



Pastor's Perspective – Mobile Devices in Worship

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

I've noticed a trend in our worship services—more people using mobile devices for their Bibles in place of the printed page. Though the actual number of people doing this is less than a dozen, I suspect it will only grow as our world goes mobile—and that can be a good thing. Prompted by a recent *Christianity Today* article on the use of the Bible in the digital age, I took part of a mid-week service last month to lead the congregation through a guided discussion and begin to think the matter through from a biblical perspective. Though our group was small, the discussion was helpful. Below is a summary of the thoughts that were offered, both positive and negative.



Positively, if a mobile device is used for following along as a sermon is being preached:

It enables newer Christians to quickly and easily find a passage even if they're not familiar with where things are found in the Bible. It was noted that this could be especially helpful when it comes to finding passages the speaker might mention in support of the main text, but certainly in finding that one as well.

It allows anyone to have immediate access to almost any Bible translation, making it easy to follow along with the speaker if they are using a different one. It was noted that this tends not to be a huge problem at Fellowship, but that it's always nice to be reading the same words as the speaker whenever a text is read.

It allows for note taking and Bible reading all in one place without having to juggle a bunch of pages that might be lost or inadvertently thrown away later. Sometimes our laps aren't big enough or words might be referred to that one might like to mark and search out in greater detail at a later time—a mobile device can make that possible.

Negatively, if a mobile device is used for following along as a sermon is preached:

The possibility exists for major distractions for the listener. With a mobile device comes the opportunity to do other things while the sermon is being preached (emailing, texting, tweeting, surfing the web or playing games) if things get boring from the listener's perspective. But then again, the bored doing other things is not a new

problem—though mobile devices certainly increase the available options.

The possibility exists for minor distractions for other listeners. Admittedly, this may be more of a problem at first for those who are not familiar with such devices, and thus might initially require those who use them to figure a way to overcome this so as not to hinder the worship experience of others.

The possibility exists that it may not serve to increase our overall biblical literacy, even in things as basic as knowing the Bible books in order and being able to find them with ease in a printed text. If I have a big concern in the trend toward the use of mobile devices in worship, this is it. So my bottom line on the subject is this: If we embrace the technology, as we ultimately will, we must insure to do it in ways that enhance our knowing and living the gospel of Christ.

God's Amazing Work in Reaching the Treasures of China

By Sherry Wasserstein

She had chosen as her English name, "Rose." That made it pretty easy to remember, since I was in China visiting MY Grace and Rose. The 24-year-old showed us the Terra Cotta Warriors, an amazing piece of Chinese history, exclaiming it was a "National Treasure". She was right. It was amazing. But what I found was that the real "National Treasure" of China is the people.

I also found that God is working in an amazing way to reach those people. This was my first opportunity to visit one of the countries Paul and Geri Briggs minister to from state-side. Every time the Briggs share the gospel at Purdue University with a student from China and that student takes the Good News back to his or her home country, they have the potential of reaching the "Treasures" of China.

God, in His kindness, not only let me visit my girls in a foreign land, He gave me opportunity after opportunity to see both those who have heard and accepted the Good News there in China...and those who are hungering for it.

One young lady I met attends the same university as Grace and Rose. The university has about 24,000 Chinese students. Probably half the native-speaking English teachers are Christians. One told me that a very conservative estimate is that about 1,000 of the students there have trusted Jesus as their Savior. My new friend, in

fact, heard about Jesus through such a teacher.

"Trusting Jesus...for me, it is really a long, long story," she said. "About two years ago, I was a girl who never heard of Christianity at all. But my life started to change after I met my Christian friends from America. They loved me so much that I had never expected. They treat me like their own sister. I was so moved and surprised. But almost every time I asked them why, their answers were always like this: 'Because God loves us, so we love you.' They were showing God's love by their actions as well as telling me what Jesus is about. So patient! I questioned again and again because all the stuff they said about faith was so amazing and incredible. I had never heard that!

"One year later, they left for their home and I was so lonely even though I also had some good friends here but they were not Christian friends and I could not feel the same love from them. It was really around that time that I started to ponder by myself and seek God. Five months later after they left China, I made my own decision to be a Christian.

