



# BBC UPDATE

## Ireland Module

**Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor**



*Dr. Strouse*

The Lord blessed with a great module in Leixlip, Ireland, hosted by River Valley Baptist Church, Dr. Bob Zemeski, pastor. Twenty seminarians took



BBTS/Ireland Class of 20 seminarians, 19 of whom are pastors/missionaries.

the challenge to learn the Hebrew and Greek alphabets, some basic theological words, and picked their way through the interlinear Hebrew and Greek texts of Scripture in Gen. 1:1-10 and Jn. 1:1-10. The class was challenged to take the "microscope" of the received texts of the biblical languages and explore the next level of the unsearchable riches of Christ underlying the KJV, which 400th birthday, incidentally is next year (2011). Some of the countries represented in the module were Ireland, England, Portugal, Romania, Nigeria, India, and the USA. On the last day I was privileged to tour the fascinating Sligo area with one of the Irish seminarians, Kieran MacCourt. The country is as needy for the Gospel of Christ as it is beautiful.



*Kieran MacCourt and Dr. Strouse with Sligo in background.*



*Seminarians taking timed test to reproduce the Hebrew alphabet.*

The seminary ministry of BBC continues this week at Community Baptist Church in Quakertown, PA, with the course on the Book of Ephesians. Pray for BBC and BBTS and our sister institution Heritage Baptist Church and Heritage Baptist Theological Seminary. (See article on page 3!)

# BBTS NEWS

## Ireland Module

BBTS Modules

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Ireland



*Above: Sheep on the hillside.  
Below: In the Bluebell flower forest.*



*Seminarians practicing writing Hebrew skills.*



*Kieran MacCourt leading congregational singing in Gospel Baptist Church of Lucan, Ireland.*



*Gospel Baptist Church members singing in SS.*



*Irish Pastor Les Hill and family in Lucan.*

# Heritage Baptist Theological Seminary Celebrates First Graduation!

## HERITAGE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor

The new Heritage Baptist Theological Seminary in Endicott, NY under the auspices of Heritage Baptist Church and the leadership of Pastor Cas Reeves, held its first seminary graduation on May 30, 2010. HBTS offers a full program of seminary courses and degrees with the faculty of Pastor Cas Reeves, MBS, Professor Noel Meadowcroft, MBS, and myself as adjunct. HBTS gave four academic degrees to HBC members and two honorary degrees to Bible Baptist Church (Cromwell, CT) members, namely the Doctor of Divinity (DD) to Harold Davidson and the Doctor of Literature (DLit) to Dr. Strouse. The Lord blessed the day with many rejoicing in the truth, especially after being challenged in the commencement sermon by Dr. Davidson.



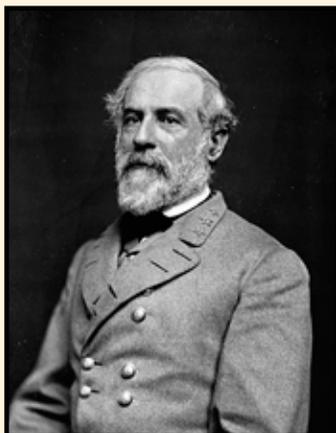
^ Above: First Graduating class of Heritage Baptist Theological Seminary



^ Pastor Reeves, Dr. Strouse and Harold Davidson.

< Dr. Strouse and his wife Janis.

> Dr. Davidson and his wife Edith.



### Robert E. Lee, 1807-1870. General of the Confederate Army, and President of Washington College.

Addressing his chaplains, who were assuring him of his men's prayers for him, during the Civil War, the General with tears in his eyes said,

*"I warmly appreciate it. And I can only say that I am nothing but a poor sinner, trusting in Christ alone for salvation, and need all the prayers they offer me."*

