

# BBC UPDATE

## Christmas Banquet

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor



*Dr. Strouse*

The Lord blessed Bible Baptist Church and Bible Baptist Theological Seminary with the first annual Christmas Banquet, having about 65 in attendance including children. Pastor Cas Reeves of Heritage Baptist Church in Endicott, NY, a good friend and supporter of BBC and BBTs, was the preacher for the evening, giving a history of the first year of Bible Baptist Church with a challenge from Zech. 4:10: "For who hath despised the day of small things?" Pastor Reeves revealed how Bible Baptist Church has reached several families in the Cromwell area, as well as has ministered to seminarian pastors both nationally and inter-

nationally. Five different churches were represented at the Banquet. The ladies of Bible Baptist Church prepared a wonderful dinner for the Banquet, and the focus on Bible Baptist Church's first year, the fellowship around truth, and the fun with the saints, allowed us to have an enjoyable evening in the Lord.



*Fellowship around truth, focus on Bible Baptist Church's first year, and fun with the saints allowed us to have an enjoyable evening in the Lord.*

# Christmas Banquet!

Lecture Series

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BBC/BBTS



*Delicious food, beautiful decorations and wonderful fellowship were all part of the First Annual BBC/BBTS Christmas Banquet!*





# Celebrating Christ

by Pastor Cas Reeves



Pastor Cas Reeves

Christmas for many people is a time of family and festive activity. For some people Christmas is being with family; to another it is the festivities and hustle-bustle of the holiday shopping season; to the small it is all about getting presents. I suppose one can make Christmas almost any thing they want. However, to the born-again Christian, Christmas is all about the celebration of the birth of his Savior, Jesus Christ and what His birth means.

The Born-Again Believer first celebrates the birth of Christ Jesus because it was the fulfillment of God's promise to give man a Savior to save him from his sin.

*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Matthew 1:21

In this verse, Joseph is told a Savior would be born who would save man from his sin. Joseph was to name the baby Jesus; thus, when the baby was born and named, the words of God were affirmed and his promise made sure.

The Born-Again Believer secondly celebrates the birth of Christ Jesus because it was a miraculous event promised by the LORD hundred of year's prior so as to identify the one true Savior when He would come.

*Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14

This fact of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the LORD's promise and attests to the truthfulness of God's character. This makes it clear that one may trust the words of God and the power of God even if it passes man's understanding.

The Born-Again Believer finally celebrates the birth of Christ because it was truly witnessed by both those in heaven and on earth. It was a real event promised by God.

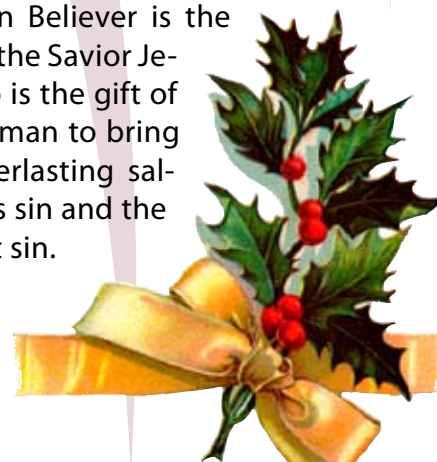
## DEVOTIONAL CORNER

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*

Luke 2:8-16

The Bible shares with us that in the mouth of two or three witnesses let a matter be established (Deuteronomy 15:9). The testimony of the Scripture, of the heavenly host of angels and of the earthly shepherds verifies the veracity of God, His words and His promises. Truly, Christmas for the Born-Again Believer is the celebration of the Savior Jesus Christ who is the gift of God for sinful man to bring to man an everlasting salvation from his sin and the penalty of that sin.

