



BBC UPDATE

BBTS - Philippines



Above: Some of the twenty seminarians that attended the BBTS module classes in Quezon City, Philippines



Right: Quezon City Graduation class - 9 COT and 4 MBS degrees

BBTS held another week of Modules in Quezon City, Philippines on Feb. 18-22, 2013, with Dr. Thomas M. Strouse teaching the Bible books of I and II Thessalonians and of Job to about 20 Filipino pastors and church workers. On Friday evening, Feb. 22, 2013, the host church Cornerstone Baptist Church held the first BBTS graduation service in Luzon with thirteen graduates. These thirteen with the ten graduates from Iloilo in 2011 give BBTS twenty-three Filipino alumni. Four of the seminarians received their Master of Biblical Studies degree (L. Hitosis, P. Quising, M. Misterio, and L. Raquintan), and nine received their Certificate of Theology degree (D. Agbayani, P. Binas, M. Fernandez, R. Gustilo, E. Matig-A, F. Ragsac, R. Raquintan, L. Salgado, and Ira Tanierla). The Lord has enabled BBC to be involved with the training of national men and women for service in the respective assemblies.



Dr. Thomas Strouse

Several of the graduates made the following comments about BBTS:

Pastor Perlito Binas, one-time imprisoned pastor beaten for his faith, stated, "One of the best decisions I made of recent years...to join Cornerstone Baptist Church extension classes...with BBTS...it enhanced the status of the church as an institution."

Pastor Marcelino Fernandez, recently baptized ex-Pentecostal minister, said "The knowledge learned helped me and the congregation because I am now able to impart godly truth in the right perspective." Pastor Florencio Ragsac testified, saying, "The first time I attended the BBTS classes, my faith in the Scripture began to be revived. This was so because that is the spirit of our teacher. Then my understanding and knowledge in God's word became more precise." Pastor

Leonardo Salgado said, the seminary "helped me to be equipped to become a more Biblical Christian and Pastor in heart, doctrine and in practice." MBS graduate, Pastor Lester Raquintan affirmed, saying, "I gained more confidence on the Word of God and I became more delighted to study it." Pastor Eric Matig-A declared, "I am thankful to God for giving me this great opportunity and as a pastor, I will preach and teach, and hold to things that I learned and I will remain in it. Pastor Ira Tanierla said, "I thank the Lord for Dr. Strouse who never gets tired in teaching pastors to be biblical!"



Above: Pastor and Mrs. Perlito Binas



Left: Newly baptized former Pentecostal minister and graduate of BBTS, M. Fernandez with Dr. Strouse

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BBC/BBTS EVENTS

BBTS - Philippines

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In another development, Pastor Jed Raquintan approved of Cornerstone Baptist Church of Quezon City, Philippines to be the permanent location for BBTS-Philippines. The church is building an additional educational building for SS classes and seminary modules, hoping to be finished for the Sept. 23-27, 2013 Modules on Lukan Parables (Adj. Prof. and Pastor Emmanuel Tani-erla) and Biblical Economics (Adj. Prof. and Pastor Dr. Cas Reeves). BBTS will hold four modules twice a year (Feb. and Sept.) at Cornerstone Baptist Church.



Lot for seminary lecture hall and two prophet's chambers.



Dr. Stouse, guest preacher.



Cornerstone Baptist Church choir singing.



Some of the members and graduates of Cornerstone Baptist Church after the graduation service.



Dean with Adjunct Professors and wives at graduation banquet.

The Bible's Practical Benefits

Pastor Cas Reeves

"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart"

Psalms 119:1-2



Pastor Cas Reeves

The "law of the Lord" is the Word of God, "his testimonies." Given to us, that we should "walk in" them and should "seek him" with all our heart. King David shared with his son, Solomon, in the latter days of his life: "And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself" (1 Kings 2:3). The result of taking to heart God's Word is obedience. And obedience brings blessings from God. "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation" (Psalm 68:19).

DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Some of those practical benefits we get from the Bible: It will help us to be pure. David said, "Where-withal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word" (Psalm 119:9). Also, it will help us to be an example. Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). Another benefit we get from the Bible: It will help us to abide. Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). To abide in the Word of God is to abide in Christ. To abide is to dwell with, to have a relationship with, and this is done with Christ. It is done through reading and meditating and taking to heart the Scripture. It is from this relationship we are empowered, blessed, find mercy, made joyful, and given assurance. The Psalmist said, "What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?" (Psalm 116:12). -CAR

New Bible Study

BBC started a new Bible study in an assisted living facility in Middletown, CT. Four residents attended as they heard a Gospel message and participated in discussion following. Pray for this new endeavor.

BBTS Module Classes

February 18-22, 2013

BBTS Philippines Module

"Book of Job"

"I and II Thessalonians"

Quezon City

Philippines

March 11-15, 2013

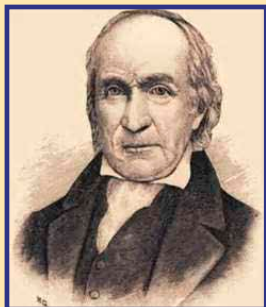
HBTS Module

"1 Corinthians"

"Hebrew Language"

Endicott, NY

Quotes From the Past:



John Leland

John Leland, 1754 - 1841

A great American Baptist preacher of the 18th century

"Every man must give an account of himself to God, and therefore every man ought to be at liberty to serve God in that way that he can best reconcile to his conscience It would be sinful for a man to surrender that to man which is to be kept sacred for God."

HOMESCHOOL UPDATE

Legislating Homeschooling?

Homeschooling has only been legal in each of the 50 states since 1996. Each state determines its own laws regarding homeschooling. To date Connecticut has enjoyed great freedoms in homeschooling. However, this year there are several proposals which may limit the freedoms we have in our homeschooling. Many of the proposed bills have to do with mental health, partially in response to the Newtown Tragedy.

Specifically proposed Bill 374 filed in the Connecticut General Assembly would require all homeschooled children ages 12, 14, and 17 to undergo a behavioral health assessment. These assessments would be conducted by an unspecified health care provider and would be conducted even though there was no indication whatsoever that these children had a behavioral problem. See more at: <http://www.hslda.org/hs/state/ct/201202040.asp>

There is a public hearing on Bill 374 March 8 at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. Please pray this bill and any other like it do not move beyond this stage.

On a National scale, there seems to be a change in the view of our own government toward the rights of homeschooling parents in general.

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) is actively involved in the case of a German homeschool family in the sixth circuit court of Appeals – the Federal

court, just below the Supreme Court. A partial summary of the case, written by Michael Farris, J.D., LL.M. HSLDA Founder and Chairman follows:

See the entire article at: <http://www.hslda.org/docs/news/2013/201302110.asp>

Uwe and Hannelore Romeike fled from Germany to the United States after their family was vigorously prosecuted (fines, forcible removal of their children, threats of jail and more) for homeschooling. Initially, the Romeikes were granted political asylum, but the U.S. government appealed that decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals. That Board sided with the government. HSLDA then appealed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals—the federal court just below the Supreme Court.

The Romeikes' case is before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The case for the government is officially in the name of the Attorney General of the United States. The case is called *Romeike v. Holder*. Thus, the brief filed by the U.S. Department of Justice is filed on behalf of the attorney general himself—although we can be reasonably certain he has not personally read it. Nonetheless, it is a statement of the position of our government at a very high level.

We (HSLDA) argued that Germany is a party to many human rights treaties that contain specific provisions that protect the right of parents to provide an education that is different from the government schools. Parents have the explicit right to give their children an education according to their own philosophy.

While the United States government argued many things in their brief, there are three specific arguments that you should know about.

