



# BBC UPDATE

## BBTS 2013 Graduation Weekend

Dr. Thomas Strouse



This is the special edition of the Bible Baptist Church Update presenting the full weekend that BBC experienced. To begin with on Friday May 17, 2013, Pastor Cas Reeves successfully defended his Doctor of Ministry (DMin) 200 page dissertation on

*Dr. Thomas Strouse*

"Heaven's Music" before the BBTS faculty including Dean Dr. Thomas Strouse, Seminary Chaplain Dr. Harold Davidson, Associate Professor Jeff Skorupski, and Adjunct Professor Dr. Noel Meadowcroft.

Then on Saturday May 18, 2013, Pastor Enoch Kumar successfully defended his Doctor of Theology (ThD) 300 page dissertation on "The Doctrine of Repentance" and its neglect in Baptist churches in America and India. Later, Brother Jeremy Mitchell successfully defended his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) 200 page dissertation on "The Biblical Theology of Romans."



*Dr. Caswell Reeves during the defense of his dissertation*

On Saturday evening, about 86 church members, candidates for graduation, and family and friends enjoyed a plated banquet at the beautiful Cromwell Crowne Plaza. The candidates received the challenge to be true to the Lord and to men of truth like Tychicus (Acts 20:4) from Seminary Dean and Professor Emeritus Dr. Strouse.

On Sunday morning, Pastor David Ellsmore presented his testimony of defending biblical ecclesiology and suffering great trials and cost in so doing. He dealt with some truths from his book, *The Church which is His Body: Is it Local or Universal?* In the AM service Pastor Thomas Strouse preached on the concluding section of the *Apocalypse, Revelation 22:17-21*. For the BBC/BBTS Commencement Service, Evangelist Gary Gillmore preached on Mk. 16:15 and challenged the candidates to practice the Great Commission of evangelizing, baptizing, and catechizing the lost. The candidates who received academic awards were the following: *Certificate of Theology* (18 credits): **Matthew Ryan Strouse**; *Master of Divinity* (32 credits) *in absentia*: **Mark Periera**; *Master of Divinity* (96 credits): **Jeff William Skorupski**; *Doctor of Philosophy* (112 credits plus dissertation): **Jeremiah Wayne Mitchell**; *Doctor of Ministry* (128 credits + dissertation): **Caswell A. Reeves**; *Doctor of Theology* (160 credits + dissertation): **Enoch C. Kumar**. The recipients of the honorary degree *Doctor of Divinity* were the following: **David A. Ellsmore, Derry O'Sullivan, and Gary Gillmore**.

The Bible Baptist Church membership is thankful for the privilege to invest spiritually, biblically, theologically, and financially in these men of God. Please pray with us as we pray for these graduates' families, their ministries in respective churches of like faith, and God's will for them.



*The 2013 BBTS Graduating Class. Nine men received their degree.*



*Dr. Jeremy Mitchell Receives his "hood" for his Doctor of Philosophy degree.*

# DISSERTATION DEFENSE

Dissertation Defense

2

Photos



^^ The candidates defended their dissertations before the BBTBS faculty: Dean Dr. Thomas Strouse, Seminary Chaplain Dr. Harold Davidson, Associate Professor Jeff Skorupski, and Adjunct Professor Dr. Noel Meadowcroft.

>> Pastor Cas Reeves successfully defended his Doctor of Ministry 200 page dissertation on "Heaven's Music"



<< There were quite a few people on hand to witness the dissertation defense.



^^ The BBTBS Faculty with Pastor Cas Reeves and his wife, Linda.



^^ Associate Professor Jeff Skorupski offers Pastor Cas Reeves his congratulations at the end of a successful defense!



^^ Pastor Kumar's son, Joshua, was able to accompany him on the long trip from India!



^^ Pastor Enoch Kumar successfully defended his Doctor of Theology 300 page dissertation on "The Doctrine of Repentance" and its neglect in Baptist churches in America and India.