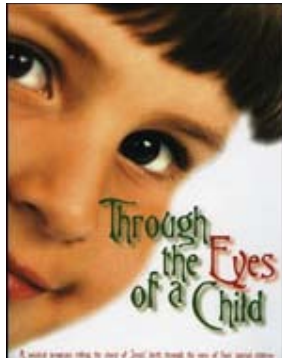
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BBC Children's Christmas Program

The BBC Youth will be presenting "Through the Eyes of a Child", a Christmas Musical in which the account of Jesus' birth is given from a different perspective. The program will be held during the 1:30 PM Sunday afternoon service on **December 19**. All are welcome to attend!



## BBTS Winter Module Schedule

### Ireland

**Bibliology I and Daniel**  
January 3 - 7, 2011

### Cromwell, CT

**The Gospel of Luke**  
January 17 - 21, 2011

*All Classes taught by Dr. T. Strouse*

## 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.



## BBTS Spring Schedule

### Monday

Hebrew VI 6:00 - 9:00 PM

### Tuesday

Systematic Theology 6:00 - 9:00 PM

### Wednesday/Friday

Acts 8:00 - 9:30 AM

### Thursday

Greek IV 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Baptist History II 6:00 - 9:00 PM

## 2011 BBTS Spring Calendar

Jan. 3 - 7	Ireland Module
Jan. 17 - 21	Cromwell Module
Jan. 24	Semester Begins
Mar. 15 - 19	Spring Break
April 14	Spring Lecture Series
May 15	Graduation



*Mr. and Mrs. Ohyun Kwon visited BBC on December 12 from one of BBC's supporting churches in South Korea.*

# The Greek Text that Stole Christmas!

Pastor Jerry Akers (adapted)



## Introduction

At Christmas time, Christians have the responsibility to reveal the concealed Christ of "Christ"-mas.

The modern versions, along with the world, have a consistent agenda of diminishing the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ in all seasons, including Christmas. The Greek Text

*Pastor Jerry Akers* (Critical Text) behind the modern versions (ESV, NASV, NIV, NET) omit or change key works, denigrating the incarnational truth which only gives significance to Christmas.

## I. The Greek Text that Stole Christmas denigrates Christ's Royal Lineage

- A. The CT changes King Asa to the Psalmist Asaph and King Amon to the Prophet Amos in Mt. 1:7, 8, 10.
- B. These changes destroy the possibility of Jesus of Nazareth having a royal Messianic lineage.

## II. The Greek Text that Stole Christmas denigrates Christ's Divine Incarnation

- A. The CT changes "God was manifest in the flesh" to "he who was manifest in the flesh" in I Tim. 3:16.
- B. The great mystery of the ages has been what is God's contact with His creation? There is no mystery with

## SERMON

"he who" being incarnate, because mere men are, *ipso facto*, incarnate.

- C. The CT omits the incarnational expression "Christ is come in the flesh" in I Jn. 4:3, "stealing" this truth from Scripture.

## III. The Greek Text that Stole Christmas denigrates Christ's Virgin Birth

- A. The CT omits "her firstborn" in Mt. 1:25 and thereby perpetuates Roman Catholic confusion about the virgin birth and promotes Marian heresy.
- B. The CT changes the KJV reference of "Joseph" to "his father" in Lk. 2:33, questioning the virgin birth doctrine of Scripture.

## IV. The Greek Text that Stole Christmas denigrates Christ's Incarnational Purpose

- A. The CT changes the Greek case ending in Lk. 2:14, causing the clause to read "peace to men on whom his favor rests" (NIV), rather than the KJV rendering "peace, good will toward men."
- B. Christ's primary purpose in the incarnation was to come to provide salvation to sinners (Jn. 3:16), not bring peace to the elect.

**Conclusion:** May we focus on the great incarnational truths emphasized at "Christmas" time by avoiding the diminutions of modern versions and abiding in God's revelational truth.

## Ladies' Craft Class



The Ladies of BBC are enjoying the Ladies' Craft Class, led by Mrs. Edith Davidson. They have learned to make homemade buttermilk biscuits and are now finishing beautiful sewing boxes.

Next they will learn to knit!