First, they argued that there was no violation of anyone's protected rights in a law that entirely

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The Third Annual BBC

Ladies'

Fellowship

Saturday,
March 9, 2013

MRS. RHONDA MAIN,
GUEST SPEAKER

See Page 7 for details.



Save the Date!

BBTS Spring Lecture Series

Thursday, April 18

"Evangelism and Church
Planting"



See Page 8 for details

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bans homeschooling. There would only be a problem if Germany banned homeschooling for some but permitted it for others.

Let's assess the position of the United States government on the face of its argument: a nation violates no one's rights if it bans homeschooling entirely.

There are two major portions of constitutional rights of citizens—fundamental liberties and equal protection. The U.S. Attorney General has said this about homeschooling. There is no fundamental liberty to homeschool. So long as a government bans homeschooling broadly and equally, there is no violation of your rights. This is a view which gives some acknowledgement to the principle of equal protection but which entirely jettisons the concept of fundamental liberties.

A second argument is revealing. The U.S. government contended that the Romeikes' case failed to show that there was any discrimination based on religion because, among other reasons, the Romeikes did not prove that all homeschoolers were religious, and that not all Christians believed they had to homeschool.

One final argument from Romeikes deserves our attention. One of the grounds for asylum is if persecution is aimed at a "particular social group." The definition of a "particular social group" requires a showing of an "immutable" characteristic that cannot change or should not be required to be changed. We contend that German homeschoolers are a particular social group who are being persecuted by their government. The U.S. government says that Germany's ban on homeschooling does not meet this standard because, of course, the family can change—they can simply stop homeschooling and let their children go to the public schools.

There are two main problems with this argument. First, our government does not understand that families like the Romeikes have two goals when they chose homeschooling. There are things they want to teach and there are things they want to avoid their children being taught in the government schools. This argument necessarily means that the United States government believes that it would not violate your rights if our own government banned homeschooling entirely. After all, you could teach your children your own values after they have had 22-26 hours of public school indoctrination aimed at counter-acting religious and philosophical views the government doesn't like.

The second problem with this argument goes back to the definition of immutability. Immutable means a characteristic that cannot be changed or "should not be

HOMESCHOOL UPDATE

required" to be changed. No one contends that homeschooling is a characteristic that cannot be changed. We simply contend that in a free nation it is a characteristic that should not be required to be changed.

When the United States government says that homeschooling is a mutable choice—they are saying that it is a characteristic that a government can legitimately coerce you to change. In other words, you have no protected right to choose the education for your children. Our nation could remove your ability to homeschool and your choice would be mutable—since the government has the authority to force you to implement their wishes.

We should understand that in these arguments by the U.S. government, something important is being said about our own liberties as American homeschoolers.

The Attorney General of the United States thinks that a law that bans homeschooling entirely violates no fundamental liberties.

Please continue to pray for our country.

The Newest Strouse !



Finally, after 11 days in the Philippines, I get to hold my new grandson Jack!

BBC HOMESCHOOL

PEZ Field Trip

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Homeschool Standardized Testing



Some of the BBC Families enjoyed a field trip to the PEZ Factory in Orange, CT. The students learned about the history of PEZ candy and dispensers. They also were able to watch the PEZ candies as they were packaged.



Note: New Testing Dates!! Tuesday, Wednesday, April 23 & 24, 2013 **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 **Tuesday April 23 from 9:00 - 2:00 & and Wednesday, April 24 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.**



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://cctesting-services.com/> Click on "Locations & Dates" and select Connecticut to register. **Cost \$50, \$55 after March 24th, 2013. Registration closes March 31st, 2013. No refunds after March 31.**

Please contact Laura Hagglund at thehagglunds@comcast.net with any other questions.

The Third Annual BBC

Ladies' Fellowship

Saturday,
March 9, 2013



MRS. RHONDA MAIN,
GUEST SPEAKER

You are invited to join the Ladies of Bible Baptist Church as they host Third Annual Ladies' Fellowship from 10 AM to 1 PM. Mrs. Rhonda Main, wife of Pastor Keith Main (Heritage Baptist Church, Endicott, NY), will share her testimony. The fellowship will include congregational singing, special music, testimonies, and a brunch.

