

BBC UPDATE

Philippine Modules

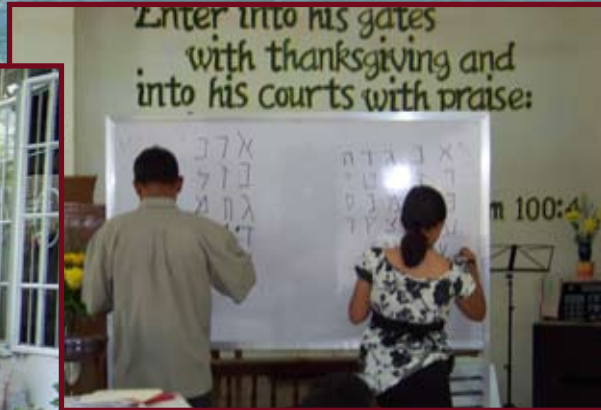
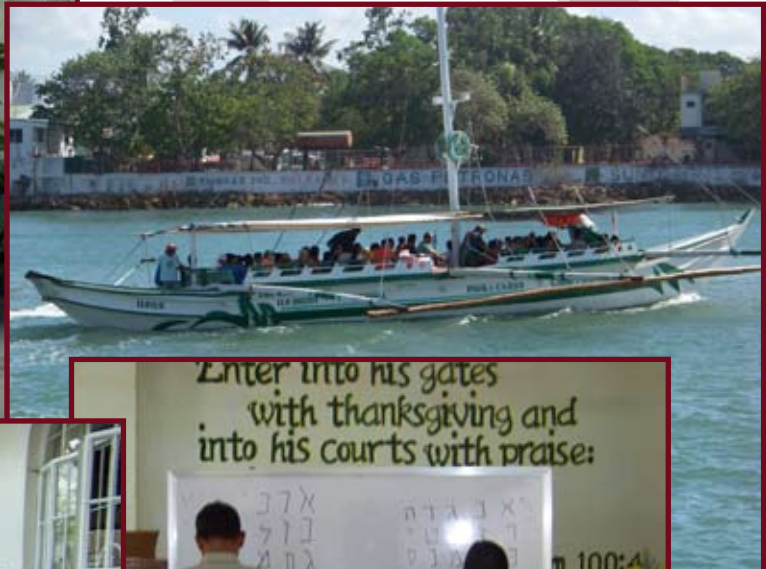
Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor



Dr. Strouse

After about a thirty-hour flight with several stops from JFK to Iloilo, I arrived in the warm Philippines to teach two modules. Sixteen seminarians registered for the two courses, *Tools for Biblical Languages* and *Romans*, which I taught for five hours each/day for five days, or the total of 50 hours. The Lord blessed as we went below the English text of the KJV to examine the Masoretic Hebrew and Received Greek texts. The seminarians learned how to read, write, and pronounce

the Hebrew and Greek alphabets, as well how to use lexicons and read interlinear Bibles. This approach in using tools for the biblical languages helped foster a desire on the part of the seminarians to study more closely the text of Scripture. In *Romans*, we studied the KJV text and exegeted the contexts of the text in detail to understand better this Pauline Epistle. Several of the seminarians will be traveling to the States next month for the May 16 commencement service at Bible Baptist Church in Cromwell, Ct. The men, Pastors Emmanuel Tanierla and Nathaniel Villafuerte, will receive their Master of Biblical Studies degree along with Daniel Armacost, Jeremy Rice, and Jeff Skorupski. In October, we will have a commencement service in Iloilo for the other Filipinos who have finished the



Top Left: Dr Strouse and Pastor Tanierla's lovely family.

Top Right: Dr. Strouse traveled by outrigger to a mission church preaching engagement.

Left: The fifteen Filipino pastors who were trained by Dr. Strouse.

Above: Two BBTS seminarians writing out the Hebrew *aleph-beth*.

BBTS NEWS

BBTS Modules

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Philippines

Philippine Piano Project

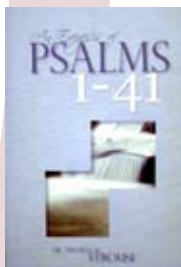
Thanks to all of you that gave to the Philippine Piano Fund. Dr. Strouse was able to hand deliver \$2,000 dollars to Pastor Jed Raquintan during his trip to the Philippines last week. They were able to purchase this beautiful new piano which will be a blessing to their church for many years to come! Pastor Raquintan lost his home and church in a fire a year ago in 2009. Included in the losses was their upright piano.