# BBC HISTORY

## The First Year History of The Bible Baptist Church and The Bible Baptist Theological Seminary

BBC History

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Dec. '09 - Feb '10

### December 2009

3rd

**Formation of the Assembly:** The Lord blessed in the forming of the New Testament assembly named *Bible Baptist Church*. There were ten (10) family units, which covenanted together with twenty-seven (27) who signed the charter membership. The Lord placed in this small assembly three (3) ordained Baptist men and two (2) former Baptist pastors with over seventy (70) years combined experience, along with several seminarian men.

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse was called by Bible Baptist Church to be its first pastor.

### January 2010

5th

**Approval Received:** In early January approval for use of a newly constructed building was given to the Bible Baptist Church by the local zoning and planning commission of Cromwell, Connecticut. This leased building will serve as a place where the Lord's church can meet and conduct its various ministries.

4th - 8th

**Module:** *Genesis* - Dublin, Ireland  
Hosted by Missionary Dr. Bob Zemeski  
Held at the Blanchardtown Baptist Church  
Pastor Derry O'Sullivan



*Blanchardtown Baptist Church*

11th - 15th

**Module:** *Ecclesiastes* - Held in the home of Dr. Strouse while awaiting occupancy certification in the newly approved building in Cromwell, Connecticut. In attendance for the first home module of BBTS was Bro. Harold Davidson, Bro. Jeff Skorupski, and Bro. Melvin Wilson.

15th

**The First Issue:** The first issue of the *BBC Update* was sent out by email.

### February 2010

1st

**Construction continues:** The work on the new church building in Cromwell continues with final construction nearing an end.

**New Address is acquired:** Bible Baptist Church  
40 Country Squire Rd.  
Cromwell, CT 06416



*Construction at Bible Baptist Church*

7th

**First service in new building:** The first service in the new building which houses the Bible Baptist Church was held at 40 Country Squire Road in Cromwell, Connecticut with 27 charter members in attendance.

8th

**BBTS Evening Class:** First evening seminary class is held. In attendance was Pastor Keith Main, Pastor Jerry Akers, and Bro. Jeff Skorupski.

## February 2010

**15th - 19th** **Module:** *Genesis and Ephesians* - Quezon City, Philippine  
with Pastor Jed Requantan  
Cornerstone Baptist Church

## March 2010

**15th - 19th** **New chairs:** Early in March new chairs arrive for use in auditorium.

**8th - 12th** **Module:** *Biblical Language Tools* - Endicott, New York  
with Pastor Caswell Reeves  
Heritage Baptist Theo. Seminary



**21st** **New pulpit arrives:** A beautiful new hand-built pulpit, a gift from Pastor Scott Blair's family and hand built by his father, Mr. Scott A. Blair II.

*New Pulpit and chairs!*

## April 2010

**4th** **First Easter service:** Bible Baptist Church held its first Easter service.

**12th - 16th** **Module:** *Romans and Biblical Language Tools* - Iloilo City, Philippines  
Pastor Emmanuel Tanierla  
Garden Bible Baptist Church

**18th** **Piano Gift Project:** Dr. Strouse witnesses the completion of the *Piano Gift Project*. A project funded by the love offerings of alumni and sister churches to supply a new \$2000.00 upright piano for the Cornerstone Baptist Church - Pastor Jed Requantan - in Quezon City, Philippines.

**22nd** **First Spring Lecture Series:** - was held at Bible Baptist Church

**Host:** Bible Baptist Theological Seminary  
**Subject:** *"What is the Body of Christ?"*  
**Speakers:** Dr. Thomas M. Strouse -  
"History of Erroneous Views"  
Caswell A. Reeves -  
"Its Importance to the Pastor"  
**Attendance:** 90+ in attendance

**New Book:** Dr. Thomas Strouse's newest booklet was released at the Lecture Series:  
*Ye are the Body of Christ.*



*Spring Lecture Series*

# BBC HISTORY

## May 2010

3rd

**First article in local newspaper:** Cromwell's newspaper *The Chronicle* runs article on the beginning of Bible Baptist Church – front page – entitled "Faith in Cromwell" by Shawn Dagle.