"I can't totally express my feelings of Him by words. He is our God. He is above all....He put me into different situations to let me grow. Sometimes I felt the difficulty was too much, but He never failed me if I put all my heart on Him. Only He can comfort me and give me hope, strength and wisdom constantly. In my short Christian life so far trusting Jesus is an everyday thing. I want to praise Him when times are good, but I also want to learn from Him when times are bad.

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"I am very thankful that my American friends came to China and I got to know God. I really hope more and more people can join the mission. Many Chinese young people are lost and they say having a faith is a very good thing. But they do not know how. I am in that mission. Hope there are more. Please pray for that."

She is right. I met people who seemed to hunger for the truth...and brought up the conversation about Christianity themselves. One gentleman said he longed for his government to open the doors for missionaries to come into his country to teach people about the Bible. He brought out a Chinese/English Bible a student had given him and talked about how he thought the Bible was a good book, because it told people how to be good. "Actually," I said, "it shows us that none of us can be good...." I went on to explain why God needed to send Jesus.

And then there is our friend, Rose. God had brought a Christian into her life already when we met her. She knows many Christian songs, including "How Great Thou Art" and "Amazing Grace." She sees the difference between cultural "Christians" and those who truly love Jesus. God is working in her life as she hungers for truth.

I am so grateful for the trip to see Grace and my Rose in China. I knew I would love seeing them. What I wasn't prepared for was the kindness of God in showing me how He is working to reach His "Treasures" there. May He send more messengers to those dear people!



Calendar

Feb. 3	Women's Ministries Heart Friend Party (7:00 PM)
Feb. 5	Super Bowl Party - Porters' House (7:00 PM)
Feb. 11	Couples' Night Out (5:00 PM)
Feb 11 Feb 18	Awana Sparks-A-Rama Practice (10:00 AM) Awana T&T Games Practice (11:00 AM)
Feb. 14	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Feb. 25	Sparks-A-Rama - Immanuel Bible Church (9:00 AM) T&T Games - Immanuel Bible Church (Noon)
Feb. 29	Missions Prayer Meeting (7:30 PM)

Money Matters

CORRECTION: The January newsletter reported the weekly giving for December as \$4,130/week. The correct amount was \$5,162. We apologize for the confusion.

January Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,630.30
Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$5,104.70
Budgeted Needs to Date	\$25,523.50
Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$23,151.51

International Student Ministry: For the 15th year, we will partner with missionaries Paul and Geri Briggs from Purdue University when the Salt and Light Christian Fellowship International team brings international students to our area for their annual Spring Break Trip. The students are usually visiting Washington D.C. for the first time in their lives and are eager to see and learn about the country they are visiting. Typically the students, along with Paul and other sponsors, tour the district during the days. In the evening, Pastor and Neita Lindholm provide dinner and allow the students to participate in something else they may have never done before: have a Bible study.

The group will arrive on Saturday evening, March 10, and will depart Thursday morning, March 15. Hosting students would involve giving them a warm and welcoming place to sleep, providing breakfast, and hosting them for one evening meal and a Bible study. Families who host often develop life-long friendships with the students and the friendships open the doors to many conversations about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you are willing to host some of the students, or American sponsors, please contact Pastor Lindholm as soon as possible. May you be blessed as you open your door to the world and reflect God's love.

February Memory Challenge

The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
The righteous run to it and are safe.
Proverbs 18:10

Sweethearts Get a Break

Here are some signs that you and your spouse need a date together:

- * The last meaningful conversation you had involved whether you would have McDonald's or Subway on the way to the soccer game.
- * Your idea of time together involves a shopping cart and coupons.
- * You have had a list of important items to talk about, but for the life of you, you can't remember any of them.
- * You had a temptation to cut up your sweetheart's meat at dinner last night.
- * The big news when you got together after work had something to do with school homework.

Well, on Saturday, February 11, you can treat your spouse with time together, with no guilt and no expense for child care. Complimentary child care and dinner will be provided by the church from 5:00 to 9:00 PM for children grade six and under. The event is hosted by Ron and Sherry Wasserstein and various young adults from our church, and will include games, crafts and entertainment for your kids. This is a great chance to spend the night out together, knowing that your children will be having fun, too. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby of the church. Please, for the sake of the whole family, take some time for each other.

Fellowship Baptist Church

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