# BOOK REVIEW

## The Church Which Is His Body: *Is it Local or Universal*

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor

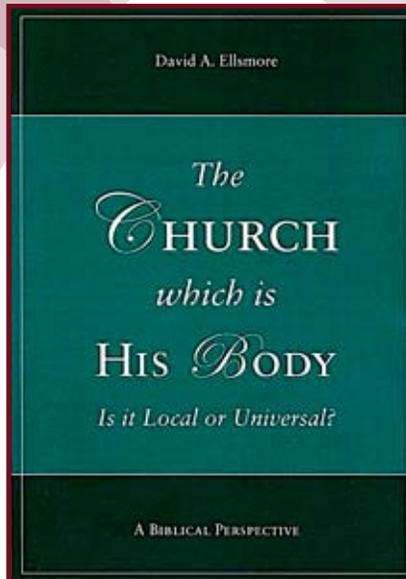
The recent book by David A. Ellsmore, *The Church Which Is His Body: Is it Local or Universal*, (West Basingstoke, England: West Basingstoke Baptist Church, 2010 [144 pp.]) is a work that has come out of the crucible of fire. Pastor Ellsmore has been the pastor of West Basingstoke Baptist Church since 1981. While in seminary (2005) through the Emmanuel Baptist Theological Seminary extension in Ireland, his ecclesiological position of holding to the universal, invisible church was biblically challenged. As he conformed his ecclesiology to that of Scripture, he recognized the Christian responsibility to instruct his church in harmony with Christ's teaching. Pastor Ellsmore realized the potential for costly consequences in his assembly, but desiring to please his Savior rather than man, counted the cost and ultimately lost half of his congregation. His studies and teaching during this time of fiery trial resulted in the finished manuscript. He lost favor with friends, family, and pastors because of his position that Scripture teaches that the *ekklesia* is the visible assembly of immersed saints, while at the same time gaining favor with the Lord Jesus Christ. I take great joy in presenting and promoting *The Church Which Is His Body* as the manifestation of his walk in truth (III Jn. 1:4), and as the fruit of the exposition of Scripture through the seminary extension in Europe (Jn. 15:16).

With theological precision and Christian grace, Pastor Ellsmore repudiates his previous notion of the universal, invisible church. Theologically, he shows the biblical fallacy of holding to two churches and two baptisms. Pastorally, he carefully and compas-

sionately repudiates the position because of the practical ramifications that affect the sanctification of believers, and especially the sanctification of Baptist church members. The book layout effectively reflects the biblical logic which counters human logic when ecclesiological discussions occur. Pastor Ellsmore knows the so-called "objections" and counters them head on with Scripture. He gives biblical definitions for "church" and "body" and deals with

John's theology of Spirit Baptism. He asks whether there was an assembly before Pentecost, and shows the biblical affirmation replete through the Gospel accounts. He addresses other questions such as the nature of the "Bride," the "Kingdom of God," and the "Family of God." He argues for the defense that John's baptism was New Testament baptism, and the "one baptism" (Eph. 4:5), while clearly rejecting and avoiding any scandal of "Landmarkism" or "Baptist Bride-ism." His book is filled with lists, footnotes, and diagrams, illustrating and elucidating his points with great clarity. He attaches five appendices, focusing on auxiliary ecclesiological issues, and rounding out

a very thorough study of *ekklesia* in the New Testament. With great pastoral care, Ellsmore gives his final plea, saying, "It is highly likely that Baptists will again be persecuted in our Western society and those Baptists who support the non-biblical concept of a universal church or body will, albeit inadvertently, be helping to bring about this persecution on themselves."



### BBTS Summer 2010 Module Schedule

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

## Wisdom in Asking: 1 Kings 3:15

by Pastor Scott Blair

# DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Solomon is the author of the overwhelming majority of the Book of Proverbs. He was the son of King David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 24). Solomon followed his father David as the King of the Nation of Israel (1 Kings 1). As King, the Lord greatly blessed Solomon by telling Solomon, "Ask what I shall give thee." (1 Kings 3:5)

In response to the Lord, Solomon asked for wisdom (an understanding heart) with which to judge the people and to discern between that which is good and that which is bad. The Lord, in His goodness, gave Solomon a wise and understanding heart so that, by God's grace, there was none like Solomon, neither before nor after him. It was pleasing to the Lord that of all the things that Solomon could have asked for, he chose to ask for an understanding heart. Because of his selfless choice, the Lord blessed Solomon with many things that

he did not ask for such as riches and honor.

If the Lord were to make you the same offer that He made to Solomon, what would you ask for?