16th

**BBTS First Graduation:**

Pastor **Charles Nichols** received **Doctor of Divinity** degree  
Bro. **Dan Armacost** received **Master of Divinity** degree  
Pastor **Jeremy Rice** received **Master of Biblical Studies** degree  
Pastor **Emmanuel Tanierla** received **Master of Biblical Studies** degree  
Pastor **Nate Villafuerte** received **Master of Biblical Studies** degree  
Bro. **Jeff Skorupski** received **Bachelor of Divinity** degree



*BBTS First Graduation Class*

24th - 28th

**Module:** *Tools for Biblical Languages* -  
Dublin, Ireland  
Hosted by Missionary Dr. Bob Zemeski  
Held at the Blanchardtown Baptist Church  
Pastor Derry O'Sullivan

30th

**Honors Received:**

Bro. Harold Davidson, Chaplain at BBTS was honored by the HBTS with the Doctor of Divinity degree for his many years of faithful ministry.

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor of BBC and President/Dean of BBTS was honored by the HBTS with the Doctor of Literature degree for his literary contributions to the field of Religious Baptist literature.



*Dr. & Mrs. Harold Davidson*



*Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Strouse*

## June 2010

31st- 4th

**Module:** *Ephesians* -  
Quakertown, Pennsylvania  
Pastor: Dr. David Smith  
Community Baptist Church



*Ephesians Module*



*Revelation Module*

7th - 11th

**Module:** *Revelation* -  
BBTS, Cromwell, Connecticut

21st - 25th

**Module:** *History of Christianity I* -  
BBTS, Cromwell, Connecticut



*History of Christianity I*



# BBC HISTORY

## July 2010

**28th - 2nd** **Module: Ephesians** - Chesterton, Indiana  
Pastor: Dr. Roger Voegtlin  
Fairhaven Baptist Church & College



*Romans Module*

**19th - 23rd** **Module: Romans** - Plymouth, New Hampshire  
Pastor: Dr. Chester Kulus  
Calvary Independent Baptist Church

## August 2010

**2nd - 4th** **First Vacation Bible School:** held at Bible Baptist Church

**2nd - 6th** **Module: Baptist History** - Northfield, New Jersey  
Pastor Jeremy Rice  
Calvary Baptist Church



*Vacation Bible School*

**New Professor Announced:** Pastor Jerry Akers was welcomed by BBTS as a new professor who will be teaching the Book of Nehemiah during the fall semester.

**22nd** **First Baptismal Service:** The first baptismal of BBC was held at our sister church, Galilean Baptist Church in Stafford Springs, Connecticut. There were four added to the church following their baptism.



*First Baptismal Service*

**30th** **BBTS Fall Classes Begin:** The first fall semester classes of BBTS began with a full array of course offerings: Advanced Hebrew, Nehemiah, Matthew, Baptist History I. **Professor Jerry Akers** begins teaching at the seminary: the book of Nehemiah being his first class.

## September 2010

**2nd - 4th** **First BBTS Picnic:** the first annual BBTS seminary picnic was held at Dr. Thomas Strouse's home. There were 80 + in attendance.

**Website Launched:** [www.bbc-cromwell.org](http://www.bbc-cromwell.org) The Bible Baptist Church's website was launched under the technical assistance and support of Bro. Jeff Skorupski.



*BBTS Picnic*



*New Website*

# BBC HISTORY

BBC History

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Oct. '10 - Nov. '10

## October 2010

12th

**Home-school Outing:** The church families first home-school outing was held at Rose's Berry Farms in Glastonbury, CT. A group of over 25 gathered for a hayride, pumpkin picking, apple cider and cookies. The children especially loved the time at the play area! The weather was beautiful and the fellowship sweet!

**Manchester, CT. Bible Study Begins:** A Bible study was started on Friday nights with the possibility, as the Lord leads, of planting a New Testament Baptist Church in this locale.

