

Bridging the Communication Chasm

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Until very recently, communication and how we do it has evolved gradually over decades and generations ... While my grandfather may have had a different primary means of communication (letters) than I did (phones) at the same age, he was very aware of the phones and the way they worked because it took decades for the new technology to permeate the market ... Today, we're literally moving at the speed of light ... 10 years ago the first internet integrated smart phones took the market by storm, today, a mere decade later, they've completely and irrevocably changed the way we communicate and access instant information.





Sharing Words

- Our Father's Way
- Our Children's Way
- Our Path Forward





Sharing Words – Our Father's Way

Our father's learned to share words with one another the same way that their fathers before them did, and, in many cases, like their fathers before them. Instant communication consisted of being in the same room with someone or calling the person and hoping that they were at home, if not, you left a message (once the 70's rolled around!) and waited on them to call back. Letters were exchanged over long distances due to the cost of long distance phone calls. Throughout the entire 20th century, this was the way of life ...

- Letters
- Phone Calls
- Face to Face Meetings



Sharing Words – Our Children’s Way

In the last 20 years the way that we communicate with one another has change so quickly and drastically that what was considered “state of the art” in the 90’s (e-mail and blackberry) is now either completely passe or obsolete. With the connected society, there are multiple ways that our children communicate in real time.

- Texting
- Social Media (Twitter / Facebook / Instragram)
- Video Chatting
- Phone Calls



Sharing Words – Our Path Forward

We can communicate with the younger generations until we're blue in the face using our "tried and true" methods of communication only to find that in many cases, the words are falling on deaf ears. Instead of insisting that the younger generations embrace forms of communication that are being rendered obsolete in today's connected society, we need to embrace aspects of that connected society that are both acceptable to the younger generations as well as ourselves. Instead of calling home phones, call cell phones or text, instead of e-mailing, instant message, when distance is an issue, consider video conferencing instead of long drives ... Technology today is designed to make it easier than ever to share ideas with one another, we need to embrace these changes.



Teaching Words

- Our Father's Way
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Teaching Words – Our Father's Way

Our father's learned, for the most part, in a structured environment where an expert (teacher) would stand in the front of the room and impart knowledge to those seeking it (students.) When students had questions, they would raise their hands and ask the teachers for more information, if that information wasn't readily available, a trip to the library was necessary for further research. When students were distracted, the teachers would immediately take action as learning wasn't taking place. Teaching was

- Structured
- One Direction (Teacher to Student, for the most part)
- Limited (to resources available in the classroom and library)



Teaching Words – Our Children’s Way

Beginning in the 90’s with the internet world wide web boom and **EXPLODING** in the mid 2000’s with the arrival of the iPhone and other smart phones, teaching will never be the same. While the experts still lead discussions and lessons and guide the students where the lesson plans go, students now have, at their fingertips, a wealth of additional knowledge that can augment what’s being taught at any given time. When students have questions about facts or wish more information on a topic, a simple “google” will provide them with thousands of additional resource pages. Teaching today is ...

