



BBC UPDATE

BBC Celebrates Third Anniversary!

Dr. Thomas Strouse



Dr. Thomas Strouse

On December 7, 2013, the Lord Jesus Christ blessed the Third Anniversary Christmas Banquet of Bible Baptist Church with almost seventy attendees including several from churches in other states including MA, NH, and NY. The dinner was excellent, the testimonies of five men stirring, and the gift exchange enjoyable. Five of the seven men who met in Dr. Strouse' living room and prayed for the Lord's will concerning a new church plant, gave testimony about the beginning of Bible Baptist Church. These heads of families, Mr. Bill Gagnon, Mr. Mark Schabert, Pastor

Jerry Akers, and Dr. Harold Davidson explained how the Lord worked in their hearts to go forward with attempting to perpetuate biblical truths at great personal and financial cost. Dr. Strouse concluded with the perspective of Rom. 8:28, and how the Lord accomplishes His will through difficult trials which often arise from disobedience to Scripture. Even prior to the formation of BBC, the Lord led step by step in answer to persistent prayer, and demonstrated His hand of blessing in numerous ways. BBC membership has grown from the original 27 charter members to having over 45 church members, albeit some have moved on in the will of God. The assembly's original modest budget was quickly surpassed and BBC/BBTS has operated in the black from her inception. In the Lord's timing He sent an abundant gift to help perpetuate the truth of Scripture. Lovers of truth have moved to BBC for church membership from many places including PA, MN, NY, WY and Indonesia, as well as several area cities in CT. BBTS has over 100 seminarians in various states and countries taking seminary modules, including those in England, Ireland, Portugal, and Puerto Rico. Plans are being made to extend seminary modules into Czech Republic, triangulating Europe with module sites in Ireland to the north, Portugal to the south, and Prague to the east. We thank the Lord God for what He is doing through BBC. Please check our web site (www.bbb-cromwell.org) for upcoming events such as the Christmas Program, winter seminary modules, Second semester seminary schedule, and Ladies' Fellowship. Pray for us.



The Bible Baptist Church family



From Top: Bill Gagnon, Mark Schabert and Jerry Akers. Three of the of the five men who gave testimony about the beginning of Bible Baptist Church at the BBC Christmas Banquet.

2012 BBC Third Anniversary Poem

by Mrs. Kirsten Gagnon

*"Into the Bible we will delve"
That was our motto for the year 2012.
And that is what we did in year number three
Sharing a special bond we call unity!*

The year started with Pastor in Ireland,



*Teaching the men how to
take a stand,
On the local church God has
manned,
And on the last things God
has planned.*

And baby Kwon turned two years old,



*A Korean birthday party we
did hold.
And speaking of babies, we
have lots,
In August we welcomed Eli-
jah Tarrats.*

*We also increased the auditorium space,
Giving us a chance to make it a nicer place.
However, with all of our mothers-to-be,
Next we have to expand our tiny nursery!*

*The Davidsons waited more and more
For God to reveal what he had in store.
Their stewardship we now know for sure,
Will be used for what it always was intended for.*

We opened up the bamboo banks,



*To give our Filipino brothers
monetary thanks.
The Ladies' meeting was nice
to come along,
To listen to Mrs. Norwalt's tes-
timony and song.*

*Who are the Baptists? That's what we learned.
How we've endured, how we've been spurned.
The first Baptist's name was John.
And today you and I must continue on.*

*In Sunday School we learned what we believe
In our doctrinal statement we're no longer naive.
Our open hearts, the truth receive,
The Holy Spirit we will not grieve.*

*We also know there are no signs of the rapture,
Only the Lord knows what's in the future.
But we are given the Revelation book,
Where truth is found if we only look.*

*Modules were held both far and near,
To faithful men with an ear to hear.
The graduating class numbered seven
To use the light they have now been given.*

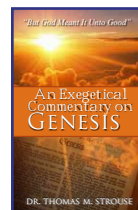
At VBS we learned which path to take,



*Learned verses and crafts did make.
4th of July service was in the park-
ing lot,
We hope there were neighbors
within earshot.*