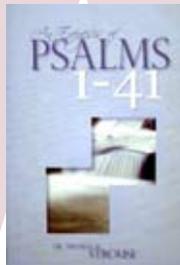
As a New Testament believer, we have a promise from the Word of God very similar to that of Solomon. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." Do you desire a wise and understanding heart? What are we to do if, like Solomon, we desire to have an understanding heart? Are there circumstances in your life in which you have need of Divine Wisdom? Why not humbly bow your head and ask the Lord for the wisdom, understanding and discernment that you need?

And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.  
1 Kings 3:15

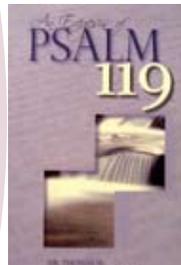
## The Book Corner

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

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



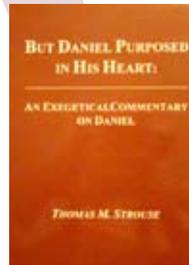
Psalms 1 - 41  
\$20.00



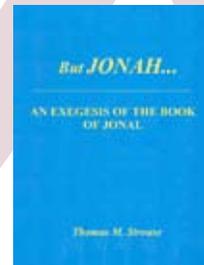
Psalm 119  
\$20.00



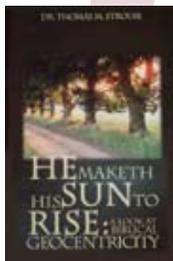
Spiritual Gifts  
\$8.00



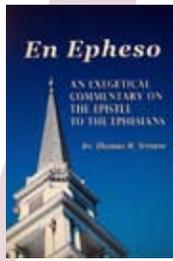
Daniel  
\$20.00



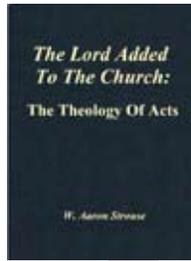
Jonah  
\$10.00



Geocentricity  
\$10.00



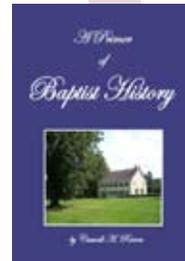
En Epheso  
\$20.00



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

# SERMON OUTLINE

## “THE ILLUMINATING WORK OF TRUTH”

HBTS COMMENCEMENT MESSAGE MAY 30, 2010

Sermon Outline

6

Illuminating Work

**Dr. Harold Davidson**

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; <sup>2</sup>But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup>But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: <sup>4</sup>In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. <sup>5</sup>For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor. 4:1 - 6

**Introduction.** Too often in today's Baptist churches the truth of God's words is being mishandled. This is a great danger to the children of God and to future generations of Christians. In order to honestly handle the Word of God, preachers should clearly understand the illuminating work of Truth.



Dr. Harold Davidson

### I. The Manner of Sharing Illuminating Truth

- A. Shares the truth of God's words as a result of received mercy (1)
- B. Shares the truth of God's words without fainting (1)
- C. Shares the truth of God's words without dishonesty (2)

- D. Shares the truth of God's words without craftiness (2)
- E. Shares the truth of God's words without deceit (2)
- F. Shares the truth of God's words with personal integrity (2)

### II. The Necessity of Sharing Illuminating Truth

- A. Because the truth of God is hid from the lost (3)
- B. Because the truth of God is distorted by Satan (4)
  1. For Eve in the beginning
  2. For the nation of Israel throughout its existence
  3. For the N.T. church throughout its existence
  4. In the future - those following the reign of Christ

### III. The Power of Sharing Illuminating Truth

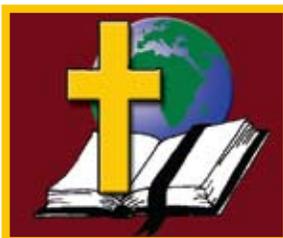
- A. Comes through the person of Jesus Christ (5)
- B. Comes through the power of God's spoken Word (6)
  1. It is the same power of God by which He commanded the light to shine out of darkness.
  2. It is the same power of God by which His knowledge now shines in the heart of men.

**Conclusion.** Remember illumination comes from the Lord when God's glory shines through in the truth of God's word as it is preached with honest integrity. Therefore make sure you hold forth the truth, clearly preaching God's Word that those who are in darkness may truly be illuminated in truth..

“The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind:  
the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the  
LORD loveth the righteous”  
(Psalm 146:8).

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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