



# BBC UPDATE

## Third Anniversary of BBC

Dr. Thomas Strouse



Dr. Thomas Strouse

On Dec 4, 2009, Bible Baptist Church organized as a NT Baptist assembly in Cromwell, CT. After much prayer by seven men meeting in the living room of Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, these heads of families were led by the Spirit of God to covenant around biblical principles and organize BBC, with Dr. Strouse as the first pastor. Ultimately, the six families that organized were those of Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Dr. Aaron Strouse, Dr. Harold Davidson, Mr. Mark Schabert, Mr. Bill Gagnon, and Pastor Jerry Akers, totaling 27 church members. BBC enjoyed from the very beginning the **divine authority** of the precious Lord Jesus Christ Who commissioned immersionist church members to start immersionist churches when He said, "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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Mt. 28:19-20; cf. also Acts 8:36-37; 14:23; 18:18-19, 24-28, Phile. 1:1-2 et al). This scriptural beginning received immediate **divine approval** as the Lord blessed the new assembly financially, bringing in through tithes and offerings sufficient income for all expenses including more-than-adequate salary for the pastor. The seminary ministry continued initially as Emmanuel Baptist Theological Seminary and then appropriately renamed Bible Baptist Theological Seminary, which gave **divine authenticity** to BBC as other area churches recognized the focus on biblical truth of both the seminary and church. Another confirmation of the legitimacy for the beginning, existence, and perpetuation of BBC was the **demonic attack** upon the assembly's personnel by means of slandering and defrauding. In all we have enjoyed the presence and blessing of the Lord as we have attempted to reach Cromwell, CT and the world with the truth while instilling a love for the truth.



BBC Church family in its first year, March 2010

## Christmas Banquet

**You are cordially invited to the third annual BBC/BBTS Christmas Banquet at Bible Baptist Church on Friday Dec. 7, 2012 from 6-9 PM.**

**The Banquet is for all church members of BBC and Bible Baptist Theological Seminary alumni, seminarians, or friends. This will coincide with the third anniversary of the founding of BBC (Dec. 4, 2009), including a time of remembrance and challenge, with gift exchange.**

### Gift Exchange

Part of the evening's activities will entail a gift exchange (\$10 range). Each attendee should bring a wrapped gift for this traditional and spirited event!

### Nursery

A nursery will be provided however, it is important that you indicate how many children will be using the nursery when you RSVP.

### RSVP

Please RSVP to: [drtms\\_bbts@juno.com](mailto:drtms_bbts@juno.com) by December 1, 2012.

## BBC UPDATE

### Kwon Family Farewell

It is with mixed feelings that BBC has to say goodbye to a precious Korean family that will be going back to Seoul, Korea. Mr. and Mrs. Ohyun Kwon, baby Eun Hyeok, and Sister Heejeong Kim will be leaving the States on Dec. 4, 2012, as he will be reassigned in his employment. This godly family has been a great blessing to the church membership, as they have travelled faithfully every Sunday for over one hour to come to all of the Sunday services. Brother Kwon has received seminary instruction and ministered in the church, and he and his family will be a great theological boon to Dr. David Eum and his church in Seoul. This blessed family has allowed BBC to walk with them through their special valley and come out rejoicing in the Lord's comfort and *grace*. May the Lord bless them.



*The Kwon Family will be returning to Korea in December*



*Above: Brother Jeannot Rosignol and his girls sang "Jesus Loves me" in Greek. Jeannot is a BBTS Greek student. His daughters are learning Greek in their Homeschool!*



*The BBC Choir sang a BBC version of "We Gather Together" during the morning service on Sunday. The lyrics were custom written by BBC members!*

### The King James Bible Song

*Some members of Central Baptist Church, Patterson, NJ, under the leadership of Dr. Henry Lee, pastor, wrote and sang the song "King James Bible" during the Bible Conference Pastor Strouse attended last month. Pastor Strouse brought the music back and Brother Bill Gagnon sang it during the afternoon service last Sunday! It was a blessing!*



*Above: Brother Bill Gagnon sang "King James Bible Song"*

#### King James Bible Song

When I was but a little child my mama would read to me,  
From the old King James Bible, as I sat up-on her knees.  
She says that it is God's Holy Book, every word in-side is true.  
The precious holy gift of God - from heaven to me and you.  
It's the old King James Bible - my mama read to me.  
The old King James Bible, that sets my spirit free.  
The precious Holy Word of God preserved for you and me.  
It's the old King James Bible - my mama read to me  
Well, the old King James Bible - - is what we need today-  
That teaches us how to please the Lord in all we do and say.  
If we read and pray then obey, the Lord will surely lead  
From the Old King James Bible - my mama read to me.