^^ There were many that also attended the dissertation defenses on Saturday morning!

>> Pastor Kumar's with the BBTBS Faculty after his successful defense.





# DISSERTATION DEFENSE

Dissertation Defense

3

Photos



^^ Brother Jeremy Mitchell successfully defended his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) 200 page dissertation on "The Biblical Theology of Romans."



^^ Brother Mitchell responds to the panel's questions



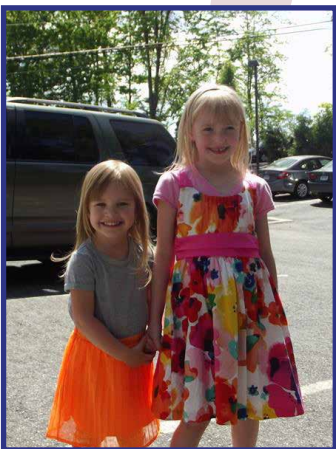
^^ Dr. Strouse provides his commentary on the defense.



^^ Brother Mitchell with the BBTB Faculty



^^ The panel thoroughly questioned the candidates!



These young ladies enjoyed the time of fellowship during the luncheons!



Brother Mitchell speaks on his topic.



BBC provided delicious luncheon's on both Friday and Saturday for those attending the dissertation defenses!

# BBTS BANQUET

BBTS Banquet

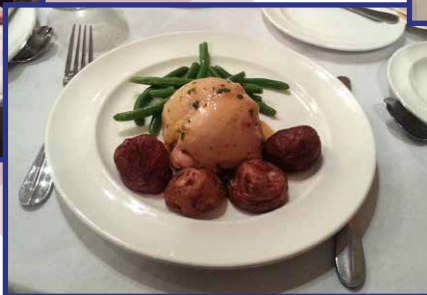
4

Photos



^^ The Banquet began with a time of fellowship, then a delicious meal of stuffed chicken, roasted potatoes and green beans

>> Brother Hagglund led in the singing of "Nothing But the Blood" and "In the Sweet Bye and Bye"



^^ Graduate Ryan Strouse sharing his word of testimony and thanks



^^ Graduate David Ellsmore



^^ Graduate Jeremy Mitchell



^^ Graduate Jeff Skorupski



^^ >> The young men and young ladies both enjoyed a time of fellowship and blessing at the banquet!





# GRADUATION SUNDAY



^^ It was a full house, with overflow seating in the fellowship room!



^^ The Children's Sunday School class was held outdoors, with plenty of singing and Bible Time with Mrs. Gagnon!

>> Pastor David Ellsmore preached the Sunday School service.



^^ The congregational singing was beautiful!



^^ Elena Sherwood sang "Heaven's Music," Psalm 100, in Hebrew, accompanied by Krista Hagglund on the harp!



<< Pastor Thomas Strouse preached on the concluding section of the Apocalypse, Revelation 22:17-21



^^ The weather was nice enough for lunch to be enjoyed outdoors under the tents!

>> These ladies enjoyed lunchtime fellowship indoors!





# GRADUATION SUNDAY

Graduation Sunday

6

Graduate Hosting



*Moments before leaving for the graduation ceremony.*



*The Sunday afternoon meal and fellowship was excellent, as usual!*



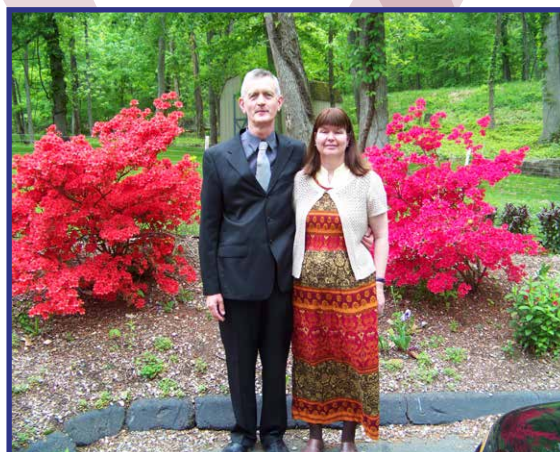
*Ryan and Jeff reflect on their studies!*