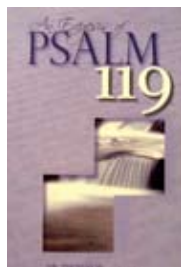
The Book Corner

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

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



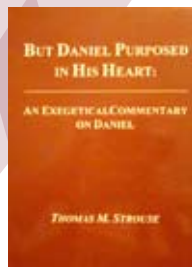
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



Psalm 119
\$20.00



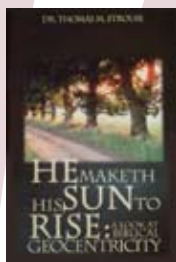
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



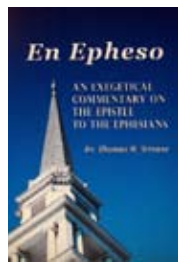
Daniel
\$20.00



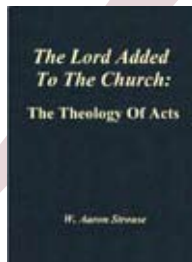
Jonah
\$10.00



Geocentricity
\$10.00



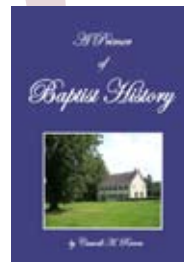
En Epheso
\$20.00



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

By Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor

The Lord blessed *Bible Baptist Church* and *Theological Seminary* as we hosted the first annual 2010 Spring Lecture Series. He gave us a beautiful day, and over 90 attendees, which we housed in our modest-sized church building. At least fifteen pastors representing fifteen different churches attended. They came from CT, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, and the Philippines. The day was filled with a great time of fellowship, food, and discussion around the nature and practice of the local Body of Christ ecclesiology. I dealt with the theological and biblical perspective, and handed out my new booklet on "*Ye are the Body of Christ*" (which pictures the assembly members of BBC). Pastor Cas Reeves warned of the ramifications of the practice of faulty ecclesiology, which caveat was well received with vigorous discussion.

SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Upon being challenged about the continual fostering of para-church ministerial training colleges and para-church mission boards, many pastors recognized their dilemma and resolved to follow the NT pattern of local church exclusivity. The notion that all believers are in some sort of mystical church (spiritual Body of Christ) that began at Pentecost is Catholic/Protestant in origin and foreign to Scripture. This interpretation is built upon the recent faulty exegesis of I Cor. 12:13, and it harms the Lord's candlesticks. The universal and invisible entity in Scripture is the Kingdom of God (Jn. 3:3, 5; Lk. 17:20), but the KOG is never identified with the ecclesiological nouns *ekklesia* or *soma*. The Lord's churches need to be freed from this heresy and returned to their place of pre-eminence and dignity among Baptists!



Above Left: A group of seventeen pastors attend the Lecture Series.
Above Right: Dr. Strouse teaching at the Lecture Series.
Above: Over 90 attendees on a beautiful day for the first annual Lecture Series

MESSAGE FROM INDIA

By Dr. Enoch Kumar, Pastor

Mission Trip

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India



Dr. Enoch Kumar

Praise be to our ELOHIM God for the wonderful things HE hath done. The church body remains soaked in the true New Testament spirit of "REVIVAL" (Habakuk 3:2). The manifestation of God's presence was evident amongst HIS precious people. It was all in the providence, plan and perfect purpose of God that He would allow Dr. David Smith, Bro.Noel Meadowcroft and Bro. Bill Gotwal to come to our native soil India to enrich, edify, exhort and encourage the passionate believers of The Pillar and Ground of the Truth Baptist Church. The Lord knew I needed the experience and used all that took place to refine, and revive my own faith and walk with Christ. AMEN!

The messages only reaffirmed that God means business with this church body. I think it would be safe to say that New Testament churches today do not inspire much fear in the hearts of the world around them. We have lost the element known as the power of God. Too often, the church is the center of controversy in the community and not the seat of God's power. These things ought not to be!! The church has reached a place where we fear to

stand on the standards laid down in the Word of God for fear of offending some individual or group. We have come to tolerate spiritual slackness, spiritual infidelity, spiritual immorality and spiritual impotency.

The autopsy of a "dead church" is seen in Rev 3:1-6. The church in Sardis had taken on the character of the city in which she resided. The church had very conveniently become a "thermometer" that registered the temperature of the city, instead of functioning as a "thermostat" that changed the temperature. The "Great Physician" comes with the diagnosis. From all outward appearances, the church was everything a church ought to be. People said, "The church is on fire!" But God put HIS finger on the pulse of this church and pronounced them dead. No matter what others thought, Jesus knew the truth. When the church comes to a place where it is pure and clean in the eyes of God, devoted to the mission of God, and work together for the glory of God, then, and only then, will the



The Pillar and Ground of the Truth Baptist Church, Bhadravathi, India

MESSAGE FROM INDIA

church see God extend the influence of the church beyond the four walls of the building (Acts 2:42-47).

... I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.
Revelation 3:1

The church at Sardis had a reputation for being alive, but they were good as dead. I believe that these Christians were weak in the same four areas that are unique to a living organism.

