

THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

ENGLISH IN INDIA?

J We have an unusual opportunity to make a BIG impact for Christ! Soon, India will overtake China as the country with the highest population, approaching 1.5B people. While Hindi is the official language, English is the second official language and India is the second largest English-speaking country.

U I am pleased to announce that TWT is moving into English in India! The cost is lower than for a dialect and we are going to use an exceptionally powerful transmitter, a 350,000-Watt medium wave station located in Sri Lanka. You will love this; the station reaches more than two-thirds of India!

U Normally it costs between \$12-15K per language, per year to reach a people group with the Gospel. While most cannot afford that luxurious of an offering, a few Partners of TWT and members of Our Shepherd Lutheran, TWT's home congregation, have done so. Here is an opportunity that is more reachable if anyone wishes to participate.

L Because there are reduced expenses due to no translation and less production with the English language, we can go into India in English for under \$5K/year! That's fantastic, especially considering the huge number of people that will be reached! This may turn out to be the most efficient of all the 75 languages that we are broadcasting! I hope this excites you for the sake of the Gospel!

Y If anyone wishes to commit to funding this initiative, please let me know. The gift does not need to be upfront but can be averaged throughout the year. Some ministries put out a call for money, then if they get multiple people responding, they let them all think they funded the project. Pastor Paul and I always thought that was deceptive, and we never did this. I will not do that with this project. If multiple people respond to this initiative, then it will be a group project and any overage in offerings will go toward a new language. That way, anyone who wishes to be a part of it will be a part of it, and we may even see some additional growth! Praise God for this great opportunity!

YOU ARE IN THE SUBMERSIBLE

Objections to the sensibility of it aside, pretend you are in the submersible that was doomed visiting the Titanic wreckage. Ignoring the mental anguish of being trapped, of running out of air, you are forced to self-judgment, to review what you did or did not do. It is a trial Judgment scene.

We tend not to change if we think we have more time. We also tend to not repent for the same reason. We think we will go on and that we won't be held accountable. Then, it is too late, and the Judgment is at hand.

2023

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.*

I encourage you to force self-reform now by calling upon the Holy Spirit to empower you and by engaging in new habits. Few people do so. They keep putting it off in the hope the inevitable never comes. But it does.

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TRYING TO RESCUE THE 2,000

While North America was riveted on the plight of the five men in a submersible, the United Nations stated the number of migrants going missing at sea in their attempt to reach Europe is nearly 2,000!

Every soul is precious to God, and The Word Today exists to save the most possible. That is why 30 years ago TWT left North America as its primary focus and went overseas. The Lord has brought thousands of people to Christ – that is not an exaggeration – through the program that was being received tepidly on American soil. I'm sure you have noticed the turning away from God in this culture. Meanwhile, TWT has been well-received, and loved by many elsewhere in the world. Thank you for seeing the reality that it doesn't matter what color skin or language the person redeemed for Christ is, but that the goal is to save as many as possible!

Many Christian ministries are self-absorbed, spending the bulk of their money on the men in the submersible, on people with money, excess time, and often more interest in self-amusement than fervent searching for God. The Word Today is spending your money on saving the desperate people in the boat who are just as important to God.

MOM'S 90TH BIRTHDAY!

Dana and I have been blessed with a sweet and caring mother! Sylvia is also fiercely devoted to Christ, with a decades-long commitment to discipling. She feeds her soul the Word of God nearly as often as she feeds her body, an outstanding example of the necessity to give the Holy Spirit something to nourish us daily.

The time our family spends with Mom during her birthday will be precious. I hope that you can carve out time to visit relatives far away. You will not regret it!

BEEN A LONG TIME?

I am reviewing the basics of the Christian faith in a six-part sermon series. If you wish to take a refresher course, watch my sermon series "Let's Review" on the website ourshepherdlutheran.org, under the tab "streaming services."

OUR SHEPHERD'S BIRTHDAY!

Our Shepherd, home of The Word Today, turns 65 this year! Save the date and join us for our celebration weekend on October 7&8, 2023. Further details will be shared in the coming months.

Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder