

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY
www.thewordtoday.org

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Thoughts
Box 77
Greendale
WI
53129

CHRISTMAS SANDSTORM

I was showing the children a snow globe during a Sunday worship service last week, pointing out Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. I shared that we are celebrating his coming to earth to be our Savior. The flecks of iridescent particles swirled as I shook up the globe. I told them that though this was pretty, there would not have been snow at the first Christmas, because Jesus was born in Bethlehem, an area of the world that is more like a desert region. One thoughtful child suggested that the globe would be better with a sandstorm! Perhaps the Magi, coming from the East and traversing the northern edge of the Arabian Desert on their trek to see the Christ child, would concur! I wish you Christmas Joy as we celebrate our Savior's birth!

DISCOVERY TRIP TO AFRICA

In 2018 The Word Today Celebrates its 40th anniversary! In conjunction with this I will be traveling to Africa at the end of January and into early February. I will be on a fast track, in the span of 11 days visiting Johannesburg, Kenya, Malawi, and Swaziland, as well as a few other stops! Please pray for endurance and enthusiasm as these are very fast-paced trips. I will be meeting with local leaders, members of Trans-World Radio's team in Africa, and speaking at gatherings. The Lord willing, I will return with some good ideas for languages which The Word Today can expand into in the future as well as beautiful accounts of how our work is preparing people for Heaven!

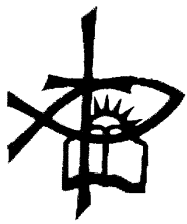
ONE FAMILY OR CONGREGATION CAN REACH A PEOPLE GROUP!

It costs us roughly \$8-14,000 per year per language to broadcast the Gospel in each of the 65 languages The Word Today is aired. The program is aired a minimum of once each week. Our efficiency remains at reaching 1 person per penny with the message! There are extremely few ministries with that reach, efficiency and without any administrative costs; 100 percent of your gift goes to mission work!

A few families with the means have been enabled to carry the costs reaching an entire people group with their annual support! It is an incredible thing to know that a single family or church can join in and reach so many with the news of Salvation. *All gifts given to The Word Today are precious.* Persons who have great wealth often look for "big ideas" to support, and for the sake of the Gospel it is among the very best!

LIVING "NOTIFICATION FREE"

My phone was driving me nuts! Perhaps you can relate? The constant updates, notifications, notices and reminders from a myriad of sources interrupts us *constantly!* Having enough of the weather, app, traffic updates I marched into the local provider of my phone and requested that nearly all of them be turned off! (I hadn't found the function to turn them off because it was buried about four layers deep in the Settings). The result? Blissfully uninterrupted life! Now I am happy to be "notification free"!



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

December

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1 MILE AWAY FROM THE INSANITY

Several days ago we had Black Friday, the focus of the now extended shopping week that is the lead in to Christmas sales. Our family lives off the beaten path of a four lane road, about one mile from a larger shopping center which bustles at this time of year.

When I return from morning workout on Black Friday I look across to the jammed parking lots of the mall, and I gleefully turn my car's steering wheel *the other way, toward our home*. Thank the Lord that stuff doesn't define my life, and I hope it doesn't define yours.

"SALT OF THE EARTH"

Jesus called his followers the "salt of the earth (see Matthew 5:13-16)." In ancient times salt was used to preserve meat. Similarly, we are the "preservative", a strong agent to act against a culture going rotten. Salt also flavors, and we are to be "flavorful", vibrant, people who leave a lasting impression favorable to the Lord.

In the past year Connie has taken to using Kosher salt on pan fried meat; wow, that tastes good! I often reach for condiments to jazz up meat, but when the salt is used I have no need for embellishments. So, when people spend time with you socially, do they get the feeling they would wish to visit again? Are you a preservative and flavorful person spiritually?

THE CHURCH NEEDS CAPABLE MEN

The Christian church in the West is suffering a dearth of capable, godly men to lead congregations. As the Baby Boomers age and pass into eternity, fewer men are selecting to be a pastor. There is a radical upswing in Atheism – it's popular nowadays – and the Roman church has all but killed service to God with their restrictions.

If you see a spiritually inclined young man, discuss with him the option of dedicating his life to God to lead His people! It requires diligence, intelligence, and a heart for people. Please also pray for your spiritual leaders, that they may find joy in their work and be kept from the assaults of Satan and the World.

ISRAEL TRIP RAMPING UP!

We now have 9 persons registered early for the Holy Land trip I will lead in October of 2018. The first, small deposit of \$100 is due on December 9th. You can certainly join us in signing up and making a deposit after that date, but the deposit will be incrementally larger. Talk it up with your family and friends! It is a fantastic experience that is thoroughly fulfilling. I hope you will be able to join us!

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder

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THE WORD TODAY reaching the world with **GOD'S WORD**