



A ministry of
 River Valley Christian Church
 5900 Lake Elmo Ave. N.
 Lake Elmo, MN 55042

Phone: (727) 271-9419
 E-mail: lttn@ymail.com



Revs. Dan & Marta Lewis

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a *light to the nations*... Isaiah 42:6

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Prov 18:21

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue,
 And those who love it will eat its fruit.*

A topic we visit quite often is the power of words. Most people have no idea of the power of the words they allow out of their mouths. If the scripture above is true, does it matter what we say? A big problem is that the Word of God has been pushed aside and replaced with man's ideas and traditions. *"Well, I just believe that what the Lord wants will happen, and His ways are mysterious, and you just never know what the Lord might do."* When a person says that doesn't know it, but they are replacing the Bible with what they believe.

The truth is that it doesn't matter if grandma and grandpa believed it, even if my whole denomination believes it, when the word exposes something different than what I have thought, it's time to change. But old habits can be hard to break and so much of what people say is because they have always said it and don't even think about how it might be affecting their life.

James had some things to say about the power of our tongue. Look at **James 3:2**

For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble (or offend) in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

The word translated perfect here, means fully developed, mature. James goes on to talk about how a small bit can control the strength and speed of a horse - or a small rudder (compared to the size of the ship) can determine the direction of the huge ship even in big waves and strong winds, and how a small spark can start a huge forest fire.

He's telling us, that's how your tongue is - like that bit, like that rudder, or that tiny flame or spark. It may start small, but it can develop into something that changes your life, controls your direction - it can even cancel or accelerate a God given vision for your life.

Sadly, most Christians don't seem to believe this. How do I know? Because of the way they talk. If they really believed this, they wouldn't say some of the things they say. If they really believed that saying the wrong word could be like striking a match in a dry forest, they wouldn't say it. It may seem like something small and insignificant at the time, but it can quickly turn into something else. The first time you said it, you might not have even believed it or even paid much attention to it, but if you keep saying it for months and years, it can mess up your life.

You and I will be tempted to say stupid things. And it might be on your mind all day to say something like: *"I don't know if I can make it. Nothing good ever happens to me."* And you'll want to say it so bad! Why is that? Because the enemy needs you to say it, so he can have access to your life and then do those things he wants you to say.

But God needs you to say: *"I'm more than a conquerer, greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me..."*

Wait, God needs me? Yes! He needs you to say that to give **Him** full access to your life. Give Him full right in your life to do it. He needs you to say *"I am the righteousness of God in Christ"*. He needs you to say, *by His stripes I am healed*. To give Him access to operate in your life.

The world around us talks death until it seems normal. That's what everybody does, but you and I are not of this world. We might be living here, but we are of another family, and we have another nature. Our nature is not death, our nature is eternal life! Speak life! Speak blessing! Speak victory! Because death and life are in the power of the tongue.

During our visit to Hungary in November, we taught about the importance of having a godly vision, challenging the people: How do you see your future - what do you see yourself doing in say, 5 years? Over the next several weeks we started hearing how some people purposed to be *"doers of the Word, not hearers only"* (James 1:22, 23).



Above left, Pastor Norbert Rózsa leads a mid week prayer meeting at the church in Szakcs, Hungary. **Above right**: The only reason this picture is included is because everyone is smiling! It is very rare to get a photo of anyone smiling in Eastern Europe. The picture **at right** shows a young couple who recently started attending the church in Szakcs. They have expressed a desire to be baptized and get married.

One concept that has been difficult for many Romas to grasp is that of “future”. For so many of the Romas that we have worked with, life has always been about just surviving “today”. If there is ever a little extra, it’s time to party now because we might not get another chance. No thought is given to putting a little aside for a “rainy day”.

So, we got excited when we heard about those who started planning and looking ahead. Pastor Norbert Rózsa and his wife Alexia started by making plans to buy a couple of pigs with the idea of not only providing food for themselves, but raising pigs as a business to sell to others. They began by preparing a place to keep and care for some pigs (planning ahead) and finally purchasing some to get started (pictures next month).

Others in the church are following the example of Pastor Norbert and Alexia. Not everyone wants to raise pigs, so some are looking into raising some chickens (egg prices have gone unbelievably high in Hungary, too). One couple who aren’t confident they could raise animals, are prepar-

ing to plant a garden, since they have a large plot of land that is not being used for anything right now.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support for Light to the Nations Ministries. We never take lightly your part in this ministry. We are constantly in awe of how God speaks to your heart concerning this ministry and you respond so generously both in finances and even more importantly, in prayer.



Love and blessings,

Dan + Marta Lewis

Throwback pictures

Below left: Oh, the glamour of missions! Here is Marta in Romania, stepping out into mud that our four wheel drive car couldn’t handle. **Below center**: The clown on the left is Tünde, who was our secretary when we lived in Budapest. The smaller clown is her son, Norbi. Tünde and her family now live in Connecticut. Tünde has been a huge blessing to this ministry. **Below right**, Light to the Nations basketball clinic in Handlova, Slovakia. Tünde is standing at the far left next to Rich and Sue Remsburg, and daughter Detti (another clown) is kneeling in front of her. Dan, Marta and clown Norbi are at the far right. All of this was for the purpose of presenting Jesus to people.

