

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

A FANTASTIC CELEBRATION!

Last month during two weekends of worship the 40th anniversary of The Word Today was celebrated! Pastor Paul and Sylvia were able to join us for both weekends. The first weekend Pastor Paul spoke to the congregation and Partners of TWT. Just as he challenged the congregation 40 years ago to show support financially to start The Word Today, once again he issued an invitation to begin something new.

Pastor Paul asked if 20 people would be committed to collecting their change – the coins that accumulate in a dish or jar in our homes – for the next ten years for The Word Today. If 20 people responded in commitment to do so, the activity would be promoted. God sure has a lot of enthusiastic people; more than 160 have taken the commitment to save their change for The Word Today!

I am calling this initiative **“Change to Change the World,”** as it will impact the world significantly through our collective offering of coins! At the last weekend of every month members of Our Shepherd Lutheran will be given opportunity to bring in our coins in a Thank Offering, and all of it will go toward the broadcasts of The Word Today with the goal of adding more languages globally.

I have received already many happy, positive responses to the invitation. This is something that is easy to do, and involves money that we normally do not need for necessities. People are enthusiastic about this!

I invite you as a partner to The Word Today to join us in this pleasant task. We are already seeing friends and relatives of TWT supporters motivating their social circles to get involved. The timing on the collecting of the coins and remitting the sum saved is not critical; just please be sure to indicate it is for the Change to Change the World initiative.

I think it would be fun to offer a prize for the closest guess to the dollar amount raised by Change to Change the World over the next ten years. I will offer a \$100 prize to the winner, from my own funds, not the ministry, of course! Please join us in this fun, exciting way to grow global missions through The Word Today! If you are a Partner, or this letter has fallen into your hands and you wish to participate, simply call Our Shepherd Lutheran Church at 414-421-2060 and let us know. We have a sticker you can place on a jar or dish to customize your “mite box” as Pastor Paul calls it, a reference to the widow’s mite, the small offering Jesus considered important enough to point out to the apostles (see Luke 21:1-4).

2018

Thoughts
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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.*

June

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"SLOW MOVING DISASTER, OR CREATION?"

The volcanic eruption, thankfully, a low level one, in Hawaii reminds us that the Lord made the Earth to be *dynamic*, not dead. Our planet has to be in motion, for a still planet would be a dead planet! The wind, earthquakes, volcanos, storms, etc. all testify to God's amazing power and wisdom in making an environment that refreshes itself through change.

The volcano's eruption has been called a slow moving disaster; true, what mankind has placed in its path gets destroyed. However, the process of formation of new islands is seen on a tiny scale. The Hawaiian Islands formed from this same kind of activity. People take enormous risks in living near such potentially devastating natural wonders.

The movement of the lava consuming all in its path should give all people warning of the Judgment awaiting the Earth. Peter warned that the world will be consumed by fire, and we are to be godly and holy people as we wait for the Day of the Lord (see 2 Peter 3:8-13), especially since we are awaiting the "new home of righteousness," Heaven!

PASTOR PAUL'S FALL AND SURGERY

As I write this Pastor Paul is in surgery to put a "pin" or "nail" into his femur (larger leg bone). He fell in their garage in Florida and thankfully the break was not so severe as to shatter the bone. The pin will hold the bone together while it heals. He should recover ok.

However, this several day stretch in the hospital and rehab gives his doctors a chance to once again attempt to get Paul's Diabetes under control. A good diet will also lighten the burden for his older legs. Your prayers accordingly are appreciated!

THE BIRDS TEACH US "SPIRITUAL NESTING"

Psalm 84 comments, "Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young – a place near your altar, O Lord Almighty, my King and my God (v.3)." We have no less than four nests the birds have built into our building complex this Spring. The chicks have hatched and remind us that we do well to "nest", raising our families spiritually at the house of the Lord. The family that worships together spends eternity together in Heaven!

The psalm also states, "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked (v.10)." A doorkeeper is like today's usher. How lovely to spend one's life assisting at the "sanctuary" of God, the church, as opposed to wasting one's life in secular pursuits that have no eternal value, or worse to have a lifestyle of wickedness! That will only reap problems in this life and condemnation in the next!

Blessings!

Douglas W. Schroeder