*The Labor Day picnic was again a success,
Attended by over 80 happy guests.
Then there was the men's retreat,
Preaching and guns and food to eat.*

*Pastor's republished Genesis book states
The earth neither revolves nor rotates.
And this is why people call us a fool
For thinking the earth is God's footstool.*



For homeschoolers there was a lot to do,



*Eagle Watch and Roger Williams
Zoo,
Safety day, Cider Mill, these are just
to name a few
Oh, we can't forget SAT testing too.*

*Biblical worship is what our churches need,
Not following traditions of men who lead,
For we must the Bible heed,
And not any other books we read.*

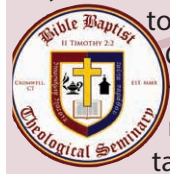
*So as we celebrate the Lord's blessings today.
Let's not forget the price we all had to pay.
For each of us God's will did obey,
And from error, we turned away.*

*Bible doctrine we'll continue to defend,
As year number three comes to an end.
But years may follow, and more battles contend,
We'll stand together with our faithful friends.*

Bible Baptist Theological Seminary

The purpose of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary (BBTS) is to train Men of God in the Word of God to do the Work of God through the Church of God. Graduates receive a thorough knowledge of Scripture, recognizing its biblical implementation in the local assembly, and be required to display biblical conviction in carrying out all the counsel of God.

BBTS conducts module classes all across the world, including the Philippines, Ireland, Portugal, Korea as well as in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Connecticut in the United States. Please pray for this ministry.



BBC MINISTRIES



BBTS have had three graduating classes and conduct classes training men all over the world.



Manchester Bible Study

by Mark Schabert

The Manchester Bible Study began in September 2010. Over the past two years, Elena Sherwood graciously hosted the Bible study in her home, which has taken place almost every Friday. Pastor Strouse taught the first couple of studies covering various discipleship topics. In October 2010, Mark Schabert began teaching through the entire Gospel of John, verse by verse. During this period, Jeff Skorupski also filled in occasionally, teaching on evangelism and on the book of Philemon. On November 23, 2012, Mark completed the Gospel of John, which concluded the Bible study. Over the two plus years, regular attendees included Elena's daughter Jenn, the Tarrats family and the Schabert family. Other visitors to the study included some of Elena's neighbors, as well as BBC church members Jeff Skorupski, Gino Rossignol and the Gagnon family. The study has provided opportunities for evangelism in Manchester, as well as discipleship to believers. Thank you to all who have prayed for this ministry outreach of BBC.



Faithful participants of the Manchester Bible Study



Tract & Missionary Letter Ministries

by Elena Sherwood

Tract Ministry

Bible Baptist Church has a tract ministry as a tool to aid our sharing of the Gospel. Our tracts are used by all including our children, who diligently have given them in grocery stores, parking lots, etc. Currently we are in the process of updating our tracts. We will be adding tracts that are written by sister churches as well as tracts written by our own church body members. Please pray for us that our tract ministry might save souls to the glory of God.



Elena Sherwood and the BBC Tract rack

Missionary Monthly Newsletters

Bible Baptist Church receives updates from church planters and missionaries. These newsletters contain personal prayer requests, praises, and prayer for the salvation of souls. There are several ways that we support and pray for our missionaries:

- Newsletters are e-mailed to BBC members
- Hard copy of letters are collected in a Missions binder and placed in the foyer for all to read
- Missionaries are brought before the assembly for corporate prayer

PREACHING & TEACHING

Children's Sunday School

by Kirsten Gagnon

On December 6, 2009, I had the privilege of teaching BBC's very first Sunday school class at Pastor Strouse's kitchen table. There were seven excited children in varying ages from 3 to 10. What should I teach them? We didn't have a church building yet, so we learned from the book of Acts how churches started in houses - just like Bible Baptist Church. From that day forward, our Sunday school has been taught with the KJV Bible as its sole curriculum, and every class begins with singing the B-I-B-L-E (because "that's the book for me"). We started at the beginning: the Creation, geocentricity, and Baptist History (from The Baptist Primer by Nathan Deatrack). Then the kids learned about the life of David and enjoyed our life-sized poster of Goliath. We also studied about the life of Paul and his missionary journeys which continued on into our very first VBS. Lessons on the life of Joseph, the Exodus, the 10 Commandments, the Armor of God and the Fruit of the Spirit are just a few of the topics we have covered. Most recently, we have been "walking with God" by following his **path**, choosing the right **way**, and watching our **steps**.