- Interactive
- Free Flowing
- Virtually Unlimited in knowledge resources



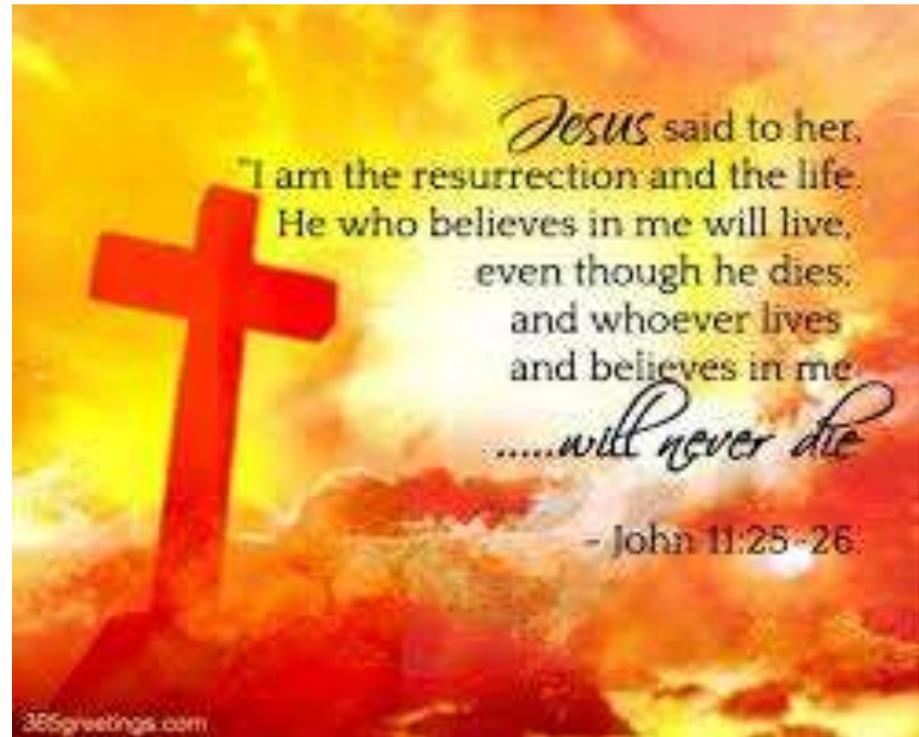
Teaching Words – Our Path Forward

Teaching the younger generations today is both challenging and rewarding. Lesson plans still need to be drawn up and structure created, but, now when you see a student get distracted with their phone (or other internet connected device) there is a good possibility that they're looking for more information on a topic that you are teaching. When you see several hands go to phones, you know that you've hit on an exciting topic and, within reason, you should welcome the feedback from the students additional research.



Spreading the Word

- Our Father's Way
- Our Children's Way
- Our Path Forward





Spreading the Word – Our Father's Way

Spreading the word in the past meant inviting folks to church or to your house to share the love of Jesus ... Visitation was done to spread the word in neighborhoods with the goal being to get folks interested enough to come to church where the Sunday school teachers and pastors would then try and spread the Good News. Phone prayer chains and revival weeks would keep the congregation connected and energized throughout the year. We would spread the word by ...

- Invitations to Church
- Newsletters
- Phone Prayer Chains
- Visitation



Spreading the Word – Our Children’s Way

With social media, podcasting, and interactive web sites, spreading the word has never been easier throughout history! Our preachers sermons are on the web within hours or days of being preached, both audio and printed versions, “knee mail” prayer chains keep the congregation connected regardless of location. Our congregation, teachers, and preachers can share on social media insights into the word allowing folks that were not able to be in worship to still share in the Good News. Spreading the word today includes

- Online Sermons (printed and podcasting)
- Social Media
- Knee Mail Prayer Chains



Spreading the Word – Our Path Forward

If ever there was, or needed to be, a blending of our past and our future, here it is !!!! Inviting folks to church and spreading the love of Jesus Christ should still be our number ONE priority ... having said that, there are several other ways to share the love as well ... leveraging the communication tools that we've discussed throughout this class, from video chatting to podcasts, from knee mail to social media, from texting to interactive web sites, it's our job to get the Good News out there to as many folks as possible !!!! We should not sacrifice our past for our future, but, we should also not sacrifice our future for our past either



Let's Talk 😊

Our pastor recently said in a sermon that the church is always “one generation away from extinction” (<http://podcast.wbts.org/2017/01/01-15-17-being-a-witness-for-christ/>) (and, yes, I’m linking to our blog to share the point!) because WE, as the church, need to constantly share the Good News. Never in history have we been faced with a time where the primary means of communication has changed several times in the span of a single generation ... that is until now. We don’t have the luxury of slowly integrating new forms of communication and technology into our church because, if we do, the message will not reach the younger generations because they’ll miss the message because they’re looking elsewhere. I’m not suggesting that we all race out and get twitter accounts and start communication solely through emoji’s, but, I do recommend that we **INCLUDE** our younger generations when thinking about ways to talk, teach, and share the Gospel, to make sure that we’re delivering it where they’d be looking for it!



Questions ???