1. Living things are made up of cells
2. They need food
3. They exhibit growth
4. They reproduce

The church at Sardis faced this problem:

1. The cells of the church body were working well. While some members were walking with the Lord (3:4), many others had ceased to function properly.
2. Also, this church had stopped taking in the right spiritual food. The Lord admonishes them to begin listening to HIS word and Spirit once again (3:3, 6).
3. They stopped growing as a body. Although

they had knowledge, their actions left much to be desired.

4. They eventually stopped reproducing. When Christians get cold and weak, they stop multiplying.

This is undoubtedly a far cry from what was evident in the first local church established in Jerusalem. They were alive, growing and serving God with red-hot fervency which could not be easily quenched. "The Pillar and Ground of the Truth Baptist Church" has its own desperate need to be a living, functioning, healthy, maturing, and reproducing body. Pray that we will become a sanctified and surrendered assembly in order that the undiminished power of God can flow through us to a world of wickedness. Right now we are basking in the blessings of God and encouraged to do more exploits for HIM.

In Christ

The Kumars
Enoch, Nirupama, Joshua and Joel
(II Corinthians 5:14-21)



Charles Spurgeon 1832-1892

"Christ will be master of the heart, and sin must be mortified. If your life is unholy, then your heart is unchanged, and you are an unsaved person. The Savior will sanctify His people, renew them, give them a hatred of sin, and a love of holiness. The grace that does not make a man better than others is a worthless counterfeit. Christ saves His people, not IN their sins, but FROM their sins. Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord."

LECTURE SERIES

Lecture Series

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Cromwell



Lecture Series Fellowship at BBC



PROVERB 29:1

SERMON OUTLINE

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor

Introduction

The Apostle Paul warned that men “*shall wax worse and worse*” (II Tim. 3:13), showing the spiritual degeneration of society. This degeneration influences churches as well, with professed believers evincing animosity, rancor, and ingratitude toward one another and the Lord’s churches. Since life is a classroom with reproofs abounding to determine whether one is a wise man or fool (Prov. 1:22-23), it behooves the Christian to examine his heart to ascertain whether he is hardening his heart in faith (Josh. 1:7) or unbelief (Ex. 9:35). As church members observe others casting aspersions, lies, and practicing defraud with intense rancor, and consequently harden their hearts, three considerations come to mind when expounding this verse:

I. The Biblical Exegesis

- A. “*often reproveth*” (plural noun)
- B. “*hardeneth*” (*Hiphil* [causative stem] participle [habitual practice])
- C. “*destroyed*” (physically or spiritually broken)
- D. “*suddenly*” (cf. Prov. 6:15)

E. “*without remedy*” (no healing)

II. The Biblical Exhortation

- A. “*rejoice not when thine enemy falleth...lest*” (Prov. 24:17-18)
- B. Job claimed he was innocent of the sin of rejoicing when his enemies fell (Job 31:29)
- C. The Lord condemned Edom when she rejoiced over Judah’s ruin (Obad. 1:12; cf. II Chr. 21:16-17).

III. The Biblical Example

- A. The professed Christian Alexander betrayed Paul by withstanding his words (II Tim. 4:14-15).
- B. Paul said, “*the Lord reward him according to his works.*”

Conclusion

We must realize that as sinners harden their heart against the reproof of their sin against us, the Lord will deal accordingly, and we must not rejoice. We need to pray for those who “*despitefully use you*” (Mt. 5:44).

BBTS Summer 2010 Module Schedule

May 24-28	Tools for Biblical Languages	Dublin, IRELAND
May 31 - June 4	Ephesians	Quakertown, PA
June 7-11	Revelation	Cromwell, CT
June 21-25	Hist. of Christianity I	Cromwell, CT
June 28 - July 2	Ephesians	Chesterton, IN
July 19 - 23	Romans	Plymouth, NH
August 2-6	TBA	Northfield, NJ

All courses taught by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

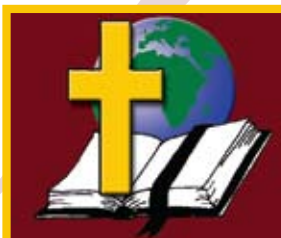
BBTS Commencement

On **May 16, 2010 (2 PM)**, BBC will have her first seminary commencement service for BBTS. Five men will receive their respective academic seminary degree, including **Daniel Armacost** (MDiv), **Jeremy Rice** (MBS), **Jeff Skorupski** (BDiv), **Emmanuel Tanierla** (MBS), and **Nate Villafuerte** (MBS). Our commencement preacher will be **Pastor Charles Nichols** from Ramsey, MN.



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

bbts@stny.rr.com



Bible Baptist Theological Seminary

A ministry of Bible Baptist Church

40 Country Squire Road

Cromwell, CT 06416

860-613-2096