*Please RSVP with number of ladies attending by March 1 to
drtms_bbts@juno.com*



BIBLE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Bible Baptist Church

40 Country Squire Road
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-613-2096
www.bbc-cromwell.org

THE BOOK CORNER

Spring Lecture Series

8

The Book Corner

BBTS Spring Lecture Series

Save the Date !!

April 18, 2013

"Evangelism and Church Planting"

"Church Planting in Acts"

Dr. Thomas Strouse

"Biblical Evangelism"

Dr. Noel Meadowcroft

"The Principles and Challenge of Church Planting"

Pastor Greg Breedon



The kids loved the PEZ candies in the floor!

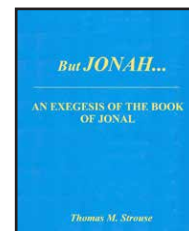
The Book Corner

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

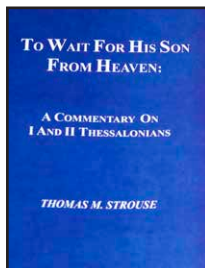
40 Country Squire Rd.

Cromwell, CT 06416

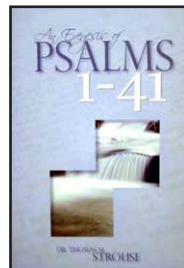
860-229-5387



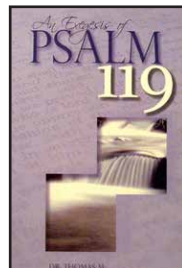
Jonah
\$10.00



I & II Thessalonians
\$10.00



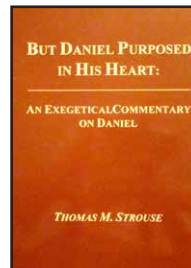
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



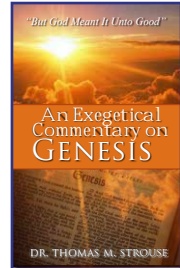
Psalm 119
\$20.00



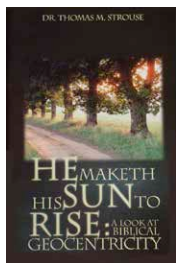
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



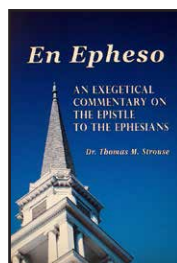
Daniel
\$20.00



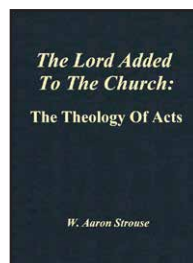
Genesis
\$20



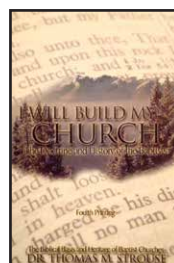
Geocentricity
\$10.00



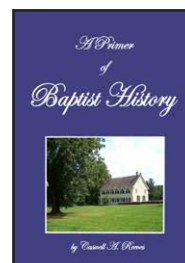
En Epheso
\$20.00



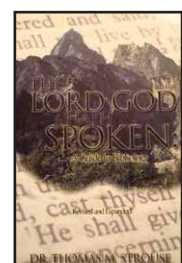
The Theology of Acts
\$20.00



I Will Build My Church
\$15.00



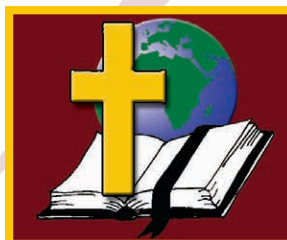
A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

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

bbts@stny.rr.com
hbc5923@stny.rr.com



Bible Baptist Theological Seminary

A ministry of Bible Baptist Church

40 Country Squire Road

Cromwell, CT 06416

860-613-2096

www.bbc-cromwell.org