



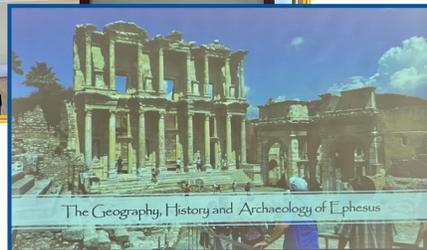
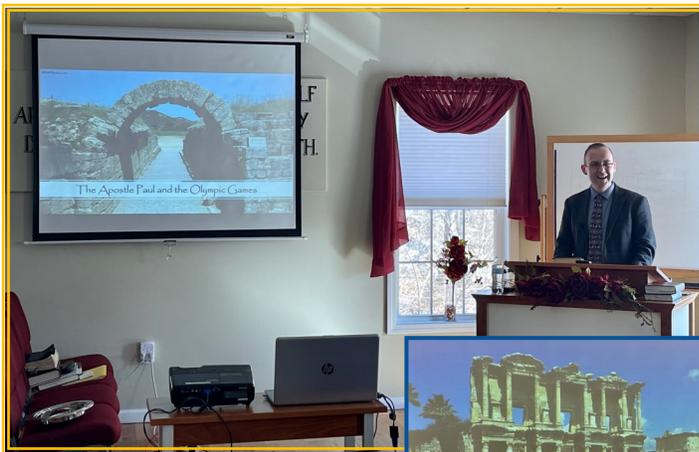
# BBC UPDATE

## MR. TOM BAKER



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

On Sunday, March 13, 2022, Mr. Tom Baker from Ireland gave slide presentations on the archeological background to the New Testament. Specifically, he presented archeological background on these subjects: Sunday School: “The Apostle Paul and the Olympics;” the AM Service: “The Archaeology of Ephesus;” PM: “The Archaeology of the Armour of God in Ephesians; 6:10-20.” The presentations were excellent with the archeological background to many New Testament passages, giving a focus on the context of the first century. Brother Baker received the Master of Biblical Studies from Bible Baptist Theological Seminary in 2015 and also graduated in 2021 from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland with a focus on ancient archeology. He preaches in various churches in Ireland and is a member of Good News Baptist Church in Mullingar, Ireland, shepherded by Pastor Gene McKinley, another graduate of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary in 2017. The biblical and historical challenges were a blessing to all.



Pastor with Brother Baker



Dave and Tom compare travel photos during the mealtime.



Tom and Jeff enjoy a laugh.

### Limerick for Irishman Tom Baker

His enemies called him a troublesome BLOKE,  
 But he declared in his best English, “I ain’t no JOKE,”  
 He continued to serve the Lord  
 By sharpening his sword;  
 Thus edifying the BBC saints when he SPOKE!

## INTRODUCTION

Of recent, prophecy gurus and biblical ignoramuses have attempted to find the fulfillment of the Gog and Magog<sup>1</sup> prophecy in the Russian-Ukraine conflict. The key Scriptures that reveal the **People**, the **Place**, the **Period**, the **Protection**, and the **Punishment** relative to the Gog/Magog conflict are following (Ezk. 38:1-39:13 and Rev. 20:7-10). Jehovah revealed to the prophet Ezekiel the coming invasion, saying, “*Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him*” (Ezk. 38:2).<sup>2</sup>

First, the **People** involved in the attack are the “*people of Israel*”<sup>3</sup> in the Promised Land dwelling in safety. Ezekiel prophesied, saying, “*Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?*” (Ezk. 38:14). The enemy will include the king Gog and the land of Magog which will come from the north. Ezekiel revealed, saying, “*And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army*” (Ezk. 38:15; see also 38:6 and 39:2). Geographical directions in Scripture usually refer to Jerusalem as the focal point, making the North being modern day Russia, and the “*kings of the East*” (Rev. 16:12) being China (*Sinim* [Isa. 49:12]), and the “*king of the South*” (Dan. 11:40) being Saudi Arabia. In the Gog and Magog battle, other nations will join Russia, as Ezekiel stated, saying, “*Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet*” (Ezk. 38:5).

Second, the **Place** of the battle will occur on “*the mountains of Israel.*” The prophet revealed, saying, “*After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them*” (Ezk. 38:8), and again, “*And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel...Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured*” (Ezk. 39:2, 4; cf. also 39:17). Significant for the expression of “*the mountains of Israel*” is that it refers to the united nation during the Millennium, as the prophet Ezekiel stated, saying, “*And I will make them **one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel**; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all*” (Ezk. 37:22).

