 1 Timothy 4:11.
  - 1. It takes authority to command.
    - A. Whence came Timothy's authority?
      - 1. He was a young man, but he spoke for God.
      - 2. He advanced not his own ideas, nor did he do it according to his own will.
- E. "Take heed unto thyself" - 1 Timothy 4:16.
  - 1. Here is the key verse in becoming a gospel preacher.
- F. "Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" - 2 Timothy 2:3.
  - 1. Soldiers must be willing to suffer hardships.
- G. "Preach the word: be urgent in season. out of season; reprove rebuke exhort with all. longsuffering and doctrine" - 2 Timothy 4:2.
  - 1. Paul's final charge to Timothy.

### CONCLUSION:

- 1. The very thought of being able to preach a soul-saving message fills us with fire and lifetime commitment to proclaim the good news.
  - A. There are millions of lost people in the world.
    - 1. If we can preach at all, how can we keep from doing so?

## Sermon Starters - Continued

- 2. When next you get up to preach, may you realize that there is nothing more important happening in your town that very hour.
  - A. What you are about to do is exceeded by nothing else that is taking place.
  - B. Because your message is the most important thing being spoken, the spokesperson is the most important speaker in town.
    - 1. This will not send you on an ego trip.
    - 2. But should be the most humbling experience of your life!
- 3. Those who speak publicly are going to be the ones to bring us back to the pure, beautiful wonderful and saving words of the gospel of Christ.

## News from Alumni

### Danny Cornish (1967)

**Danny** is presently involved with Jail Ministry, working with the Tonkawa church of Christ. They have BCC students in about 10 cities and three states.

### Eddie Parrish (1990)

**Eddie** began work with the Graeber Road congregation in Rosenberg, Texas in August. Their address is 3019 Sage Grouse Court, Rosenberg, TX 77471. Their phone numbers and email remain the same.

### David Gardner (2008)

**David** and **Jessica** are the proud parents of **Judah Charles**, born October 19th at 6:50 p.m. All are doing well, including grandparents **Kenny** and **Belinda Gardner** (1979).

**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.

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