In September of 2011, Mrs. Edith Davidson began assisting and teaching with her excellent object lessons; and Mrs. Emily Kellogg joined our little group in June of 2012. Over the past three years, we've added more children, a few moved away, and some "graduated", giving us the current number of ten faithful students. They have memorized the books of the Bible and more than seventy Bible verses! We continue to enjoy singing songs and learning from God's Word every Sunday at 10 A.M.!



The BBC Children love Sunday School!!

Pulpit Ministry



BBC Is blessed to have several men trained in their local church to handle the Word of God.

BBC Homeschoolers

by Sara Rossignol

Bible Baptist Church is homeschool active and supportive. There are currently five homeschooling families at BBC. The families enjoy giving their children an individualized, Christ-centered education and are a great support to one another. They frequently go on fun and educational field trips together and get the children together for learning and play dates. BBC hosts events such as Stanford Testing and Homeschool Safety Days in which all area homeschoolers are invited. We praise The Lord for the freedom to homeschool in the United States and try to honor Him in our homeschool classrooms.

BBC HOMESCHOOL



Other Ministries



These men make sure the sermons are recorded each service and quickly available for download anywhere in the world via the BBC website!



The Hagglunds put together "The Update" and other printed materials such as the promotional mailer, and church informational brochure, as well as book covers and Lecture Series Fliers for BBTS

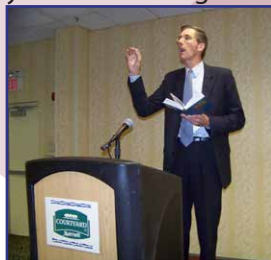


The BBC Youth also present a Christmas musical program each year under the direction of Mrs. Hagglund. Mrs. Rossignol, Mrs. Schabert handle all costumes and props, and Mrs. Gagnon helps with music.

MUSIC MINISTRY

by John Hagglund

The music ministry comprises individuals, small groups and choir. BBC members willingly sing hymns and spiritual songs each week, according to the Lord's will. The piano ministry is also a great blessing. We have a "bench" of players and many youth in training who can play music for the Lord.



Nursery Ministry

by Erika Schabert

Several members of BBC serve the Lord by caring for the babies in our assembly during services. Current members serving in the nursery include Kirsten and Amanda Gagnon, Laura, Krista and Eric Hagglund, Rich and Emily Kellogg, Hee-Jeong and Ji Hyun Kim, Kathryn Lawrence, Sara Rossignol, Erika Schabert, Elena Sherwood, Jan Strouse and Ryan and Christy Strouse. Erika Schabert coordinates the nursery schedule each month. The ministry of these nursery workers is a blessing to the babies and their parents and helps to provide a quiet atmosphere during the services.



Maintenance Team

These men keep the church looking great and maintain the facilities. They have completed painting and installation projects, they oversee any remodeling projects and take care of all other needs of the building and property.



BBC Finances

by Mark Schabert

The Lord continues to bless BBC in the area of finances. Over the past three years, BBC has been able to operate in the "black" in every quarter. We know this is the combination of the Lord's goodness and BBC members faithfully submitting to Lord's will to give its tithes and offerings to the local church. BBC is also thankful for churches and individuals that have supported BBC financially. Because of all of this, BBC has been able to fully remunerate Pastor Strouse so that he can focus his time in the Word, pay all of the bills on time, as well as support all of the various ministries the Lord has laid out for BBC. Members who minister in the area of finance are Mark Schabert (Treasurer), Tyler Strouse and



Faithful men put the Lord's finances into the storehouse.