Third, the **Period** of time for the battle presents a conundrum of temporality. The weapons of this conflict will burn for seven years, as Ezekiel prophesied, saying, “*And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and*

<sup>1</sup>Gog (I Chr. 5:4) refers to the ruler and Magog (Gen. 10:2) refers to his land.

<sup>2</sup>Some have speculated that the names in the Bible refer to *Rosh* (see Hebrew text of Ezk. 38:2) as Russia itself, *Meshech* as Moscow, and *Tubal* equated with Tobolsk in Siberia. Hebrew is the heavenly language of God (Acts 26:14) and was the original language of Adam in the Garden, and it was subsequently confounded (Gen. 3, 10-11). These Russian locations may have received their location names from the Hebrew language.

<sup>3</sup>The term “*Israel*” occurs 18x in Ezk. 38-39.

*they shall burn them with fire seven years: So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD*” (Ezk. 39:9-10). The conundrum appears since Daniel’s eschatological prophecy for Israel revealed that the seventieth week would be the seven year Tribulation (Dan. 9:24-27; 12:11-13; Rev. 11:1-3). If the seven years of burning is taken literally, which it should be, how is this seven years reckoned? One key to this is the prophecy of the official cleansing of the place of animal sacrifices for the Millennial Temple. Daniel prophesied, saying, “*Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*” (Dan. 8:13-14). From the midpoint of the Tribulation the Millennial Temple will finally be ready for worship some 2300 days later. Since the last half of the Tribulation will be 1260 days, the cleansing of the site for animal sacrifices in the Millennial Temple will be 1040 days or 2.9 years into the Millennium. The total time of days from the beginning of the Tribulation to the cleansing of the Millennial Temple will be (1260 days + 1260 days + 1040 days or a total of 3560 days Presumably, the seven year burning of the weapons, defiling the land, will occur before the cleansing for worship in the Millennial Temple. If the seven years (7 x 360 days = 2520 days) of burning is subtracted from the total time of Tribulation (2520 days) plus the time in the Millennium until cleansing (1040 days), or 3560 days, the burning will occur after the defeat of Gog and Magog 1040 days into the Tribulation, or about 2.9 (1040/360 days = 2:9 years) years into the Tribulation. This will give the Antichrist time in the first half of the seven year Tribulation to make a covenant with Israel and giving the Jewish people temporary protection and un-walled cities (Dan. 9:26-27; Rev. 6:1-2). Thus, the period of time in eschatology for the Gog and Magog battle will occur almost three years into the Tribulation.<sup>4</sup>

Fourth, the **Protection** of Israel will occur when Antichrist makes a covenant with the Jewish nation offering safety and permission to build the Tribulation Temple, since he will have vested interest in the Temple (see Dan. 9:26-27, Mt. 24:15, and II Thes. 2:3-4). Again, Daniel revealed truth about the Antichrist, saying, “*And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate*” (Dan. 9:26-27). The Antichrist will be a Japhethite (*Magog* > *Japheth* [Gen. 10:2]), the prince of the Revived Roman Empire, and presumably will rule as dictator over North America and Western Europe (Dan. 2:42-45; Rev. 17:12-13). He will bring temporary peace on earth as John revealed, saying, “*And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had*

<sup>4</sup>It seems that the only alternative to these biblical parameters would be a temporal hiatus between the Rapture of Christians and the beginning of the Tribulation and the Antichrist making the covenant with Israel, for the seven year burning to begin. That would place the Gog and Magog battle between the Rapture and the Tribulation, but how would Israel have safety if no covenant?!

a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer” (Rev. 6:1-2). Soon after the Antichrist has established “world-wide” peace, the rebellious nations will remove this feigned peace by wars and rumors of wars which will occur (Rev. 6:3-4; Mt. 24:6).

And fifth, the **Punishment** of Gog/Magog will occur at the hands of the LORD, who said through the prophet Ezekiel, asserting, “*And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD*” (Ezk. 39:6), and “*And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone*” (Ezk. 38:22). The LORD will defeat the invaders of Gog/Magog with natural disasters.