# Are We "Baptist Bride"?

Dr. Thomas Strouse, Pastor

## SERMON

### I. What is "Baptist Bride"?

- A. It is a corollary of the Landmark Baptist Church Movement (LBCM) doctrine which teaches the following:
  - 1. Only Baptist churches that can trace their history back to John's baptism are legitimate (they maintain the ancient "landmark" set by the Apostles [Prov. 22:28]). This is known as "church successionism."
  - 2. There is no universal invisible church or mystical body of Christ, but only visible Baptist churches.
  - 3. True Baptist churches make up the Kingdom of God and therefore constitute the Bride of Christ; all other Christians are friends in the Marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9; Mt. 22:12). Some LBCM maintain that only Baptists will be raptured.
  - 4. Baptism from non-Landmark Baptist churches is alien and rejected.
- B. The movement began in 1851 as SBC preachers such as J. R. Graves disapproved of Protestants preaching ("pulpit affiliation") in SBC pulpits, and SBC churches receiving into membership those baptized in Protestant churches ("alien baptism").

### II. What is biblical about Landmark Baptist Church teaching?

- A. Their ecclesiology is true in that the Bible does not countenance the universal invisible church/mystical body of Christ teaching (all references to the body of Christ are in local church epistles [Rom., I Cor., Eph. and Col.]).
- B. Protestant influence through pulpit affiliation or through baptism must be rejected (I Cor. 12:13).

### III. What is unbiblical about Landmark Baptist Church teaching?

- A. Their authority for church purity is first of all historical, requiring documented pedigree back to the Jerusalem church (the Lord had no historical concern about the legitimacy of the seven churches of Asia, only theological concerns [Rev. 2-3]).
- B. Their identification of Baptist churches with the Kingdom of God is unwarranted, since it would make Landmark Baptist Church membership identical with regeneration (cf. Jn. 3:3-5; Lk. 17:20).
- C. Their view that the Bride of Christ is exclusively ecclesiological runs counter with many Scriptures (i.e., Rev. 21:2, 12-14). The "bride" metaphor in Scripture

is exclusively soteriological, referring to all saints from Adam on (Isa. 61:10; Ezk. 16:32; Jn. 3:29; Eph. 5:32; II Cor. 11: 2; Rev. 21:9). The "bride" metaphor shows the intimate relationship between Jehovah and the believer.

### IV. Is Bible Baptist Church of Cromwell, CT, a "Baptist Bride," Landmark Baptist Church?

- A. NO! We reject the unbiblical authority of history that LBCM demands as the proof for ecclesiological purity.
- B. NO! We reject the wrong identification of LBCM that Baptist churches make up the Kingdom of God.
- C. NO! We reject that the Bride metaphor is exclusively ecclesiological in nature as the LBCM insists.

### V. When did the NT church begin?

- A. It began with the Lord Jesus Christ as David predicted (Ps. 22:22), Christ affirmed (Mt. 16:18; 18:15-18), and Paul corroborated (Heb. 2:12).
- B. The Lord promised to build it up with "spiritual vitamins" such as church discipline (Mt. 18:15-18), the Lord's Supper (Mt. 26:26-30), and the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20).
- C. The Jerusalem assembly of baptized believers was publicly authenticated on Sunday Pentecost in Acts 2:1 ff., and 3,000 more church members were added to it by believer's immersion (Acts 2:41-42, 47).

### VI. What is the Body of Christ?

- A. The body of Christ is identical to the visible local church (Eph. 1:22-23). In Ephesus, it referred to the Ephesian church, the one body to which the church members belonged (Eph. 1:1; 4:4, 12).
- B. The body of Christ is identical to the visible local church (I Cor. 12:27). In Corinth, it referred to the Corinthian church (I Cor. 1:2).
- C. The body of Christ is identical to visible local church (Col. 1:18). In Colosse, it referred to the Colossian church (Col. 1:1).