24th - 29th

**Module:** *Romans and Biblical Language Tools* - Iloilo, Philippines  
Pastor Emmanuel Tanierla  
Garden Bible Baptist Church

29th

**BBTS-Asia Graduation:** was held at the Garden Baptist Church  
Iloilo City, Philippines  
Pastor Emmanuel Tanierla



*BBTS-Asia Graduation Class*

**Aniceto Balinas** received **Master of Biblical Studies** degree  
**Ireneo Bugtong** received **Master of Biblical Studies** degree  
**Alejandro Cadusale** received **Master of Biblical Studies** degree  
**Bonifacio Dieta** received **Master of Biblical Studies** degree  
**Roberto Gargoles** received **Master of Biblical Studies** degree  
**Carlito Halipa** received **Master of Biblical Studies** degree  
**Reymando Manolo** received **Master of Biblical Studies** degree  
**Charlie Villafuerte** received **Master of Biblical Studies** degree

## November 2010

7th

**Another Baptismal:** Seven more were added to Bible Baptist Church following their baptism on Sunday. The service was again held at the Galilean Baptist Church in Stafford Springs Connecticut where Bro. Keith Main is the pastor.

18th

**First Fall Lecture Series:** BBTS held its first Fall Lecture Series with Dr. Charles Parker as speaker. Dr. Parker spoke on "The Messenger of the Lord."



*Fall Lecture Series*

## December 2010

4th

**First Annual Christmas Banquet:** BBC holds its first BBTS Christmas Party for church members and former seminarians under Dr. Strouse's tutelage. Also a time of celebrating the first year anniversary of BBC, which officially started on Dec. 3, 2009.



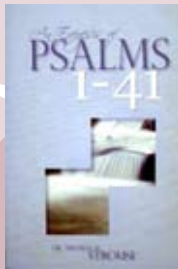
*Christmas Banquet*

# THE BOOK CORNER

## The Book Corner

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

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



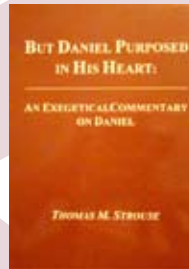
Psalms 1 - 41  
\$20.00



Psalm 119  
20.00



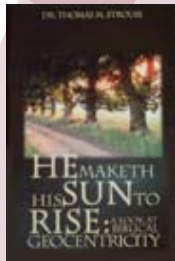
Spiritual Gifts  
\$8.00



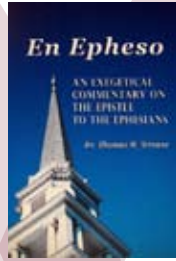
Daniel  
\$20.00



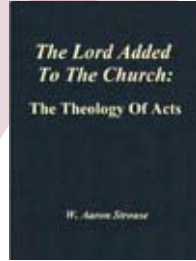
Jonah  
\$10.00



Geocentricity  
\$10.00



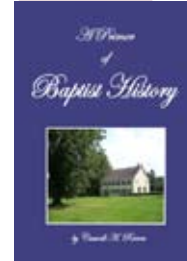
En Epheso  
\$20.00



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

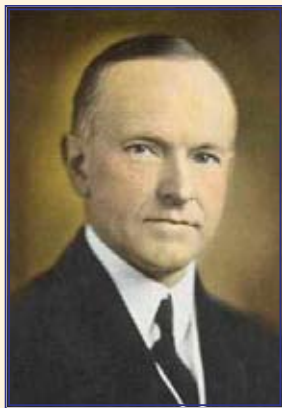
The Book Corner

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Quotes from the...

## Quotes From the Past: Calvin Coolidge 1872-1933

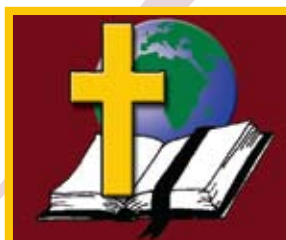
30th President of the USA



*“To the American People: Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. If we think on these things, there will be born in us a Savior and over us will shine a star sending its gleam of hope to the world.”*

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



**Bible Baptist Theological Seminary**

A ministry of Bible Baptist Church

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860-613-2096

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