The Apostle John revealed that later in history, after the Millennium and the unloosing of devil, that Satan will revive the wicked and attempt to overthrow Jerusalem with the final Gog/Magog uprising, receiving immediate defeat from the Lord Jesus Christ. The prophet said, “*And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, **Gog and Magog**, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever*” (Rev. 20:7-10).

### CONCLUSION

It should be obvious that the warring events that are occurring between Russia and Ukraine are not the fulfillment of the biblical Gog/Magog conflict in the Bible. The **People** are the Jews and Gog of the north with other countries, the **Place** will occur in the mountains of Israel, the **Period** will be during the first half of the Tribulation, the **Protection** refers to the Antichrist’s covenant of safety for Israel, and the **Punishment** on the Gog and Magog movement will occur on the mountains of Israel with supernatural destruction there and elsewhere. The Gog/Magog battle has not begun!

## DR. JED RAQUINTAN

**D**r. Jed Raquintan, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Quezon City, Philippines will preach at Bible Baptist Church on Sunday, April 3, 2022. His presence in the USA is to preach at Community Baptist Church in Coopersburg, PA at their Missions Conference and then visit Bible Baptist Church. He is the former pastor of recent Bible Baptist Church member Aiko Tinte. Dr. Raquintan received his ThD from Bible Baptist Theological Seminary and has a significant Bible preaching and teaching church and college ministry in the Philippines.



---

## BBTS SPRING LECTURE SERIES

---

The Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Thirteenth Annual Lecture Series will be held on April 15, 2022 at Galilean Baptist Church in Stafford Springs, CT, hosted by Pastor and Mrs. Stephen Hinebaugh. The sessions will begin at 9 AM with a noon luncheon and concluding by 3 PM. A book table will be available with many recent volumes and reprints. The lecture with syllabi will deal with **“The Ephesian Baptist Church: Her History, Doctrine, and Longevity.”** Please RSVP by 4-1-22.

The Ephesian Baptist Church was a significant biblical assembly in the first century, having been started by the Apostle Paul, and having received the canonical books of Ephesians, I and II Timothy, and Revelation, and probably the Johannine canonical literature (John, I John, II John, and III John) as well. Luke dealt with the Ephesian church in Acts 19, 20, and 21. The assembly had a history of existence for at least forty years. The Ephesian Baptist Assembly became the model for all biblical churches. Thus, the immense value of studying this significant Asian church helps modern churches have a pattern for doctrine and practice. Timothy received instruction from Paul, who demanded, saying, *“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus”* (II Tim. 1:13). The word for *“form”* (*hupotuposin*) means a “sketch” or “outline” concerning *“sound”* (*hugiainonton*) or healthy words. The words of Scripture need to be preached because they have heavenly authority. Too often American churches, whether emerging, fundamentalist, or even independent, have succumbed to the non-authoritative, western opinions and standards with associated entrenched guilt and shame, and forced man’s “form” on those who would rather seek the biblical form of sound words. What was the position of the Ephesian Baptist Church on preaching, assembling, accountability, pastoral oversight, politics, government congeniality, church agility, size, money, or pastoral or personal hubris? Paul’s words to Timothy and the Ephesian assembly are the outline for the biblical church. How may the Lord’s assemblies stay within the lines of Paul’s outline?

---

## GRADUATION WEEKEND

---

Plans for the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary graduation weekend include two dissertation defenses, the Graduation Banquet, and the Graduation service. First, on Friday, May 13, 2022 (6-8 PM), Mr. M. Ryan Strouse will defend his Doctoral Dissertation on the subject, *“Turn Ye Unto Me,”* An Exegesis of the Book of Zechariah (506 pp.). On Saturday, May 14, 2022 (10 AM-Noon), Mr. Clint Schreiber will defend his Doctoral Dissertation on the subject of *“I Know that my Redeemer Liveth,”* An Examination of the Book of Job (328 pp.). At 5:00 PM on Saturday, May 14, 2022, Bible Baptist Church will honor the eight candidates for graduation with a banquet at the Marriott Courtyard, Cromwell, CT (nursery provided). On Sunday, May 15, 2022, the regular church services will meet at 10 AM (Sunday School), 11 AM (Preaching), and 12:30 PM (Commencement). The candidates include Mr. Andrew Williams (Certificate of Theology); three international students from Bible Baptist Church of Dubai: Mr. Avelino DeGuzman, Jr., Mrs. Mary Jane DeGuzman, and Mr. Ramil Radok, Master of Biblical Studies, *in absentia*; Pastor Adam Shedal, Master of Biblical Studies, Pastor David Smith, Master of Biblical Studies, Mr. M. Ryan Strouse, Master of Theology; Mr. Clint Schreiber, Doctor of Theology; and Mr. M. Ryan Strouse, Doctor of Theology. We are thankful for these serious students of Scripture and pray for the Lord’s future blessings as they serve the precious Saviour Jesus Christ.