*Continued on Page 4*

- D. The body of Christ is identical to the visible local church (Rom. 12:5). The Epistle is addressed to six local visible churches (Rom. 16:1-15 [see v. 5]).
- E. Christ is the head of each local church, His body in that respective locale (Col. 1:18; Rev. 2-3). There is no mystical body of Christ!

## VII. What is Spirit Baptism?

- A. John the Baptist is the theologian of the doctrine of Spirit Baptism as he predicted that the Lord Jesus Christ would baptize his audience in the Holy Ghost subsequent to their conversion (Mt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:33; Acts 1:5; and 11:16).
- B. This event of Spirit Baptism was the "*sending*" of the Spirit (Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:7; Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:4-5; and 2:33) which coincided with the "*giving*" of the Spirit (Jn. 4:14; 7:38-39, 14:16-17; Acts 2:38-39). Spirit Baptism has ceased (the "*sending*" of the Spirit) but regeneration has not ceased (the "*giving*" of the Spirit).
- C. Spirit Baptism authenticated to the Jews the new institution called the church where God would now meet with believers (cf. Acts 2:1-4 with Ex. 40:34; 1 Ki. 8:10-11; Ezk. 43:1-4).
- D. After three other occasions of Spirit Baptism to authenticate to the Jews that this new institution called church (Acts 2:47) would include Samaritans (Acts 8:14-17), Roman Gentiles (10:44-47; 11:15-18) and Greek Gentiles (Acts 19:1-7), Spirit Baptism ceased (Eph. 4:5).
- E. There is no Spirit Baptism today (and obviously no phenomenon of tongues [1 Cor. 13:8]). Since there is no mystical body of Christ, there is no need or reality of entering into the supposed mystical body of Christ through the fallacious teaching that the Spirit baptizes believers at the moment of salvation into the mystical body of Christ.
- F. 1 Cor. 12:13 teaches the need for church unity in the ordinances of water baptism and drinking the Lord's Supper. It does not teach a contradictory experience to what John prophesied: the Spirit baptizes believers simultaneous to salvation into the body of Christ.

## VIII. What are Family of God and Kingdom of God?

- A. The Family of God refers to all saved who have God as their father (Eph. 3:14-15). OT saints called God "Father" (Isa. 64:8) and NT saints called God "Father" (Rom 8:15).
- B. The Kingdom of God refers to all regenerated since the Cross of Christ, and therefore is both universal (Jn. 3:3-5) and invisible (Lk. 17:20). It includes permanent indwelling of the Spirit in fulfillment of the New Covenant promised in the OT and ratified by Christ on the Cross (Jer. 31:31 ff.; Ezk. 36:25 ff.; Mt. 26:26 ff.).

## IX. What about Proof Texts for the Universal Invisible Church / Mystical Body of Christ?

- A. Hebrew 12:22-23—supposedly, there is the future universal church, or church in prospect, comprised of all believers. To the contrary, Paul taught with his "snapshot" picture of heaven that church members' names were written in heaven (Phil. 4:3). It is theologically gratuitous and biblically unwarranted to assume that Paul used ἐκκλησία to refer to all believers (even OT saints [?]) in a future church whose names are in the book of life! All he is saying is that church members' names are written in heaven; he does not exclude the possibility of others, but he does not include them here.
- B. Eph. 2:20-21—supposedly the Ephesian church members are part of the big, universal church/body. To the contrary, Paul indicated that the saved and baptized Ephesian Gentiles (cf. Eph. 2:11) along with saved and baptized Ephesian Jews, were now part of the "temple" (Jewish term), which was the local church of Ephesus (cf. 1 Cor. 3:16-17).
- C. Eph. 3:21—supposedly, all believers will be in the eternal church of glory. To the contrary, Paul taught that the Ephesian church members would glorify God throughout eternity because of their obedience in and service through their respective church membership.

## X. Are we "Baptist Bride"?—NO!

## What We Can Learn from the Wise Men of the East

Pastor Cas Reeves



Pastor Cas Reeves

Text: Matthew 2:1-11

The scripture tells us that after the birth of Jesus that wise men from the east sought the Christ child. It is from these wise men and their behavior that the Christian might discern or identify behavior and characteristics becoming of wise men. For example, we note in Matthew 2:1-2, that these wise men from the east sought for the Christ child, speaking to the fact that wise men are those who seek after the Christ of God, Jesus the only begotten son of God. As well, these wise men sought that they might worship the Christ child; again, revealing that wise men worship the Christ of God. Further we learn they were discerners of "his star" a very particular star of guidance which they recognized, teaching us that we need to be discerning of God's guidance in our lives.

