

# BBC UPDATE

## BBTS Graduation

### Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor



*Dr. Strouse*

The Lord blessed *Bible Baptist Church* on Sunday, May 16, 2010, with a beautiful day to recognize the first graduates of *Bible Baptist Theological Seminary*. The seminary, under the aegis of the recently formed *Bible Baptist Church*, conferred five academic degrees and one honorary degree as approximately ninety witnesses watched the ceremony. The following men were the recipients of their respective academic degrees: Jeffrey Skorupski (BDiv), Jeremy Rice (MBS), Emmanuel Tanierla (MBS), Nathaniel Villafuerte (MBS), and Daniel Armacost (MDiv). The church also was privileged to bestow the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity on Pastor Charles Nichols from Ramsey, MN. Dr. Nichols was the commencement preacher, expounding on the text of I Cor. 11:1-3. Two of the graduates, Pastor Tanierla and Pastor Villafuerte, are the first graduates from the Filipino module extension program. The Lord willing more will follow.

*Bible Baptist Church* hosted a dinner for the graduation candidates, families, friends, on Saturday, May 15, 2010. The Lord brought family, friends, and pastors from MN, PA, NH, NJ, NY, OH, as well as from CT. It is encouraging seeing so many friends from the surrounding states as well as internationally, supporting *BBTS* in prayer, presence, and promotion. The ministry that the Lord gave me years ago at *Tabernacle Baptist Theological Seminary (VA)* and *Emmanuel Baptist Theological Seminary (CT)*, now continues as *Bible Baptist Theological Seminary*. The program (MBS, MDiv, DMin, ThD), perspective (local church exclusivity, and TR/KJV), and personnel (Dr. A. Strouse, Chaplain H. Davidson, and Pastor Jerry Akers), continue under the direction of *Bible Baptist Church*. Continue to pray for us.



A time of fellowship following the dinner hosted by *Bible Baptist Church* for the graduation candidates, families, friends, on Saturday.



Front Row L - R: Daniel Armacost, Harold Davidson, Charles Nichols, Dr. Thomas Strouse, Dr. Aaron Strouse, Emmanuel Tanierla  
 Back Row L - R: Jeffrey Skorupski, Jeremy Rice, Nathaniel Villafuerte



# BBTS NEWS

BBTS Graduation

2

Weekend

## Graduation Weekend

The first BBTS Graduation weekend was filled with many activities and times of fellowship. Guests came from all over, including Indiana, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and the Philippines!



Some of our out-of-town guests!



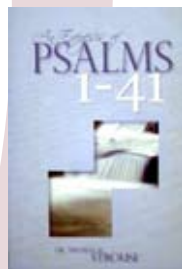
Pastor Charles Nichols, Dr. Thomas Strouse and Dr. Aaron Strouse



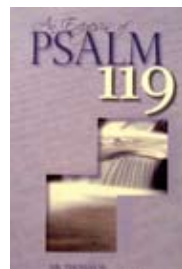
## The Book Corner

These Books may be purchased through Bible Baptist Church:

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



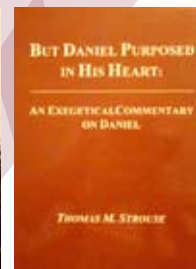
Psalms 1 - 41  
\$20.00



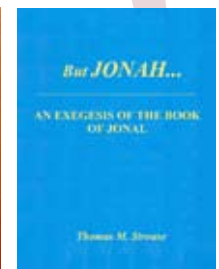
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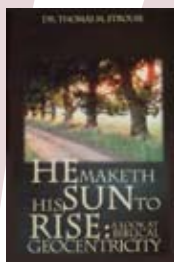
Spiritual Gifts  
\$8.00



