
Fw: Sweet Are Your Words

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Draft

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Sweet Are Your Words... Psalm 119:103

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!



During our last furlough, we were watching our 3-year-old granddaughter, Ivy, pictured above eating a donut at our favorite donut shop, Titus Bakery, in Lebanon, Indiana. I, Phil, was checking emails from the team on my phone and seemingly not paying attention to Ivy while she was trying to tell me something. Finally, after several tries to get my attention, she took her two little hands, grabbed my face, turned it away from my phone so we were eye to eye and said, "Listen to my words Poppy". It was such an endearing moment and we smile everytime we think about it.

God wants our attention and for us to listen to His words too. In Proverbs 2:1-5, God tells us, "My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge

of God.” If we want to understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God, then we need to seek out and search His words like hidden treasure. We need to make our ears attentive. We need to receive and treasure His words, and incline our hearts to understanding them.

Recently we heard a song by Jeremy Camp. The title is “When You Speak.” Here is an excerpt of the lyrics:

Through all of the thunder, You whisper
Even in doubt, You are with me, with me
Like a love song that I've always known
Your word hits me deep inside my soul
When You speak
I'm found in the sound of peace, be still
The wind and the waves bow to Your will
You drown my fear with a love more real
Than anything, anything I feel
When You speak

Whether it is through your Bible reading, a sermon, the Holy Spirit speaking to your spirit, or even a song, God's words are a treasure worth seeking out.

“The soul can do without everything except the word of God, without which none at all of its wants are provided for.” — **Martin Luther**



God is the One who spoke all of Creation into existence. The struggles here in Papua New Guinea are real. The needs here are so great. We look to God for wisdom as we are asked or begged multiple times daily to help people with various needs from buying materials for building a house, paying school fees for students that can't afford it, food, shoes and socks, or to provide employment. The needs here are overwhelming! Would you please pray for us to have wisdom to know how to use God's money the best.

Daily, we chose to follow the One who created not just the mountain shown in the picture above, but every mountain, every ocean, the heavens, the earth and everything in existence just by speaking. Despite whatever struggle or challenge we face; we daily choose to follow God. Not following God leaves only one alternative, following Satan. **Matthew 7:13,14** **13 "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."** It is so comforting to know that despite the challenges we face, whatever the problem, that God created everything by only speaking! In His incredible power, knowledge, ability to be everywhere all the time, He is who we choose to follow!



Religious Instruction Class

We continue to see God working in great ways. As many of you know, each Wednesday we go to the local high school for RI (Religious Instruction) class and each week we see God working in the lives of the 9th and 10th graders. The week before last we had 4 salvation decisions. This week we had 3 salvation decisions and one student wanted to re-dedicate his life to God. Each

week, we take 5-6 of our college students with us and give them opportunities to counsel the high school students when they desire counseling.



Praise Baptist Church

Two weeks ago, at Praise Baptist, 2 people got saved. I was blessed to council with Scotty, who is 10 years old. He accepted Christ! He is the son of Serah and Keophy. Serah is one of Jan's Pidgin Literacy class teachers.



Bethlehem Baptist Church

Last Sunday, we were invited to speak at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Asaro. We had sponsored their youth so they could go to the week long GBBC youth camp. Out of the 10 youth that went, 6 of them received Christ as their Saviour! Youth camp is really a misnomer. Anyone that is unmarried and under 30 years old would still consider themselves youth. Kingsford (bottom left) was one of the youth that went to camp and was saved! He gave his testimony of how God has radically changed his life. Others shared that Kingsford used to be a terror in their community. He would run around with a beer in one hand and a machete in the other hand, scaring people and causing them to run away. Now, everyone sees what God has done in his life.

Another great blessing last Sunday morning was Ishmael (bottom right) got saved. In my sermon, I shared from John 3:17-18 explaining that only those who put their faith in Christ will not be condemned. It does not matter what sins you have committed, salvation is based on your faith in Jesus Christ alone. Ishmael raised his hand during the invitation and was counseled by Pastor Rex.





Pidgin Literacy Class

Another great blessing to share from the last couple of weeks comes from Jan's Pidgin Literacy class. This class is for the local mamas and papas who do not know how to read or write. Jan has 28 students in her classes. The last 2 weeks, 6 of them have gone to church with us. Five of them said they had never been to church before! They said they know nothing about God or the Bible. So, continue to pray that God would continue to grow their hearts closer to Jan's over the next 5 months and that they would come to know more about God and what Jesus did on the cross for them and seek Him out as their Saviour.

Thank you to those that reached out to us about our monthly support need.

We praise God for providing:

- 2 new church supporters
- 1 new individual supporter
- 2 individual support increases
- 5 financial gifts towards the Pidgin Literacy class

Thank you for being part of our team and making it possible for us to do the Lord's work here. We hope the pictures and news of what God is doing here in Papua New Guinea are an encouragement to your heart. God bless.

Your missionaries to PNG,

Phil and Jan Smith

Acts 20:24

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