John Hagglund. August Gagnon also faithfully collects the offering during the services each week. We pray that the Lord will find us good stewards of that which he has provided.

OTHER MINISTRIES

Kitchen Ministry

by Tiamo Tarrats

Every Sunday BBC enjoys a time of eating and fellowship together between the morning and afternoon services. Lori Akers was in charge of the meals when BBC first began and Aaron Strouse



headed up the beverage ministry. We were sad to see both of these families leave BBC to follow where the Lord was guiding them. The Lord raised up others to attempt to fill their shoes. With the help of the Lord, and many others in the assembly, Tiamo Tarrats has been planning the meals for BBC; three young men faithfully serve in the beverage ministry. These young men serve everyone else first and are typically the last ones to fill their plates. From the ice in our beverages to the amazing desserts there is something for everyone to do in order for this ministry to be a blessing to all.



The beverage ministry initiated by Aaron Strouse (above right) is now admirably handled by these young boys (above left).



Delicious dinners and desserts are prepared weekly by BBC members!

BBTS Module Classes

January 7-11, 2013
BBTS Europe Module
"Ecclesiology"
"Job"

Albufeira, Portugal

January 21-25, 2013
BBTS Module -
"Ecclesiology"

Cromwell, CT

February 18-22, 2013
BBTS Philippines Module
"Book of Job"
"I and II Thessalonians"

Quezon City
Philippines

March 11-15, 2013
HBTS Module
"1 Corinthians"

Endicott, NY

BBC CHRISTMAS BANQUET

BBC Held its Third Annual Christmas Banquet for all church members of BBC and Bible Baptist Theological Seminary alumni, seminarians, or friends. This year's celebration coincided with the third anniversary of the founding of BBC (Dec. 4, 2009). Attendees enjoyed a delicious chicken dinner, dessert, a time of remembrance and challenge, and of course, a spirited gift exchange!



The food was delicious, the decorations beautiful, and the fellowship sweet at the Third Annual BBC Christmas Banquet!



The BBC Auditorium transformed into a banquet space!



Pastor shared his testimony regarding the starting of BBC.



The BBC Men's Quintet sang "Good Christian Men Rejoice" to begin the testimony portion of the Banquet.



As usual, the gift exchange was spirited and there were many great gifts to choose from!!



Peace on Earth – In Christ

Pastor Cas Reeves



"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).

Glory to God! For He has showed good will toward men and blessed men through the birth of Jesus the Christ, the Savior of all mankind. The angelic host declared God's peace toward men. But peace always comes with a price. The greater the peace, the greater the price. We are told that, *"God was in Christ, reconciling [making peace with] the world unto himself, not imputing [charging] their trespasses unto them"* (2 Corinthians 5:19). Yes, God is extending to man an olive branch, a way for a sinner to come to a holy God, and to have peace and to be saved.

God had promised peace for sinful mankind. The prophet Isaiah, speaking of the coming Messiah, said, *"He is despised and rejected of men; Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our PEACE was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed"* (Isaiah 53:3-5). Our peace with God was gained at a great price. A price, only the God of heaven could pay for us, through the suffering death of His Son, Jesus Christ. God kept his promise to mankind, to give him a chance to live in peace with Him; but it cost Him greatly.

The forerunner to the Lord Jesus, John the Baptist, is called *"the prophet of the Highest" and was to go before...to prepare his way.* He was *"to give knowledge of salvation unto his people, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of PEACE"* (Luke 1:76-79). This way of peace was announced and declared to be in Jesus Christ.