Also, intriguing is that these wise men were from the east and given the dislike of the Jews by the men of the east, these wise men displayed their personal humility in seeking out to worship the "King of the Jews," displaying for us an example for the need of personal humility in seeking and worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ. As well, it was not beneath them to ask for help in finding the Christ child, displaying still another kind of humility that of asking for help.

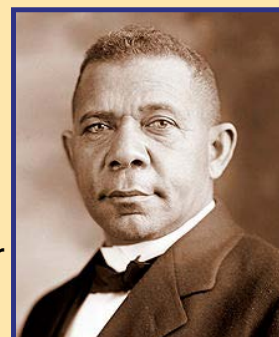
We note also the help they received: The real help came from the scripture, guiding them to the Christ child, and sharing with us an example that when we seek after Jesus Christ, we need to do it through the scripture. And if we are to find the Christ of God who brings salvation to men, He will only be found through the scriptures. Further, in verse eleven, once the wise men found the Christ child, they fell down before Him, they worshipped Him, and they gave gifts to Him, teaching us who have found the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior to be submissive, worshipful and giving toward our Savior.

Let us be wise, humbling ourselves, finding the Christ of the scripture, submitting ourselves to the Lord, worshipping Him and giving of our treasures, talents and time to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Have you received Christ Jesus as your Savior? Is He your Lord? Wise men receive Him!!

## DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Quotes From the Past:

Booker T.  
Washington  
1856-1915  
American Educator

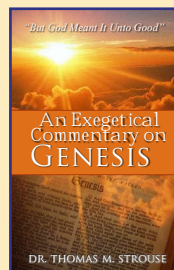


Booker T. Washington

*"I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has had to overcome while trying to succeed."*

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# HOMESCHOOL BEAVER WALK

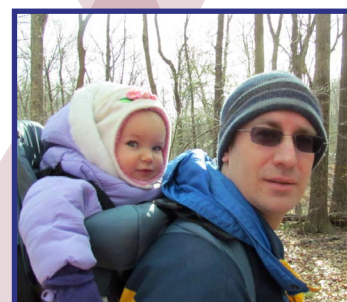
BBC Homeschool

6

BBTS Spring Schedules



The BBC Homeschooling families traveled to Burlington, CT to the Session Woods Wildlife Management Area on Tuesday, November 20. The field trip started at the Education Center with its many exhibits, including displays about black bears, coyotes, wild turkeys, birds and other animals. The students and parents then went on a guided 2.5 mile hike to watch the beavers in the beaver marsh and learned to identify several Connecticut plants and trees. The Lord blessed with beautiful weather for November!



## BBTS Module Classes

January 7-11, 2013

BBTS Europe Module

Albufeira, Portugal

"Ecclesiology"

"Job"

January 21-25, 2013

BBTS Module -

Cromwell, CT

"Ecclesiology"

February 18-22, 2013

BBTS Philippines Module

Quezon City

"Book of Job"

Philippines

"I and II Thessalonians"

March 11-15, 2013

HBTS Module

Endicott, NY

"1 Corinthians"

## BBTS Spring Classes

### Mondays

Greek Proficiency Review

10:00am - 12:00pm

Aramaic I

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Hebrew IV

7:00pm - 9:00pm

### Wednesdays

1 Corinthians

8:00am - 9:30am

Greek IV

5:00pm - 7:00pm

### Thursdays

1 Corinthians

8:00am - 9:30am

Angelology

6:00pm - 9:00pm

### Fridays

Greek II

8:00am - 10:00am



# HOMESCHOOL FIELD TRIP

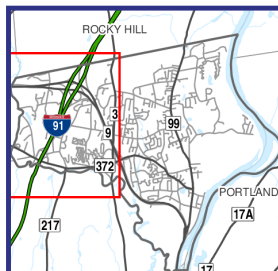
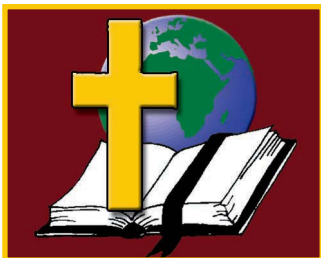


On Tuesday, November 13, the BBC Homeschoolers traveled to the Cromwell Police and Fire departments for a tour. The children sat in a jail cell and were fingerprinted! They also were able to sit inside of the police and fire rescue equipment. They had a great time!!



