



BBC UPDATE

Onward to Heaven in 2011!

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor



Dr. Strouse

As Baptist Bible Church anticipates the coming year of 2011, the truth that Heaven is imminent is certainly obvious. Our motto will be *"Onward to Heaven in 2011"* as we consider the reality of three possibilities. First, by God's grace we desire to win more sinners, locally, nationally, and internationally, to the Lord. As sinners are saved from the penalty of sin, they therefore are redirected from the destiny of Hell to that of Heaven (cf. Jn. 3:16). Second, the Scriptures liken life to a vapor which *"appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away"* (Jam. 4:14). This year some of us may awake alive with Christ in Heaven (Phil. 1:21).

Third, the Rapture may occur at any moment. Believers are not looking for signs but the Saviour, as Paul enjoined, saying, *"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ"* (Phil. 3:20). Albeit there is a tendency to think eschatologically with the political/economic/religious vicissitudes of America, the Second Coming of Christ is not dependent upon the status of the USA. In fact, during the last three and half years of the Tribulation, the antichrist will attempt to maintain his position as "President of the United States of the World" (Rev. 13:1-4). He will gain this position as the leaders of the Revived Roman Empire promote this former "President of the United States of Europe" (Rev. 17:16-17). By this time, the United States of America will be absorbed into the political/economic/religious Tribulation morass, having lost her identity, borders, sovereignty, financial stability and independence, Christian heritage, etc. There is only one thing certain until the Lord comes back: His churches will be propagated and supported by His people (Mt. 28:19-20).

New Seminarian in Cromwell!

The Lord has led Pastor Steven Liauw, and his wife Daisy and son Stuart, to come to BBTS for the completion of his ThD work. Dr. Liauw is a medical doctor from Indonesia, and son of Dr. Suhento Liauw, one of my former seminarians and good friend in the Lord. I have known Steven for over fifteen years as he attended high school with some of my children in VA. Dr. Liauw is the dean and professor of his father's Seminary and Bible College under the aegis of Graphe Independent Baptist Church in Jakarta, Indonesia. Dr. Liauw and his family will be in BBC for over five months as he finishes his doctoral courses and dissertation. Pray for him and his family as they adjust to life in CT.



Above: Steven Liauw,
and his wife Daisy
Right: Their son Stuart



The Lord blessed the first annual Christmas Program on Dec. 19, 2010, as the youth of BBC presented a Christ-honoring program depicting Christmas "Through the Eyes of a Child." How would the birth of Christ affect Mary's sister, the innkeeper's son, a shepherd's son, or a servant's daughter? A special thanks goes to Mrs. Laura Hagglund and her assistants as she directed the program, encouraging the children to memorize their lines and serve the Lord from their hearts.



IRELAND MODULES



^Above: The Weston Airport where the seminar modules are being held in one of their spacious conference rooms.

Right>>: Break time between the modules.



A total of eighteen seminarians from Congo, England, India, Ireland, Korea, Portugal, Romania, and USA took Bibliology and/or Daniel in the Ireland Module hosted by Dr. Robert Zemeski and the River Valley Baptist Church. The seminarians, whether pastors, missionaries or church members, endured for ten hours per day the lectures for these subjects, which courses lead toward their respective degrees from BBTS. Several new students in the seminary attended, as the men and women fellowshiped around the truth of Scripture.



^Above: The morning module of Bibliology -- notice that the room has not warmed up yet!



^Above: The evening module class studying the Book of Daniel -- eighteen different seminarians taking a combination of one or both courses.

More from the BBC Children's Christmas Program



Special thanks to Mrs. Erika Schabert and Mrs. Sara Rossignol for their work on the costumes!



DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Devotional Corner

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Romans 3:23

DON'T FALL INTO THE TRAP by Pastor Cas Reeves

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).



Pastor Cas Reeves

There is no question about it - we've all sinned, and we all know it. Some may not want to acknowledge they've sinned, but we know better. Each of us have recognized from time to time our shortcomings and our failures when it comes to keeping God's commandments. And that is what sin is. It is missing the mark or the goal God has given to us. The Ten Commandments of Exodus chapter twenty, like a road sign, tell us that we are breaking the Law of God and missing the mark He has given to us. *"There is none that doeth good, no not one"* (Romans 3:12).

The problem is - when we think of being a sinner, we like to compare ourselves to other

sinner. We can always find someone who is a greater sinner than ourselves. By comparing ourselves to the greater sinner, we are able some how to justify ourselves as not being too bad. It makes us feel better and soothes the harsh reality of sin. *"There are many devises in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand"* (Proverbs 19:21). God says, we're sinners, and that is what counts. *"Every way of man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts"* (Proverbs 21:2). No matter how we sugar coat our sin, we know the Lord still knows the truth and reality of our hearts.

Now, rather than comparing ourselves to other sinful men, let us compare ourselves to God. Note, God says, we've *"come short the glory of God."* That's right, we've come short of his glory, not the glory of another man. It's the Devil, who would have us compare wrongly, not God; because he abides *"not in the truth, [and] because there is no truth in him"* (John 8:44). Remember, what he did to Eve in the garden? Don't fall into the same trap! God will only help those who recognize and confess their sinful condition. *"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"* (Proverbs 28:13).
-CAR

BBTS Winter Module Schedule

Ireland
Bibliology I and Daniel
January 3 - 7, 2011

Cromwell, CT
The Gospel of Luke
January 17 - 21, 2011

All Classes taught by Dr. T. Strouse

Manchester Bible Study

Continue to pray for the Manchester Bible Study as Mark Schabert teaches the *Gospel of John* to several families who live in the area. This is an effort to practice the Great Commission in Manchester, CT, evangelizing and edifying folks who come to the study. The Bible study is every Friday night at 7 PM. Please contact the pastor for directions.