## TAKE COURAGE



Pastor Cas Reeves

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” John 1:1-2*

What a truth! Here is a great truth of the Bible, revealed to us. Notice: *“in the beginning”* is reiterated, mentioned first in verse one and again in verse two. This emphasizes that before all creation and at the beginning of creation was the Word. In Genesis it is revealed as, *“God said...”* (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26). God spoke everything into existence by his audible word. But the great truth is that his Word is the person of Jesus Christ. *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth”* (John 1:14).

Jesus is God without question. Declared by the Word of God and spoken by Jesus, the Word, *“I and my Father are one”* (John 10:30). The Apostle Paul describes Jesus Christ to the Colossians as the one: *“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven and that are in earth...all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist”* (Colossians 1:15-17).

Jesus, the Word, *“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Philippians 2:6,9-11).

Yes, Christians, you can take to heart and trust every Word that Jesus ever spoke, because he is God (John 1:1). Remember his parting word of promise, *“lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”* (Matthew 28:20). Take courage Christian, you have God’s Word, that He is always with you. The powerful, creative Word of God promises you - no matter what the situation you find yourself in - He is there.

6

## QUOTES FROM THE PAST

*“Liberty? Independence? Are they to remain only words? Gentlemen, let us make them fighting words!”*



Nathan Hale

1755-1776  
American Patriot

## BBC/BBTS 2022 SCHEDULE

**April 15, 2022**

13th Annual BBTS Spring Lecture Series  
Galilean Baptist Church

**May 15, 2022**

13th Annual BBTS Commencement Service

**June 6-10**

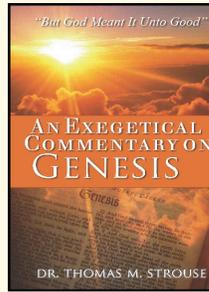
Community Baptist Church  
Coopersburg, PA  
*“The Johannine Epistles”*

**August 22-26**

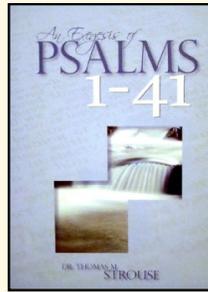
Fairhaven Baptist College  
Chesterton, IN  
*Acts, Vol. 1 (Chapters 1-9)*

# THE BOOK CORNER

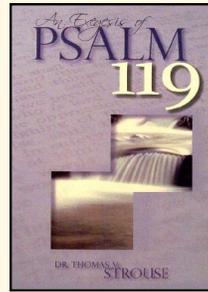
These books may be purchased through  
 Bible Baptist Church  
 40 Country Squire Rd.  
 Cromwell, CT 06416  
 860-229-5387  
 drtms\_bbts@juno.com



