

BBC UPDATE

BBTS Second Semester Begins

Dr. Thomas Strouse



The Lord has allowed BBTS to begin second semester classes including elementary Hebrew and Greek as well as advanced Hebrew and Greek courses. Other seminary classes are the books of Hebrews and Revelation. All of these courses lead to various seminary degrees including the COT, BDiv, MBS, MDiv, ThM and ThD degrees. We are thankful to the Lord that He has allowed BBC to be a

Dr. Thomas Strouse training institution in accordance with the Great Commission to train men in the word of God.

Quezon City Bank Breaking

In preparation for the upcoming BBTS modules in the Philippines, the children of BBC collected coins and deposited them into a bamboo bank. On Sunday, the BBC children had the opportunity to count the money in the bank for the Quezon City, Philippines ministry.



Above: Bill and Jeannot bring out the power tools to "break" into the bank!



Above: The children count the donations!



Left: Even the young children help in the effort!



Above: The Greek II class meets on Wednesday nights.



Left: A BBTS Class on the book of Hebrews meets on Thursday nights.

Upcoming BBC Events

Ladies Fellowship

Mrs. Claudia Norwalt will be sharing her testimony and sing several solos at the Second Annual BBC Ladies' Fellowship on **March 10, 2012 at 10 AM to 1 PM**. The ladies of all area churches are invited. **Please RSVP by 3-1-12.**

Quezon City Modules

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse will be teaching two modules (OTI and Gospel of Luke with Medical Terms) at Cornerstone Baptist Church on **Feb. 20-24, 2012**. Pastor Jed Raquintan, recent MDiv graduate of BBTS, will host the modules. Pray for these Filipino seminarians.

BBTS Lecture Series

In conjunction with the BBTS Lecture Series "Who are the Baptists?"; Dr. Joel Grassi will be preaching at BBC on **Wednesday April 18, 2012 at 7 PM**. All are welcome.

BBC HOMESCHOOL

BBC Photos

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BBC Auditorium Renovation

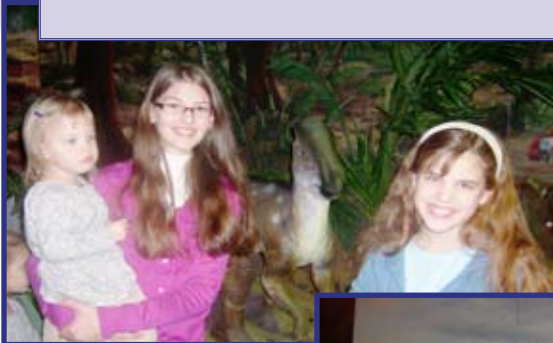


Above: The BBC Homeschool group outside the museum.



Right: A view "inside" the whale!

BBC Homeschoolers enjoyed a field trip to the West Hartford Children's Museum. Some of the children went to science classes such as "Chemical Chaos" and "Cool Science". All the moms and children enjoyed a good day of learning and fellowship!



The children enjoyed the dinosaur exhibits at the museum!



The Doctrine and History of Baptists:

An Overview from the Montanists to Early America

By Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

ARTICLE

I. What is the NT Church?

- A. The Study of the Words "church" and *ekklesia*.
- B. The NT teaching on *ekklesia* in key passages.
- C. The NT teaching on "body" (*soma*) in key passages.
- D. Christ's *ekklesia* is a group of immersed believers covenanted together and assembled around Him as their Head, in submission to His words, and engaged in carrying out the Great Commission (Mt. 16:18; 28:19-20).

II. What is the perpetuity of the NT Church?

- A. Christ promised the perpetuity of His *ekklesia* (Mt. 28:19-20; I Tim. 3:15).
- B. The Book of Acts records the initial perpetuation of the *ekklesia* (e.g., Acts 2; 8; 10; 13-14; 15-18; et al)
- C. History corroborates His promise by showing that there have been immersionist assemblies in every age, indentifying with "John the Baptist-like" tents.

III. What are the Two Major Trails of "Christianity"?

- A. The Trail of Truth: started by Christ, perpetuated by the Apostles, continued by Bible believing Baptists.
- B. The Trail of Error: Accursed "churches" preached false gospel (Gal. 1:6-9), losing candlestick status by requiring works-salvation, including baptismal regeneration teaching.