## Operation Cromwell

The church membership of BBC is involved in reaching Cromwell, CT with the gospel by claiming various streets in the town and then visiting the houses on these streets. Each street is voluntarily selected by the church member family, prayed over, and visited with invitations to Christ and to BBC. Cromwell has many streets with houses with sinners. Pray that we will reach our Jerusalem.





# THE BOOK CORNER



Does this remind one of Dan. 10:9, "when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep..."?

## BBTS Spring Lecture Series

Save the Date !!  
April 18, 2013

*"Evangelism and Church Planting"*



*"Church Planting in Acts"*

Dr. Thomas Strouse

*"Biblical Evangelism"*

Dr. Noel Meadowcroft

*"The Principles and Challenge of Church Planting"*

Pastor Greg Breeden

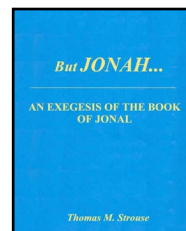
## The Book Corner

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

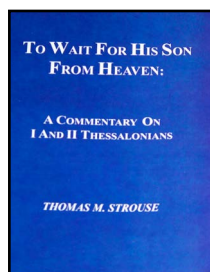
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Cromwell, CT 06416

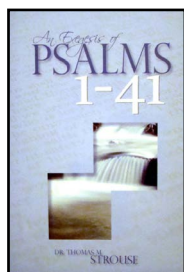
860-229-5387



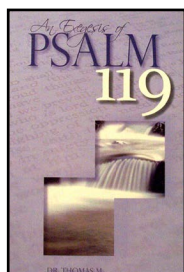
Jonah  
\$10.00



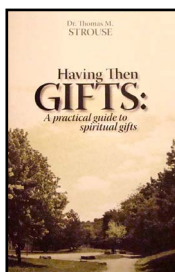
I & II Thessalonians  
\$10.00



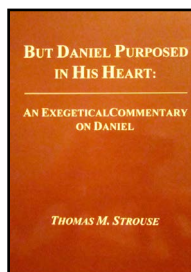
Psalms 1 - 41  
\$20.00



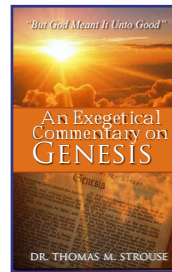
Psalm 119  
\$20.00



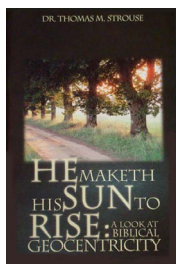
Spiritual Gifts  
\$8.00



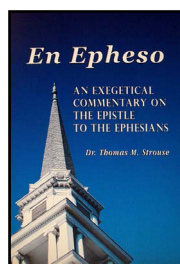
Daniel  
\$20.00



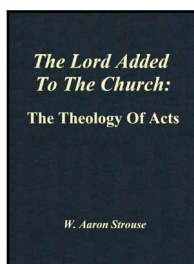
Genesis  
\$20



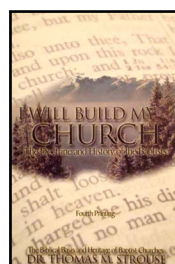
Geocentricity  
\$10.00



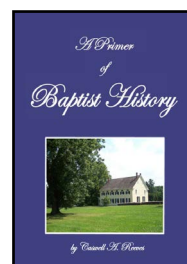
En Epheso  
\$20.00



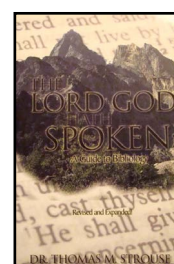
The Theology of Acts  
\$20.00



I Will Build My Church  
\$15.00



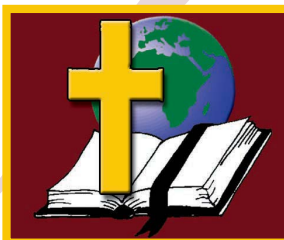
A Primer of Baptist History  
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken  
\$15.00

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  
hbc5923@stny.rr.com



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**A ministry of Bible Baptist Church**

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