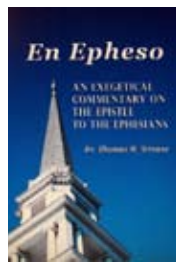
Daniel  
\$20.00



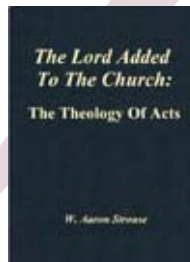
Jonah  
\$10.00



Geocentricity  
\$10.00



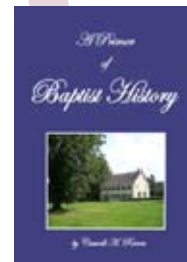
En Epheso  
\$20.00



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

# GRADUATION WEEKEND



*Dr. Strouse addresses the five graduates.*



*BBC's own Jeff Skorupski received his Bachelor of Divinity Degree.*



*^ Pastor Charles Nichols was bestowed an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.*



*^ Pastor Villafuerte and Mrs. Tanierla sing a special (along with Pastor Tanierla) during the morning service.*



*^ The Lord blessed us with beautiful weather for the graduation day. We were able to enjoy "Lunch on the Grounds" outside!*



*^ Mr. Tom Cleveland entertains some of the children.*



*^ Mrs. Molly Strouse gives her husband a little taste of dessert!*

# GRADUATION DAY MESSAGES

The editor took the following outlines down of the messages shared with the congregation of the Bible Baptist Church during their first Graduation Day services.

Graduation Day

4

BBTS

## Sunday School

### Kinds of Spiritual Ears

Pastor Jerry Akers ('09)



Jerry Akers ('09)

#### I. The Fool's Ears, Prov.23:9

- Despise the words of wisdom
- Rebel against the words of wisdom

"I don't care what the Bible says..."

#### II. The Stopped Ears, Acts 7:51-60

- Plugged ears to Christ
- Plugged ears to Stephen

"I know what I believe..."

#### III. The Bowed Ears, Prv.22:17

- Ears inclined to the words of God
- Ears submissive to the words of God
- Ears attentive to the words of Gods

"I want you to teach me Lord..."

## Sunday Morning Service

### Giving Up the Isaac of Your Life

Genesis 22:1-3

Pastor Emmanuel Tanierla



Pastor Tanierla ('10)

#### I. Who is Isaac?

- Abraham's only son
- Abraham's dream, 10:29
- Abraham's desire, 10:30,12:4,15:1-4
- Abraham's joy, 21:1-2, 18
- Abraham's honor, 15:12,18
- Abraham's treasure, 22:2

- Abraham's life, 15:12,18
- Abraham's hope, 17:9; Heb.11:18

#### II. What Did Abraham Do?

- He immediately believed and trusted, 15:6
- He immediately obeyed God, 22:3-8

- He immediately and willingly gave, 22:9

#### III. Why Did Abraham Willingly Offer up Isaac?

- Bible Faith, Heb.11:17
- Bible Trust and Obedience, Prv.3:5,6

#### IV. What were the Results?

- His obedience proved his faith
- His obedience manifested his faith
- His obedience and faith became the pathway to all God blessed him with throughout his life.

## Commencement Message

### Exaltation of Subordination

1 Corinthians 11:1-3

Dr. Charles Nichols

#### I. The Ideal Display of Subordination - Christ Jesus



- Christ's submissiveness of will
- Christ's submissiveness as a servant
- Christ's submissiveness to death

Dr. Nichols ('10)

#### II. The Intermediate Display of Subordination - Apostle Paul

- By being an example for others to follow
- By being humble that others may follow
- By being faithful so others can follow

#### III. The Most Impressive Display of Subordination - the program of God

- The head of every man is Christ
- The head of the woman is man
- The head of Christ is God

**Conclusion:** Ministers are servants, who are to be submissive to God. Ministers need to be humble not proud, and they need to resist the temptation of being puffed up by their knowledge. These displays of subordination are our biblical examples and reminders that we are to be humble ministers as God gives us our ministries.

# GRADUATION WEEKEND



A good time of fellowship followed the graduation ceremony



Mrs. Tanierla and Mrs. Linda Reeves.