IV. What is the History of Baptists?

- A. The First Century: Seventy years of inspired Baptist History (Mt. 3 to Rev. 30).
- B. The Second/Third Centuries: Montanists and Novatianists.
 1. Believer's immersion and autonomy of assembly

2. Tertullian converted out of Catholicism.

C. The Fourth Century: Donatists

1. Donatus and followers opposed RCC because of laxness.
2. Augustine debated with them, arguing that the real (pure) church was invisible.

D. The Fifth through Sixteenth Centuries: Waldenses

1. The "Valley people" fled from Inquisitions of RCC.
2. They rejected papal church and infant baptism, and had their own vernacular TR translation.

E. The Sixteenth Century: Anabaptists

1. They opposed the sacral society of RCC, Lutheranism, Anglicanism, and Presbyterianism.
2. They sought religious liberty rather religious toleration.
3. Their main leaders, Hubmaier, Manz, Sattler, M. Simons, etc. were persecuted by sacral society devotees.

F. The Seventeenth through Twenty-first Centuries:

1. They established many churches in Europe and America and effectuated religious liberty.
2. They were tolerated (Toleration Act of 1689) and then tolerated Protestants (particularly Reformed [Presbyterians])

V. What is the History of the Doctrine of the Universal Invisible Church?

- A. Plato's catholicity influenced the first century Greco-Roman world.
- B. Ignatius argued that wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the "catholic church."

Continued on Page 4

ARTICLE

Continued from Page 3

- C. Cyprian argued that "outside the church there is no salvation," equating ecclesiology with soteriology.
- D. Augustine admitted that the visible (catholic) church was corrupt and therefore the true church was the realm of the elect.
- E. Luther was excommunicated from the visible RCC, and therefore sought membership in the "invisible church."
- F. Calvin identified the elect with the catholic church (going back into the OT).
- G. The Act of Toleration of 1689 gave Baptists and Quakers respite from persecution.
- H. John Gill (1697-1771) became prominent Baptist theologian, writing voluminously and rejecting Reformed baptism. However, he "tolerated" Reformed Calvinism and Reformed ecclesiology, teaching persuasively that the Song of Solomon was about Christ's love for the Mystical Church.
- I. He influenced Baptists from that point on for Calvinism and some sort of universal invisible body ecclesiology.
- J. The founders of the SBC (1845) received the influence of Gill by studying at Reformed universities, embracing Calvinism, and willing to surrender church autonomy (because of the "bigger movement"), and perpetuating the convention mentality for millions of Baptists.
- K. The "greater cause of Christ" mentality continued to surface within the fundamentalist-modernist battles of the 1920's, giving foundation for Baptists to unite with Protestants, and perpetuating the FBF and other similar groups, which consistently undermine the autonomy of the local church. "Fundamentalism is the practice of the mystical body theology."

Second Annual Ladies Fellowship

On March 10, 2012, BBC will host the Second Annual Ladies Fellowship from 10 AM to 1 PM.



Mrs. Claudia Norwalt

wife of Pastor Paul Norwalt (Merrimack Baptist Temple, NH), will give her testimony and sing several special songs. The fellowship will include congregational singing, testimonies, and a brunch.

Please RSVP with number of ladies by March 1 to

drtms_bbts@juno.com.



Many children (and adults) were involved in the Quezon City bank breaking and counting!

BBC To host Stanford Achievement Test for Homeschooled Students



Bible Baptist Church will once again host the Stanford Achievement test for Homeschooled students. The Stanford-10 Achievement Test is a nationally recognized test used by educators across the US.

As a norm-referenced test, the Stanford-10 not only offers the home educator information on their student's achievement, it also provides comparisons based on nationwide test results.

The Stanford-10 Achievement test will be administered at Bible Baptist Church, in Cromwell, CT on **Thursday and Friday, April 26 & 27, 2012 from 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM.**

BBC NEWS/PHOTOS

This test is available for any home educated student. It is **not** limited to BBC members. Registration for this test is only available online. For more information on the test, and to register on-line, please visit <http://cctestingservices.com/> Click on "Online Registration" and select Connecticut to register. **Cost \$50, \$55 after April 1st, 2012. Registration closes April 8th, 2012. No refunds after April 8th, 2012.**

We also need proctors for these tests. If you are interested in becoming a proctor, you must fill out an application and provide a copy of your college diploma, or provide your college transcript. Please contact Laura Hagglund at thehagglunds@com-cast.net with any other questions.



Two future astronauts?



The Children loved "making" their shadows on the shadow wall!



Below: a young one coming out of his shell!



