

BBC UPDATE

Iloilo, Philippines Modules

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor

The Lord blessed the Iloilo Modules during the week of Sept. 19-23, 2011, with 16 pastors and missionaries in attendance. Several new seminarians joined the classes on Hebrews and I and II Thesalonians at Garden Bible Baptist Church in Iloilo, Philippines. Pastor and Mrs. Emmanuel Tanierla graciously hosted the pastors in their home and church building, feeding and bedding the visiting seminarians with the help of their church members. There was plenty of rice, fish, chicken, vegetables and fruits to fill with physical food as we enjoyed the spiritual

food from the Lord. I had the privilege to preach in Pastor Aniceto Balinas' church in Antique, Phil. His church, Bible Baptist Church, has trained at least 10 men who have planted churches in the area, and has supported additional missionaries as well. Pastor Balinas is translating the *Textus Receptus* into the local language with the purpose of evangelizing and edifying these nationals. The following Sunday, I preached in the 34th anniversary service of Bible Baptist Church in Molo, Phil. Pray for these indigenous assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ. I was able to leave Manila for home right before the typhoon hit Metro Manila, where Pastor Cas Reeves and Pastor Jed Raquintan taught BBTS modules simultaneously with me in the Philippines. Pray for these various ministries carrying out the Great Commission.



Left: Students ready for lecture.



Above: Attendees of the Iloilo Module included over 15 students, missionaries and pastors.

Testimony of Elena Sherwood

*To God Be the Glory
Great Things He Hath Done*

~Fanny Jane Crosby



Elena Sherwood

While growing up, my family was Roman Catholic. I never understood the Catholic traditions but went through the rituals that everyone goes through, cookie cutter style. When I left my parents' home and got married at 21, I stopped attending the Catholic Church as it offered little evidence of a true, personal, and saving relationship with God through Christ. I longed for a relationship with God but simply did not know how to find it. The Gospel was not presented to me clearly, nor biblically and I never heard it growing up.

Continued on Page 2



Preaching in Molo

the Philippines. Pray for these various ministries carrying out the Great Commission.

ELENA SHERWOOD

Elena Sherwood

2

Testimony

Continued from Page 1

After getting married I got involved in the New Age movement. The things I got involved with included Tarot Card readings, Native American Pow Wows, crystals, shakras, mystical meditation, years of psychotherapy, etc... I continued to search for God but in all the places God could not be found.

Since I was completely and totally LOST my marriage was a mess. I became anorexic. Rage and bitterness blackened my heart. My anger turned into verbal abuse toward my husband, I had perfected my sarcasm and could cut with it, deeply. I hated myself and was helpless to change. I remember that I would swear all the time, to the point that my husband and daughter would require me to put quarters in a jar every time I would swear but nothing could deter me. I was blind and could not break the hold sin had over me.

Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

One day I was reading the newspaper and saw an advertisement for a church. We began to attend. At this point in my life I would say I didn't have much of a relationship with God. I didn't pray. I didn't really pay much thought to God or Jesus (someone I had heard about but was indifferent to). I remember a Pastor asking me if I believed the Bible and I unashamedly proclaimed, "No, I do not!"

The Lord continued to work in my heart and I began to attend a Bible Study. One night after the Bible study Pastor Tom asked me why I had not yet received Jesus as my Saviour. I told him I had to clean myself up, I did not feel worthy. I knew I was a sinner but did not understand that the person of Jesus Christ had come to shed His blood for the forgiveness of MY sins. I guess I thought I had to earn His approval. Pastor Tom explained that forgiveness was a gift of God that was available to me but I must receive this gift by faith.

Romans 5:15, "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many."

Shortly after that, in 1999, the Lord allowed a most difficult trial in my life, and while on the floor in my bedroom with a surrendered heart and in tears I called upon the name of the Lord Jesus and He saved me. I had finally come to the end of myself.

Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

I turned from my old life by the power of my Saviour, I was no longer bitter and depressed, I no longer swore, I no longer was sarcastic nor verbally abusive... He changed my heart and by the power of Christ I was set free from the bondage that had consumed me.

2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things are passed away; behold, new things have come."

These things instead were replaced with an internal peace and joy that I had not known before and a new found relationship and love for my Saviour Jesus Christ. The Bible became real and personal. I grew in my faith, my prayer life and I wanted to live for my heavenly Father. I knew then that I had eternal security and heaven would be my home when I left this earth. I felt so happy and alive for the first time in my 40 years.