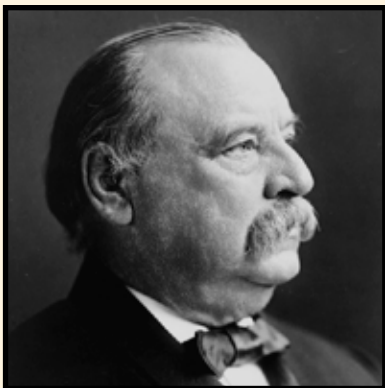


^ Extremes at BBTBS? Pastor Emmanuel Tanierla along side BBC's John Hagglund

## 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	Baptist History	Northfield, NJ

All courses taught by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse



## Stephen Grover Cleveland 1837-1908

22nd / 24th President of the United States

*“And let us not trust to human effort alone, but humbly acknowledge the power and goodness of Almighty God who presides over the destiny of nations, and who has at all times been revealed in our country’s history, let us invoke His aide and His blessings upon our labors...I know there is a Supreme Being who rules the affairs of men.”*

# SERMON OUTLINE

## “THE PARA-CHURCH HERESY”

Lecture Series

6

Cromwell

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor

### Introduction

Of recent, there has been a spate of arguments in defense of para-church ministries. The para-church is a Christian organization that comes along side of (*para*) the Lord’s assemblies with the purpose “to help” them. These ministries are not under the aegis of any NT church, but act independently of any biblical authority. They may be mission boards or agencies, Bible colleges or seminaries, radio or TV stations, Christian newspapers or magazines, camps, or even internet ministries. One such argument

But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

Acts 19:9

circulating is based on Paul’s employment of the school of Tyrannus (Act. 19:9). In some convoluted way, Paul’s use of a secular *schole* or lecture hall justifies para-church ministries. This mis-application of the NT text shows the unscriptural efforts of the spiritually blind to prove a position and subsequent practice that is not condoned in the Bible. Instead, the Apostle moved the Ephesian assembly from Aquila and Priscilla’s house church (Acts 18:19-28) because of persecution (Acts 19:9), and apparently rented out Tyrannus’ hall so that the Ephesian assembly could minister to unbelievers through disputation (v. 9). The assembly became a strong base of truth and evangelized Asia for two years (v. 10). It is ludicrous to suggest that some outside agency or para-church helped Paul carry out the Great Commission in Ephesus. The following are reasons that the defense for para-church ministries is unwarranted:

### I. The Biblical Problem with Para-Church Ministries.

- A. There are no verses or passages that teach the existence of para-church ministries in the NT (Acts 19:9 notwithstanding).
- B. The only agency that has divine authority to disciple and teach is the baptizing agency in Scripture—the NT Baptist church (Mt. 28:19-20). Why is it that most para-church organization DO NOT practice, and rightly so, the ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper?

### II. The Theological Problem with Para-Church Ministries.

- A. The theology of para-church ministries demands some sort of universal, mystical, church/body for existence (cf. Rev. 2:1 ff.).
- B. The theology of para-church ministries requires that Spirit Baptism occurs today, placing all believers in the mystical Body of Christ, in spite of Paul’s affirmation that there is “one baptism” (Eph. 4:5).

### III. The Historical Problem with Para-Church Ministries.

- A. Before the Reformation, the Lord’s NT assemblies (i.e., Waldenses) were severely persecuted, being suspicious of all and dependent on no outside help.
- B. The para-church movement had its roots in Roman Catholic monasticism, and was perpetuated by the Protestant *sacral* society (state church) mentality. The unbiblical efforts of Anglicanism and Methodism in the form of mission societies and social agencies (i.e., the YMCA), helped foster the para-church mindset throughout Protestantism and in many Baptist churches.

### Conclusion

The Lord’s only institution, the visible immersionist assembly, needs no help from well-meaning but misguided humanism, to accomplish His purposes through the obedient fulfillment of the Great Commission.

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](mailto:bbts@stny.rr.com)



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