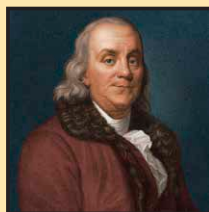
DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Jesus declared this peace to be in Himself. Speaking to his disciples: *"And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it"* (Luke 10:5-6). Upon Jesus' entry into Jerusalem the crowds shouted, *"Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, glory in the highest"* (Luke 19:38). Jesus also spoke these encouraging words to his disciples, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"* (John 14:27). And then he declared, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace"* (John 16:33). True, heaven sent PEACE is in Jesus Christ. He invites all who would have this peace. *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest [PEACE]"* (Matthew 11:28). -CAR

Quotes From the Past:

Benjamin Franklin, 1706-1790

American Statesman



Benjamin Franklin

*"How many observe
Christ's birthday!
How few, His precepts!"*

Farewell to the Kwon Family



BBC Members said goodbye to the Kwon Family on December 2. Mr. and Mrs. Ohyun Kwon, baby Eun Hyeok, and Sister Heejeong Kim will be leaving the States as he will be reassigned in his employment.

Mr. & Mrs. Kwon sang two beautiful specials with the Kellogg's during their final service.

THE BOOK CORNER

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

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

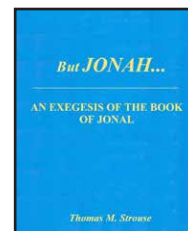
Fridays

Greek II 8:00am - 10:00am

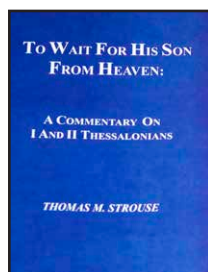
The Book Corner

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

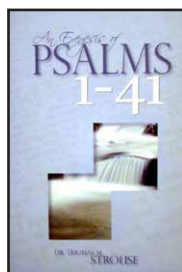
40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387



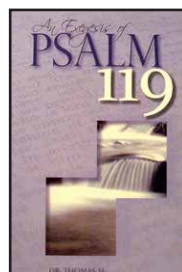
Jonah
\$10.00



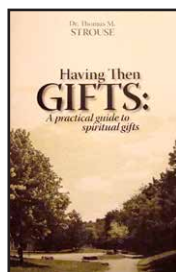
I & II Thessalonians
\$10.00



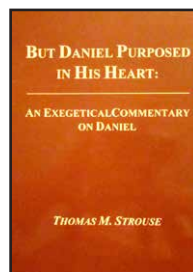
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



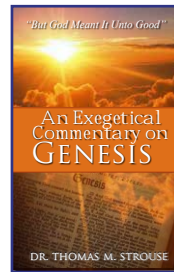
Psalms 119
\$20.00



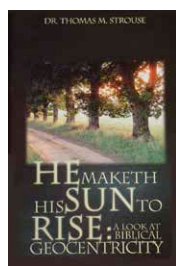
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



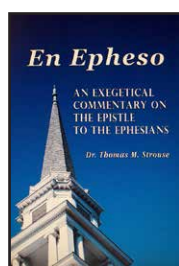
Daniel
\$20.00



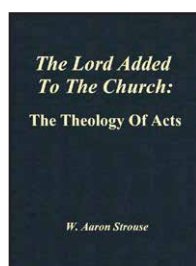
Genesis
\$20



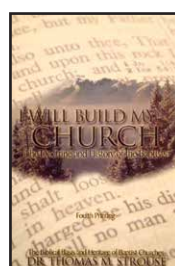
Geocentricity
\$10.00



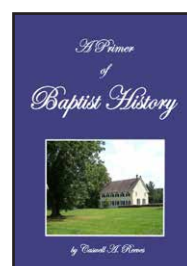
En Epheso
\$20.00



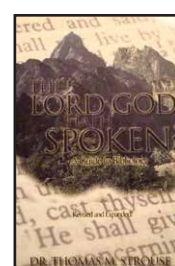
The Theology of Acts
\$20.00



I Will Build My Church
\$15.00



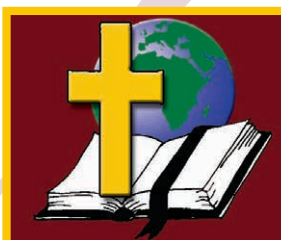
A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



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



Bible Baptist Theological Seminary

A ministry of Bible Baptist Church

40 Country Squire Road
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-613-2096
www.bbc-cromwell.org