BBTS Spring Schedule

Monday

Greek Proficiency	10:00 AM - Noon
Hebrew VIII	6:00PM - 7:00 PM
Hebrew II	7:00 - 10:00 PM

Wednesday/Thursday

Book of Revelation	8:00 - 9:30 AM
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Wednesday

Greek II	5:00 - 7:00 PM
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Thursday

Book of Hebrews	6:00 - 9:00 PM
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DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Joyful and Thankful Living

by Pastor Cas Reeves

Devotional Corner

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Joyful and Thankful Living



Text: Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Pastor Cas Reeves

Ephesians 5:17-21

In a time when many people are unhappy there is hope and promise in God's Word of a joyful and happy life. We are instructed and admonished by God throughout the scriptures. But do we listen? No! If we receive and obey this heavenly instruction then there would be joy and thanksgiving in our lives and our families – Yes, even our churches and Country. It would be a wonderful life – just as God promises.

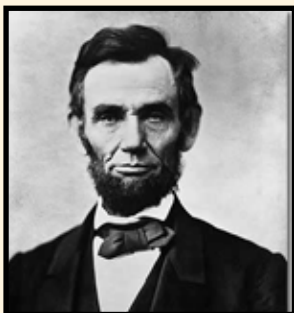
What is this instruction that God gives us for a joyous and thankful life. You find it here in the book of Ephesians. First, you need to learn what the will of the Lord is for your life (v.17). Are you saved? Salvation needs to come first then serving the Lord, which is a lifetime thing. Secondly, you need to let the Spirit of God teach and direct your life (v.18). There are too many times that a Christian is guilty of doing what he or she wants rather than doing what the Lord wants. Be careful, and remember He will never lead you contrary to the Scripture. So know your Bible. Thirdly, note the joyfulness of heart (v.19). Now that is real happiness. Also note the wholesome songs that you are singing – they aren't the world's songs. Fourthly, you are to give thanks for all things (v.19). Surely, we can all see the bad side of things and the bad things in people, but instead let us, in love, look at the good in one another, evoking true love's admonishment of "thinking no evil" 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. As well, let us submit to one another, we really don't have to have our way all the time (v.21).

I guarantee, on the promise of God that you can have a joyful and thankful life. But you must receive and follow the instruction of God's heavenly words. -CAR

Quotes From the Past:

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

16th President of the USA



Abraham Lincoln

"That the Almighty does make use of human agencies, and directly intervenes in human affairs, is one of the plainest statements of the Bible. I have had many evidences of his direction – so many instances when I have been controlled by some other power than my own will – that I cannot doubt that this power comes from above."

THE BOOK CORNER

Book Corner

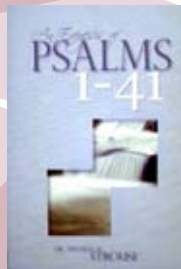
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Bible Study

The Book Corner

These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church:**

40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387



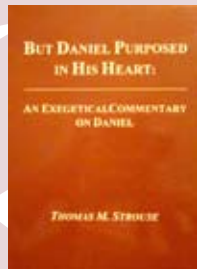
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



Psalm 119
\$20.00



Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



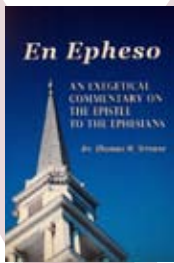
Daniel
\$20.00



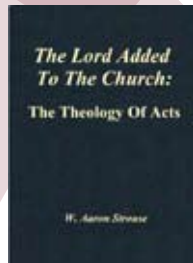
Jonah
\$10.00



Geocentricity
\$10.00



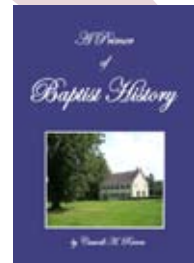
En Epheso
\$20.00



The Theology of Acts
\$20.00



I Will Build My Church
\$15.00



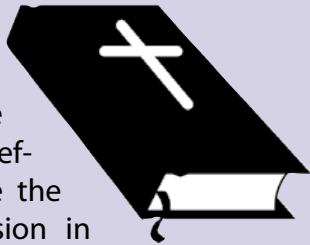
A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

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.



Save the Date!!

2012 Spring Lecture Series

Thursday, April 19, 2012
Crown Plaza, Cromwell, CT

Who Are the Baptists?

- I. Dr. Joel Grassi—*John the Baptist*
- II. Dr. Thomas Strouse—*Theology and Polity of Baptists*
- III. Pastor Cas Reeves—*History of Ancient Baptists*
- IV. Noel Meadowcroft—*History of 20th Century Baptists*

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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