*Delicious cake and fellowship followed the service.*

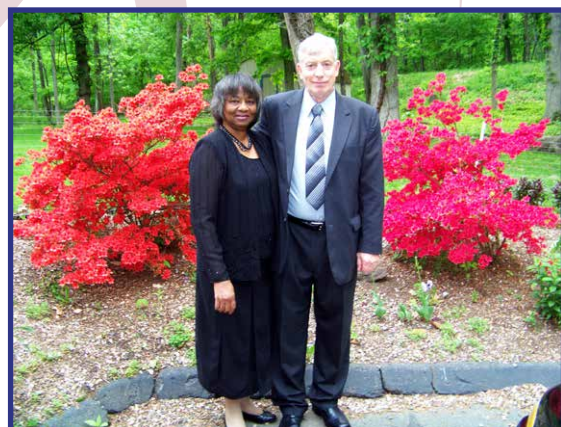


*Pastor and Mrs. Strouse hosted many of the graduates in their home during the weekend!*



*Pastor Derry O'Sullivan and his wife, Wendy, enjoyed the visit from Ireland.*

>> Pastor even shared his grandson with his visitors!



*David A. Ellsmore and his wife, Devine, enjoyed their visit from England*



# GRADUATION SERVICE

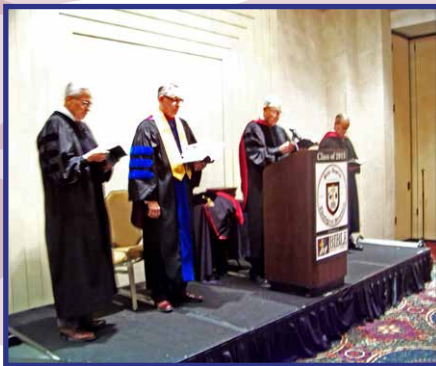
Graduation Service

7

Photos



*Dr. Strouse led the way during the processional!*



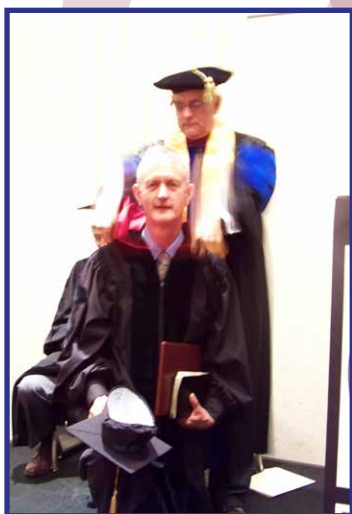
*Dr. Davidson led the Scripture reading.*



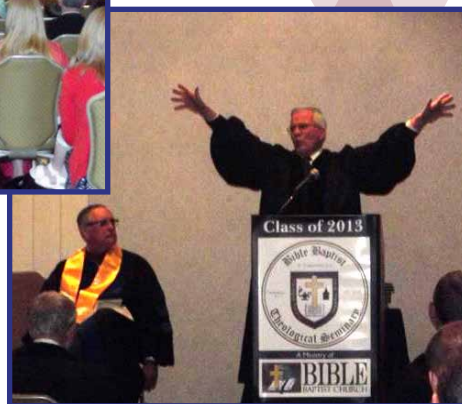
*The BBC Choir sang "The Steps of a Good Man"*