1 John 5:13, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

I continued to attend this church and after five years (2003) I was asked to work for the church as a secretary part-time, which then grew into a full time-position. It was hard to believe that I got paid for doing what I loved and serving Whom I loved! Pointing people to the Lord, helping people in need, and encouraging women to walk with the Lord was my unmatched joy and passion.

This soon came to a sad ending. About 4 years into my position with this church the Lord began to illuminate several things that were happening that were unbiblical. I began to pray fervently for the Lord to change the hearts and minds of the leadership, I prayed that the men would lead, and that they would repent of

their unbiblical ways. I learned then what it meant to 'Contend for the Faith' (Jude 1:3).

They would not repent and I knew that I needed to leave. What I realized later was that the Lord knew their hearts would not change so He took me out. I am so thankful for the way He leads and cares for me.

Psalm 86:7, "In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me."

So let's recap:

The Lord has delivered me out of the Catholic Church, the New Age Movement, and an unbiblical New Evangelical Church.

When I gave my letter of resignation, I became churchless and jobless. The Lord provided a job within 4 weeks and He also provided a church in the Middletown area of Connecticut. This church used the KJV and sang the traditional hymns, which was very different from what I had become accustomed to (NIV and contemporary music). I was welcomed and ministered to for several months. A friend became a member of that church but I just never had peace about becoming a member and looking back, now I can understand why.

While I was attending this assembly in Middletown, Bible Baptist Church had not yet been formed. As the Lord, through Pastor Strouse and the others, was preparing and beginning this new local church, He was calling me out of this Middletown assembly. I thought I was being called out to look for a church in my area of Manchester, Connecticut and so that is what I did. I began looking for 2-3 months for a church in my area and could not find ONE church that didn't have con-

ELENA SHERWOOD

temporary music, or women preachers, or used the NIV, etc... until a dear friend called me and said, "Elena you have to come to Cromwell to visit this church we found, we just know it is what you are looking for!"

Well I resisted a bit because, after all, I was trying to find a church in my area and Cromwell was 25 minutes away...right next door to Middletown. But not too long after that I felt the tug of the Lord and in obedience I went to visit Bible Baptist Church.

Proverbs 16:9, "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."

What an incredible blessing it was to see this group of faithful followers who love the Lord, honor His Word, and uphold His Truth. In perspective, traveling 25 minutes is a tremendous blessing when I see all who live around the world hungry for this Truth.

My friend was right! I was baptized and the Lord set me in this assembly. I praise Him for His faithful hand in my life and I am thankful and blessed in this place.

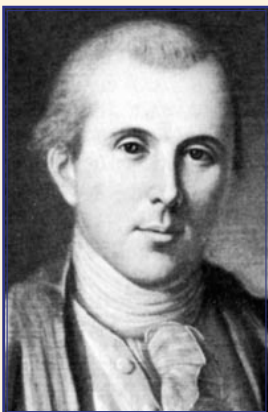
For His Glory,

Elena Sherwood

Elenas62@yahoo.com

Jeremiah 29:13 "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Quotes From the Past:



Benjamin Rush

Benjamin Rush, 1746-1813

Signer of the Declaration of Independence of USA

"The only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty"

BBC Photos

Farewell to the Dr. Aaron Strouse Family

Aaron and Molly Strouse have followed the Lord's leading to a new home in North Carolina. Sunday, September 11 was their last day with our assembly. They will be greatly missed.

BBC

4

Photos



The Strouse and Gagnon Families share a farewell photo

Ecclesiastes teaches that there is a time for everything,
A time to be sad and a time to sing,
But the Lord's will
You must faithfully fulfill,
Only back to Connecticut the grandkids bring!



The drink ministry will be in good hands, as Aaron completes the training of his understudy!!



Marcus enjoys the parting gifts!



Maddie Strouse played the offertory!



ILOILO MODULE



The Bamboo bank was broken open, and Dr. Strouse was able to bring a love gift to Iloilo.



The children of BBC helped count the change!



Preaching service at Bible Baptist Church (BBC) of Antique, Philippines



Dr. Strouse's accommodations at Iloilo.