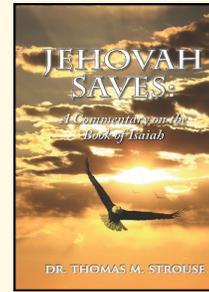
Genesis \$20.00



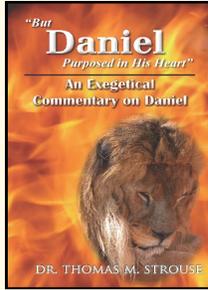
Psalms 1-41 \$20.00



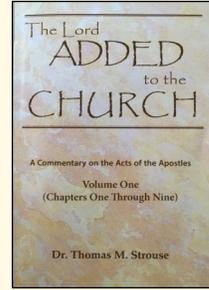
Psalm 119 \$20.00



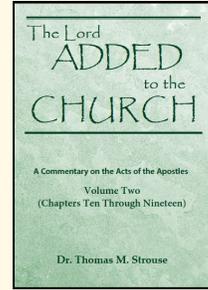
Isaiah \$20.00



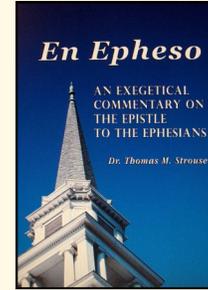
Daniel \$20.00



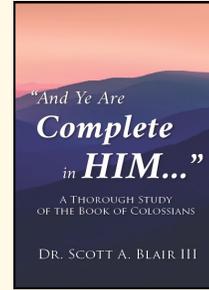
Acts 1-9 \$30.00



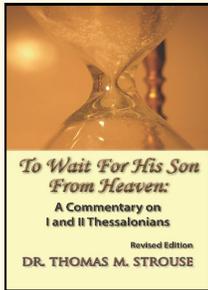
Acts 10-19 \$40.00



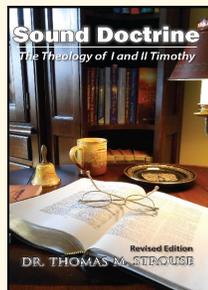
Ephesians \$20.00



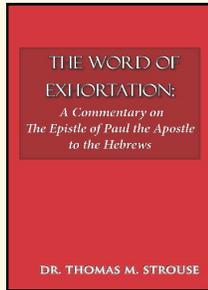
Colossians \$20.00



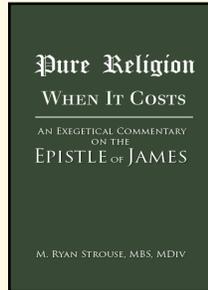
1 & 2 Thessalonians \$20.00



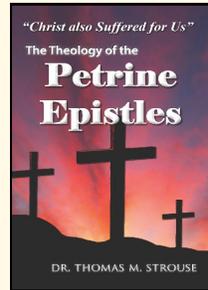
1 & 2 Timothy \$20.00



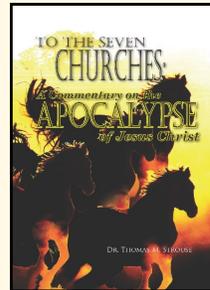
Hebrews \$30.00



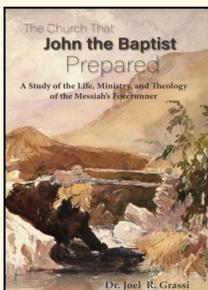
James \$30.00



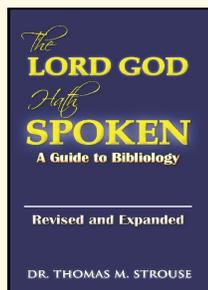
1 & 2 Peter \$20.00



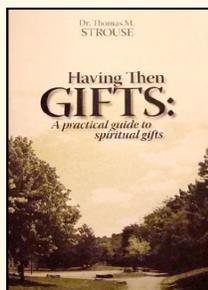
Revelation \$30.00



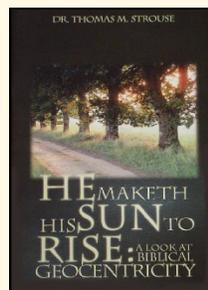
John the Baptist \$35.00



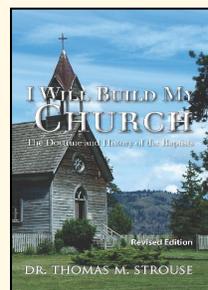
Bibliology \$15.00



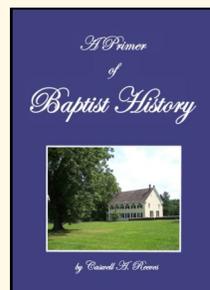
Spiritual Gifts \$8.00



Geocentricity \$10.00

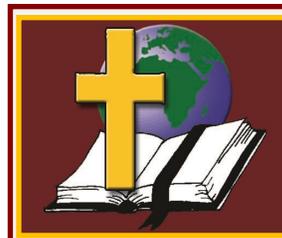
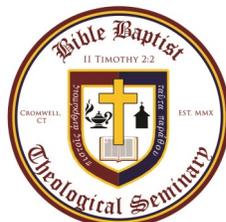


Baptist Doctrine & History \$15.00



Baptist History \$20.00

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send an email to: drtms\_bbts@juno.com



**Bible Baptist Theological Seminary**  
 A Ministry of Bible Baptist Church  
 40 Country Squire Drive  
 Cromwell, CT 06416  
 860-613-2096  
 www.bbc-cromwell.org