

THOUGHTS

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By the father/son team
Pastor Paul R Schroeder
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SPEAKERS ON THE WORD TODAY

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36 Years

Thirty-six years ago in May we began to broadcast *The Word Today!*

God has blessed! We have distributed thousands of tracts, pamphlets, booklets, books, etc.

Our internal site www.thewordtoday.org has continually expanded. We soon will have 20 languages available for listeners on their computers, smart phones, etc. We broadcast in 54 languages.

Japan has been one of the hardest countries to reach. As a nation they refuse religious programs on their radio stations. We tried a six month promotion campaign to drive traffic to our website. During those 6 months we had:

| Month | Impressions | Clicks |
|-----------|-------------|--------|
| July | 128,638 | 546 |
| August | 109,081 | 531 |
| September | 108,289 | 698 |
| October | 145,621 | 588 |
| November | 126,148 | 557 |
| December | 120,630 | 663 |

Of these clicks, 80% came from computers and 20% came from mobile devices. So, 886 visitors listened to our program in Japanese! That's not too bad! We will probably do this again for another 6 months—until we can get on a station. I wish we could buy a station to broadcast the Christian message all day!!!

Please keep praying that God the Holy Spirit will bless the many languages and *many will be saved!*

I hope we can all bring a special thank you offering this month—to thank God for the past 36 years.

Sincerely,
Paul R. Schroeder

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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.*

May

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PASTOR DOUG'S 10 DAY BIBLICAL TOUR OF ISRAEL

I am leading an Israel tour September 22 – October 1, 2014. The cost will be around \$3,400.00 per person from Chicago. This is an exceptional price for a 10 day tour! Obtain a brochure outlining the trip by calling Our Shepherd Lutheran at 414-421-2060 or email Beth, the secretary at bethb@ourshepherdlutheran.org. You don't want to miss seeing where our Savior walked!

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GOD'S CHASTISEMENT OF HUMANITY

A perennial topic of interest is whether natural disasters, heinous crimes or horrible accidents are sent by God as punishment. At times I wonder at what seems like an epidemic of disease, both physical and emotional, in America. I wonder if God is sending illness and frailty as a punishment for a continuing drift away from acknowledgement of God. Many times in the Old Testament the Lord visited the people with plagues for abandoning true worship.

Most of the time we do not know whether tribulation is simply an occurrence due to living in a sinful, imperfect world, or whether God is directly sending a chastisement. I usually conclude that short of a direct prophetic explanation, we should consider calamity as a result of a fallen world or human evil.

Would we ever see a plague of Biblical proportions? Perhaps; extremely lethal forms of viral diseases such as Ebola have the potential to wipe out vast numbers of people. That particular disease is dreaded by health experts as it has a 90% kill rate. If not contained it has the potential to cause untold harm to the human population. Did God send such diseases upon modern man? He doesn't tell us directly, however, we are always to see such things as a prod to earnestly repent of our sin. The wicked will be punished and condemned to Hell if they do not turn to God, and the Christian is not promised blanket protection from all forms of human suffering. The critical point is not to ascertain whether the disease or destruction was sent as a punishment, but that people repent!

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Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder

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