Many missionaries supported by BBC, including 10 different church planters from BBC



Sunday School class in at Bible Baptist Church

The Biblical Perspective on Wealth



Dr. T. M. Strouse

Introduction

America is the wealthiest nation in the world, but along with this vast wealth comes complicit greed. This wealth and the greed for it transfers into the Christian realm as well. Many American Christians do not have a biblical perspective on wealth and the dangers therein. One would think that wealthy Christian America would have the economic wherewithal to evangelize thoroughly the world. Alas, this is not the case. The Lord's assemblies struggle financially because NT believers quite often do not have a biblical perspective about wealth, even though the Bible gives clear principles.

I. Wealth and Greed

Solomon, the wealthiest man of his day (I Ki. 10:23) and the wisest man who ever lived gave at least five principles concerning wealth and greed in Eccl. 5:10-17:

- A. The more wealth one has the more he wants *"He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity"* (v. 10).
- B. The more wealth one has the more he spends *"When goods increase, they are increased that eat them"* (v. 11).
- C. The more wealth one has the more he worries *"but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep"* (v. 12).
- D. The more wealth one has the more potential he has to lose *"but those riches perish by evil travail"* (vv. 13-14).
- E. The more wealth one has the more he will leave behind *"As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand"* (vv. 15-17).

II. Wealth and God

Solomon also gave two divine perspectives concerning the Lord and wealth:

- A. God gives man the power to obtain wealth *"Every man also to whom God hath given riches and*

wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof" (v. 19).

- B. God gives man the ability to enjoy his wealth *"because God answereth him in the joy of his heart"* (v. 20).

III. Wealth and Giving

The Bible in general and the NT in specific teach basic truths about one's wealth that honors the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. The **Tithe** is God's amount. *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"* (Mal. 3:10).
- B. The **Institution** of the local church is God's agency. *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come"* (I Cor. 16:1-2).
- C. The **Purpose** of giving is to fulfill the Great Commission. *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"* (Mt. 28:19-20).
- D. The **Secret** of giving is to give one's heart first. *"And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God"* (II Cor. 8:5).
- E. The **Eternal State** is the final investment. *"And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations"* (Lk. 16:9).

Conclusion

For the American Christian to succumb to the temptation of *"the love of money"* (I Tim. 6:10) is vanity indeed. The only institution that has the divine guarantee of perpetuity is the Lord's local church (Mt. 28:19-20). Five hundred years from now, if the Lord does not come back, one financial truth is certain: the Lord's people will be financing the Lord's churches through tithes and offerings.

MORE PHOTOS



Above: Delicious meal served between classes

Right: Module Classtime!



Above: Pastor and Mrs. Balinas of BBC in Antique, Philippines



Above: Pastor Titus sang beautiful Christian songs at break time



Above: The Kwon Family



Above: Aaron catching up on the latest edition of "The Update!"



DEVOTIONAL CORNER

The Happy Man

by Pastor Cas Reeves

Text: Psalm 40:1-17

1: I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. 2: He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. 3: And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. 4: Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.



Pastor Cas Reeves There are many times in our lives that we realize our weakness and our poverty. We may find that we have not the strength to endure a trial or the resource to work out a problem. It is in these kinds of times that men should call upon the LORD for that help and strength. David of old was such a man from whom we can learn from his example.

David, with great expectation, waited upon the LORD crying in prayer for help from the Him; and He inclined (stretched out to) Himself toward David (v.1). The LORD delivered David out of the horrible pit (cistern) and from the miry clay to set his feet upon a solid rock and to establish his goings, literally his steps (v.2). The LORD gave David a new

song to sing with his mouth, praising God. The result of this song of praise was that many shall see, fear and trust the LORD (literally: to hid themselves, to take refuge in the LORD) (v.3). When men put their trust in the LORD rather than the genius of men; God calls them “Blessed” (literally: happy) (v.4). This man is a happy man because he knows his help is the LORD. And this is just why David declared: *But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God (v. 17).*

What can we learn from David about being a happy man?

What can we learn from David about being a happy man? First, we can be happy when we cry unto the Lord with our needs. Secondly, we can be happy when we can find deliverance with the Lord from our troubles. Thirdly, we can be happy when we can sing a new song of praise from our Lord. Fourthly, we can be happy when we make the Lord our trust And fifthly, we can be happy when we know God thinks upon us.

Today, Jesus Christ is ready to be your Lord and Savior; literally your refuge from a future hell and any present troubles or dangers. Have you repented of your sin and received Him as your Savior? Are you a “happy man?” You can be!

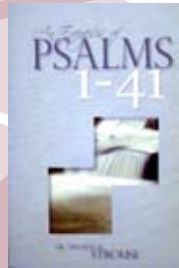
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THE BOOK CORNER

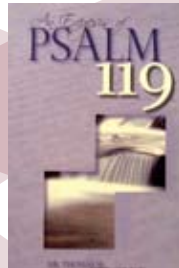
The Book Corner

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

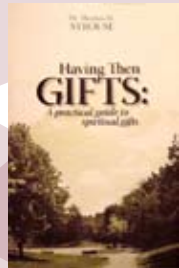
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860-229-5387



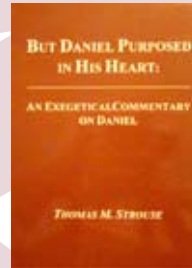
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



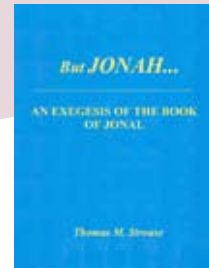
Psalm 119
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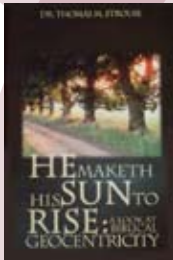
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



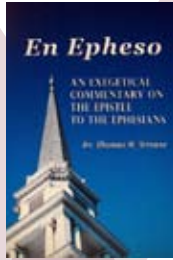
Daniel
\$20.00



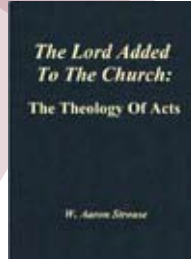
Jonah
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Geocentricity
\$10.00



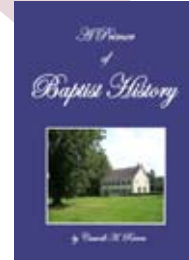
En Epheso
\$20.00



The Theology of Acts
\$20.00



I Will Build My Church
\$15.00



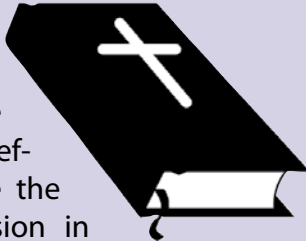
A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

Manchester Bible Study

Continue to pray for the Manchester Bible Study as Mark Schabert teaches the *Gospel of John* to several families who live in the area. This is an effort to practice the Great Commission in Manchester, CT, evangelizing and edifying folks who come to the study. The Bible study is every Friday night at 7 PM. Please contact the pastor for directions.



The BBC Youth enthusiastically sang "Send the Light" during the morning service

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

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hbc5923@stny.rr.com



Bible Baptist Theological Seminary

A ministry of Bible Baptist Church

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Bible Baptist Theological Seminary presents

The Second Annual Fall Lecture Series

"Behold He Cometh"

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST!



Dr. David Smith Dr. Thomas M. Strouse Mr. Jeff Skorupski Pastor Cas Reeves

Preaching Schedule:

9:00-10:30 AM *"The Biblical Teaching on the Second Coming of Christ"*—Dr. David Smith, MDiv, DD, Pastor of Community Baptist Church, Quakertown, PA.

10:45 AM-12:00 *"Heretical Views on the Second Coming of Christ"*—Dr. Thomas Strouse, MDiv, PhD, ThD, DD, DLit, Pastor of Bible Baptist Church and Dean of BBTS.

1:00-2:30 PM *"The Judgment Seat of Christ"*—Mr. Jeff Skorupski, MBS, Associate Professor of BBTS.

2:45-4:00 PM *"The New Jerusalem"*—Pastor Cas Reeves, MBS, MDiv, Pastor of Heritage Baptist Church and President of HBTS.

The Courtyard by Marriott
4 Sebeth Dr.
Cromwell, CT 06416



RSVP by Nov. 1, 2011 with total number in your party.
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Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387
drtms_bbts@juno.com

**Lunch will be provided with free-will offering.*

**A book table will be available with relevant material.*

Thursday, November 17, 2011

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

www.bbc-cromwell.org