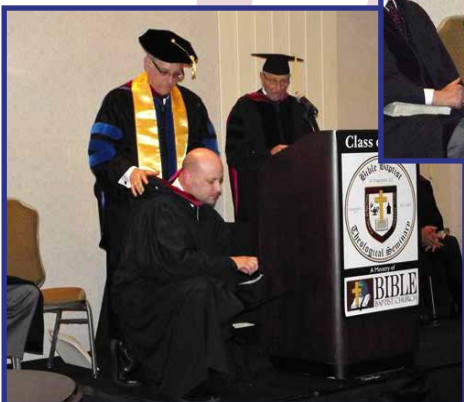
*^^>> Evangelist Gary Gillmore challenged the candidates to practice the Great Commission of evangelizing, baptizing, and catechizing the lost.*



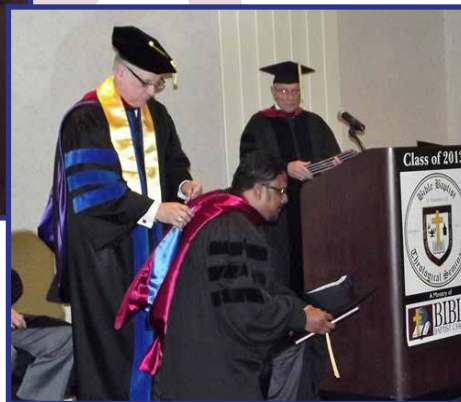
*^^ Pastor Derry O'Sullivan receives his hood for his honorary Doctor of Divinity.*



*^^ Brother Jeremiah Mitchell receiving his hood for his Doctor of Philosophy*



*^^ Bother Jeff Skorupski, receiving his hood for his Master of Divinity.*



*^^ Brother Enoch Kumar receiving his hood for his Doctor of Theology.*

# GRADUATION SERVICE

Graduation Service

8

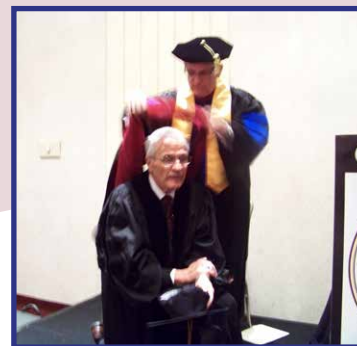
Photos



^^ Pastor David A. Ellsmore receives his hood for the honorary Doctor of Divinity.



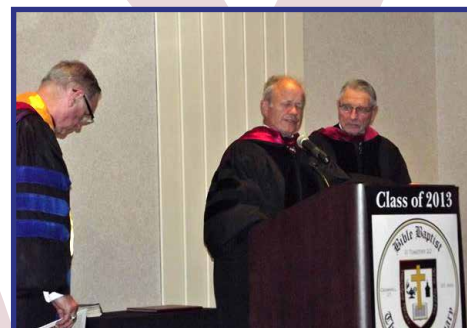
^^ Pastor Caswell A. Reeves receives his hood for the Doctor of Ministry



^^ Evangelist Gary Gilmore receives his hood for the honorary Doctor of Divinity.



Graduates Ryan Strouse and Jeff Skorupski with Faculty and Guest preacher.



Adjunct Professor Dr. Noel Meadowcroft closed the service in prayer.



The wives of the graduates were presented with flowers and abundant thanks from the graduates!



## THE GRADUATES



*The BBTS Faculty*



*Two European graduates, Dr. Ellsmore and Dr. O'Sullivan with Dr. Strouse.*



*Newly graduated Dr. Jeremy Mitchell and his wife.*



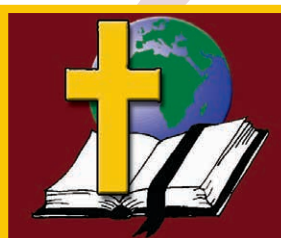
*The BBTS Faculty with the Honorary Doctorates.*



*Evangelist Gary Gilmore, Pastor Reeves and Dr. Strouse.*

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](mailto:bbts@stny.rr.com)  
[hbc5923@stny.rr.com](mailto: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](http://www.bbc-cromwell.org)