

foot in my mouth trying to speak Tagalog.

We all do that a little bit whenever we use a second language to talk to people we know-- a language that is unlike the way we normally should talk to them. The Bible describes it like this: "Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing" (James 3:10).

Take, for example, conversations you have with the people closest to you--your family. Do you speak to them in a language different from the one in which you talk with your friends? It happens. Maybe you talk to your friends in kind tones with love showing through, using your native tongue like a pro. But then you turn right around and talk to your parents as if they were Nazi war criminals. Or maybe you are foul tongued with friends and clean mouthed around your family.

Anytime we fail to use language in a way that builds up and encourages, we are using a second language that wasn't intended for us. When we speak with a forked tongue, somebody's going to get poked. --DB

REFLECTION

- What does this statement in a Copenhagen airline ticket office mean: "We take your bags and send them in all directions."
- Is it possible that I have this two-language setup in my life? How can I tell? How can I change it?
- Is God pleased with the way I talk (a) all the time (b) some of the time (c) not much of the time? According to this question, what should I do?

Bad words wound; good words heal.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Information for Visitors.

- * We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.
- * a Cubbies programme is normally provided, during the sermon for the toddler to Kindy age bracket.

How Do You Say "Oops"?

People who speak two languages impress me. Recently I overheard a uni student from my church explaining things to Spanish-speaking people, and I felt a bit jealous of her ability to express herself so clearly in that second language.

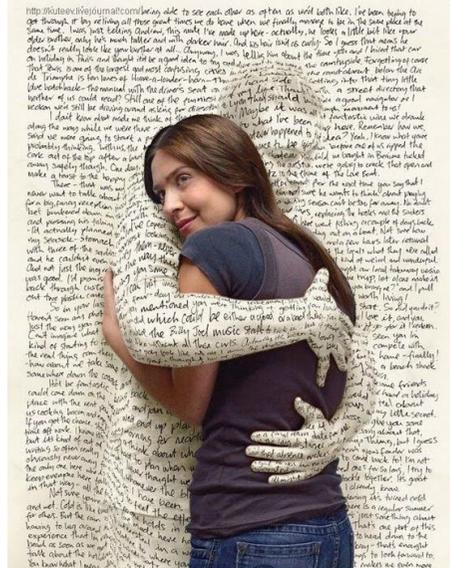
Sometimes, though, attempts by people to speak a second language--though admirable--can be humorous.

For example, this sign was hung in the lobby of a hotel in Bucharest, Hungary: "The lift [elevator] is being fixed for the next day. During that time, we regret that you will be unbearable."

In a Moscow hotel was found this notice about a Russian Orthodox monastery across the street: "You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, writers are buried daily except Thursday."

And one more. A detour sign in Japan. "STOP! Drive sideways!"

I know the feeling. While living in the Philippines for a year, I sometimes stuck my



Well chosen words can heal



Our Home Good Words

(Proverbs 12:14) "A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth, And the recompense of a man's hands will be rendered to him."

(Proverbs 12:14) "From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him." [paraphrase]

(Proverbs 16:1) "The preparations of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD."



Proverbs nails for us two aspects of good words:

1. How to choose good words,

Choosing good words depends on:

◆ T _____

(Proverbs 12:17) "He who speaks truth declares righteousness, ..."

(Proverbs 14:5) "A faithful witness does not lie,"

(Proverbs 16:13) "Righteous lips are the delight of kings, And they love him who speaks what is right."

(Ephesians 4:15) "... speaking the truth in love,;"

◆ W _____

(Proverbs 15:2) "The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness."

(Proverbs 9:10) ""The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,"

(Proverbs 15:7) "The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, But the heart of the fool does not do so."

(Proverbs 16:23) "The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips."

(Proverbs 18:4) "The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; The wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook."

◆ G _____

(Proverbs 22:11) "He who loves purity of heart And has grace on his lips, The king will be his friend."

(Proverbs 25:15) "By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone."

◆ A _____, _____ chosen words

(Proverbs 10:19) "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is

wise."

(Proverbs 10:32) "The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, ..."

(Proverbs 12:23) "A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness."

(Proverbs 13:3) "He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction."

(Proverbs 15:28) "The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil."

(Proverbs 17:27) "He who has knowledge spares his words, And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit."

(Proverbs 21:23) "Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles."

◆ T _____

(Proverbs 15:23) "A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!"

(Proverbs 15:23) "A man has joy in an apt answer, And how delightful is a timely word!" [paraphrase]

(Proverbs 29:20) "Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him."

◆ L _____

(Proverbs 18:13) "He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him."

(Proverbs 20:5) "Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out."

(Proverbs 20:5) "The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out." [paraphrase]

(Proverbs 15:1) "A soft answer turns away wrath,"

◆ _____ a confidence

(Proverbs 11:3) "The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them."

(Proverbs 17:9) "He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends."

(Proverbs 23:7) "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. ..."

(Luke 6:45) ""A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."



2. Benefits of good words, (next time)

