

THOUGHTS

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SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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RADIOS!

The Word Today is still largely a radio-based ministry that uses AM, FM, and shortwave frequencies to reach people in both metro and very rural areas around the world. Radio is relied upon by tens of millions of people for news, entertainment, and support for faith.

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One of the ways that supporters of TWT have multiplied its effectiveness has been to supply radios to critical areas where key people, often village leaders, are given a radio to enable them to tune in to TWT. These leaders influence others to listen, and usually a group of listeners form around the program! Two times previously, I have called for a special radio offering, like a love offering in the Old Testament, an extra gift given to God out of love for Him. Recently, I called for a new love offering to buy radios, and the response has been heartwarming! So far, the TWT team of Partners and members of Our Shepherd Lutheran, Greendale, WI, have raised \$3,413 to buy radios! At a cost of approximately \$23-25 per radio for this project, it will purchase at least 135 radios and expand the listening audience of TWT by thousands of people! Praise God!

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An additional wonderful aspect of the program is that it is used by lay preachers and evangelists to supplement their ministries. Often, these preachers pay very careful attention to the message, then repeat it for their congregations. I think it is wonderful that clear, straightforward Bible knowledge and a call for people to come to Jesus for salvation is being received and repeated in so many cultures!

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Thank you to everyone who has participated in the radio project! If this is news to you, I will keep the project open for a few more weeks so that anyone who is motivated to join us in this project can do so. Then, I will give a final report on the gifts.

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THOUGHTS on Society NOW PUBLISHED!

It has taken about five years to write THOUGHTS on Society, 2020-2024, which covers the era of the Covid-19 crisis and the years following. The book is a social critique and a call to repentance of the Christian Church at large. In many ways, it is like one of the books of the prophets of the Old Testament, with a call to repentance and exhortation to change. In it I discuss issues that affect our society such as the Transgender movement and illegal immigration, and social ills such as gambling, drug abuse, and violent crime.

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In 1990, George Barna, a pollster who specializes in revealing religious societal trends, published The Frog in the Kettle. It was a wake-up call to the culture and the Church that if trends continued, Christianity would weaken, and secularism would grow. My book is a fresh look at the spiritual climate of America from a conservative pastor's perspective. It is a book designed to shape worldview such that the reader is drawn into a closer orbit to Jesus.

The Word
Today
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*The Bible is God's Word...Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh...
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

GREETINGS AND ENCOURAGEMENTS

Among the ways that Christians try to build one another up is by greeting each other enthusiastically, with positive salutations. Many Christians fear being unconventional, so they do not open conversation with a distinctly spiritual greeting. Those who want their faith overt often select a greeting that sets them apart as valuing their faith highly. I enjoy conversations with such people.

"Wonderful," Terry said when I asked him how he was doing. Terry always says he is wonderful. That is a great response, especially since it evokes thoughts of God's wonderful nature! For decades, my response to anyone who asks how I am has been excellent. Most people respond with some wan comment, so I want to distinguish myself by having the joy of the Lord. With Christ and the assurance of future resurrection and eternal life, I am excellent - and I wish the same for others!

A man from a congregation I served in Canada typically greeted me with the question, "How goes the battle?" He was speaking of spiritual warfare that we are engaged in as Christians. He knew that a pastor often is deep into conflicts with unrepentant sinners and the unbelieving world. He wished to support me, and in sincerity, he wondered how I was faring. He also enjoyed teasing me, calling the cross that he carried in his pocket his Christian good luck charm. I was training the congregation to abhor concepts such as luck or fortune as being antithetical to faith. I would often intone, "No such thing as luck! Blessings!" He would tease me by calling his cross a good luck charm. I did not correct him because we both knew it was meant as humor.

A fellow mid-life Christian at the health club that I had belonged to habitually greeted me, "One day closer," in reference to the forward-looking hope Christians have that we will be redeemed for eternity. Each day that ticks by is one step closer to that glorious future!

My mother has a phrase that she has adopted, "Let go, and let God." She has a charm bracelet (she does not believe in luck) and has a charm with that phrase! She has been a good example of applying the principle, as she has faced plenty of challenges, and when she has a concern, she often vocalizes the principle of letting go and letting God handle it.

"Forgive you," a man at our church shouted at me without warning! Then, we both laughed. We share an inside joke based on intent to counter the hideous anger of the world. When the world is riled up, they may shout the F word at someone else. Several years ago, as we were discussing it, I thought it would be fun if Christians occasionally shouted, "Forgive you!" We began to do so spontaneously, and it generated a lot of smiles and mirth. It catches the attention of people because of the way it is shouted, as though angry. Once people realize that it intentionally parodies worldly rage and promotes godly grace, they love it! Perhaps you can start the habit with someone in your church!

Pay attention to the godly greetings, the words of encouragement, the upbeat phrases that come your way. Develop your own Christian greeting and encouraging phrases so that you will represent Christ in a positive light! Pray that the Holy Spirit fill you to be bold and joyful, showing Christian contentment and positivity!

Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder

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