



Pastor's Perspective — Ashamed of the Gospel?

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

In Romans 1:16, the Apostle Paul tells us: "I am not ashamed of the gospel."

The other day, I got a great question from one of my students in the Philippines: Why did Paul use that expression—was there something about the gospel in that day for which to be ashamed?

I answered that there was nothing about the gospel for which Paul felt or should have felt shame, and that he was actually using the expression to tell us that he had nothing but enthusiasm about the privilege of proclaiming it. For he recognized it to be "the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes."

I also told him that Paul's use of the expression is an example of litotes, a figure of speech wherein a positive idea (like "I'm proud of the gospel") is expressed by its negative ("I am not ashamed of the gospel") to emphasize the positive idea. Therefore, by stating the opposite, Paul is in fact telling us how pleased he is to proclaim it, knowing that the gospel alone is the power of God to save the lost—whomever they might be.

As further support, I drew this student's attention to verses 14-15 where Paul tells us that he saw his experience of the grace of God in saving him through the gospel as something which indebted him (in a good way) to share it with others that they too might hear it and be saved.

My student's question and Paul's testimony have prompted me to take stock of my own response to the gospel in sharing it with others:

Should I sense any less obligation than Paul to share it with others? Surely my sin had rendered me as dead as Paul to the gospel apart from the saving grace of God.

If I am convinced as Paul that the gospel alone is "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes," should I not be just as eager to share it? Paul's conviction led directly to action for he

understood that apart from the hearing the gospel and responding to it by faith alone in Christ alone, people were hopelessly and helplessly lost in their sin—and the same is true today.

In Romans 1:16, Paul is telling us how pleased he was to share the gospel.

Is there any evidence in me of being "ashamed" of the gospel—of being embarrassed to share it because of the ridicule I might receive from others in doing that, or of being silent and not speaking up at all when given the occasion? If there is, I need to confess that as sin and buy-up the opportunities God gives me daily to tell others about His Son.

Perhaps my questions and that of my student in the Philippines will prompt you to ask some questions of yourself with respect to sharing the gospel with others. It's a message for which there should be no shame, only gratitude and enthusiasm.

Outreach Ministries Resume

Please be in prayer as we resume the ESL and Awana programs this fall.



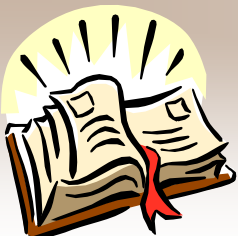
Awana, our children's program for ages 2-years pre-k through grade 6 grade, starts Sept. 18. This Sunday evening program helps children study the Bible, memorize verses and play games.

ESL reaches out to those in our community who are trying to learn or improve on their understanding of the English language. Meeting on Thursday nights, they study the language the first hour and then continue studying it as they use God's Word. The program begins again Sept. 8.



SEPTEMBER MEMORY VERSE

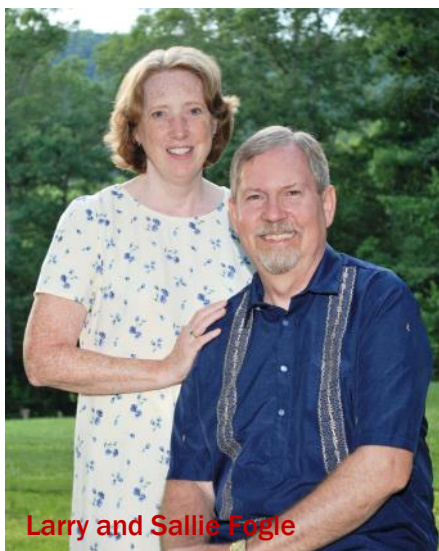
*Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name;
make known among the nations what He has done.
1 Chronicles 16:8*



The Power of God -- Missions Conference Participants to Share Experiences

Our Missions Conference, Sept. 9-11, draws its theme from Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Missionaries sharing with us their experiences witnessing that power of God will be Kent & Kelly Craig, Larry & Sallie Fogle and Jason & Beth Lang. The Langs were introduced in last month's Facets. This month we present the Fogles and the Craigs.



Larry and Sallie Fogle

The Craigs, with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE), act as the Executive Director for Asia/Pacific and East Asia. They have served with ABWE for 31 years, beginning with an appointment to the Philippines. Kent found faith in Christ in 1974 and graduated from Cedarville College. He then travelled to the Philippines with the Athletes-for-Christ basketball team through the a missions program at Cedarville. Kent says God "used that exposure to the Lord's harvest to direct him to the mission field."

As our supported missionaries, Larry & Sallie Fogle are no strangers to us. They work through Baptist Mid-Missions worldwide with the Pastoral Enrichment Program (PEP). Through PEP the Fogles equip national pastors and church leaders to better minister to their flocks. Just recently the Fogles completed a four-month assignment in Peru. Their primary purpose for the trip was to take a concentrated Spanish language course, with the goal of being able to preach and teach in Spanish without an interpreter, and to teach some courses in the Bible college there. The result? Learning about two and a half years of Spanish in three and a half months and teaching 180 hours. Larry's next overseas trip will require him to refocus on French, as he will be preaching and teaching in Chad.



Kent and Kelly Craig

While at Denver Baptist Theological Seminary to prepare for the field he met Kelly. Kelly is a Kansas girl who accepted Christ at the age of 8. When she met Kent, she was studying at Denver Baptist Bible College. They were married in 1983, appointed as missionaries in 1985 and arrived in the Philippines on Dec 5, 1986. They have two daughters, Kari and Kandace.

In the past the Craigs have been involved in church planting, leadership training, field administration, and Project HOPE (Helping Open People's Eyes) where they teamed with host churches in evangelism. In 2000, they reported to ABWE headquarters in Harrisburg, PA, to begin their new assignment in missionary leadership and administration. Their current ministry includes travel to the field teams in the area including 135 long-term missionaries plus short-termers and Asian partners.

Money Matters

August Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,552
2016 Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$5,052
2016 Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$161,273
2016 Budgeted Needs to Date	\$176,820

Calendar

Sept. 8	ESL Begins (7:00 PM)
Sept. 9-11	Missions Conference
Sept. 13	Nursing Home Visit (2:00 PM)
Sept. 16-17	Women's Retreat
Sept. 18	Awana Begins (5:30 PM)
Oct. 1	Men's Breakfast (8:00 AM)
Oct. 1	Church Picnic (1:00-4:00 PM)

Fellowship Baptist Church

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