“For Thou Hast a Little Strength” (Rev. 3:8)

SERMON

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor



Introduction

The Philadelphia immersionist assembly was one of two Asia churches that the Lord commended without condemnation in Rev. 2-3. She had an open door before her with a little strength to minister in this opportunity. Several truths leap from the text concerning the fact that this church had “a little strength” (μικρὰν δύναμιν)

Dr. Strouse

church had “a little strength” (μικρὰν δύναμιν)

I. The Nature of “a little strength”

A. It cannot mean a little supernatural strength.

(All believers have access to Christ’s resurrection power: “And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power” [Eph. 1:19]).

B. It must mean a small church in physical size.

(Christ had a little church: “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Lk. 12:32).

II. The Reason for “a little strength”

A. The Lord uses the small and insignificant. (He

used Gideon’s small army [Jdg. 7:1-8] and the small lunch with a few small fishes to feed the 4000 [Mk. 8:7]).



Dr. Strouse preached on the blessings of a small church at River Valley Baptist Church in Ireland on January 2.

B. He wants man’s heart not his size. (Man looks on the external, the Lord looks on the internal: “But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart” (I Sam. 16:7).

III. The Value of “a little strength”

A. A. The Lord is glorified, not man. (The Lord will not allow His glory to go to man: “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.” [I Cor. 1:26-29]).

B. Man must depend constantly on the Lord. (The Christian church member is not allowed the privilege to be self-sufficient: “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe” [Prov. 29:25], and “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” [II Cor. 12:9]).

Conclusion:

1. Bigness is worldly.
2. Bigness emphasizes man.
3. Big movements are not countenanced by the Bible.
4. Big movements such as Fundamentalism and Moral Majority have failed.
5. Big churches have the tendency to water down NT doctrine and practice.
6. Big churches have the tendency to please man and not God.
7. Christians should not expect or desire their churches to be Big, but to be faithful to the truth.

IRELAND MINISTRY



^Above: Evening Service at River Valley Baptist Church.

Right>> Pastor Zemeski holding the first Romanian Bible coming from the Textus Receptus Greek (behind the KJV).



^Above: Church member Ammon testifying that as a cabbie in London he witnesses to muslims regularly.

Quotes From the Past:

George Washington 1732 - 1899

1st President of the USA



“What students would learn in American schools above all is the religion of Jesus Christ.”

[--George Washington in a speech to the Delaware Indian Chiefs May 12, 1779]

“It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and Bible.”

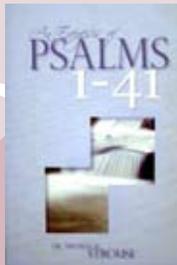
“It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favors.”

THE BOOK CORNER

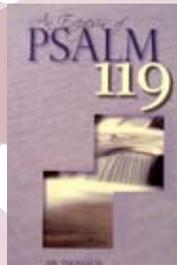
The Book Corner

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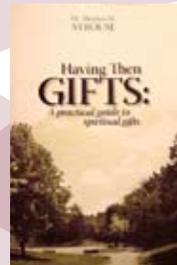
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Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387



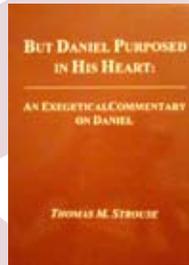
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



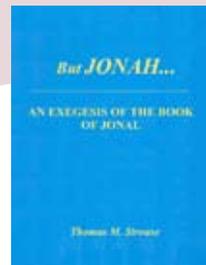
Psalm 119
\$20.00



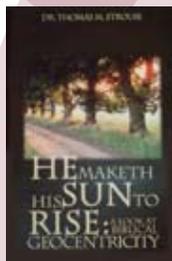
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



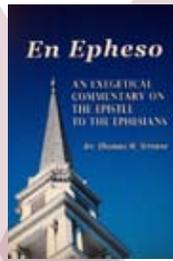
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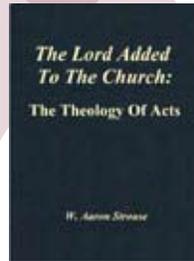
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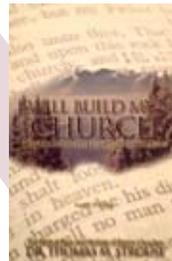
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\$10.00



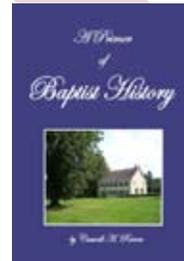
En Epheso
\$20.00



The Theology of Acts
\$20.00



I Will Build My Church
\$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

BBTS Spring Schedule

Monday

Hebrew VI 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Tuesday

Systematic Theology 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Wednesday/Friday

Acts 8:00 - 9:30 AM

Thursday

Greek IV 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Baptist History II 6:00 - 9:00 PM

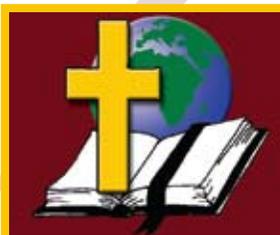
2011 BBTS Spring Calendar

Jan. 3 - 7	Ireland Module
Jan. 17 - 21	Cromwell Module
Jan. 24	Semester Begins
Mar. 15 - 19	Spring Break
April 14	Spring Lecture Series
May 15	Graduation



If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send to the Editor, Cas Reeves, at either

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