

I Take That Back!

By Mell Futrell

There is an adage that says, "The spoken word is like the last opportunity, it doesn't come back." And oh,

what a true statement that is! Brethren, how many times in our lives have we made some remark and almost immediately regretted the utterance? In all likelihood it is a fault we have succumbed to numerous times through the years. But words once spoken cannot be recalled. So we honestly try to lessen the impact by saying: "I didn't mean it"; "That's not what I intended to say"; "I take it back," etc. Sometimes this helps and sometimes the damage has been done.

Is it any wonder our Lord said, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh...every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Mt. 12:34-37). Without a doubt, our speech is a very important part of our Christian life. And being human, we are sometimes rash; our speech is no exception. It often times leaves something to be desired. But is our speech beyond our control, or can it be measured by choice? The Bible indicates that the latter is the correct response. And the voice of Scripture rings out with this affirmation. Solomon said, "Be not rash with thy mouth...a fool's voice is known by multitude of words" (Eccl. 5:2,3). The great apostle Paul proclaimed: "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Col. 4:6). Commenting on this verse one brother said:

Of particular importance in the Christian's relationship with those outside the church is his speech, which is indicative

Do We Neglect Commonsense Principles?

The Lord's work consists of influencing people in God's direction. Matt. 5:13-16 describes Christians as the "salt of the earth" and "light of the world." Influence is always a matter of communication, whether verbal or non-verbal. Sometimes we neglect the commonsense principles of influence and communication. Consider three potential mistakes we make:

1. We try to build relationships without improving our own attitude and conduct. Most significant changes start with self. An inside out approach to influence others is best. If our character is not what it ought to be our words will have little positive effect on others. We must model the conduct we wish to encourage in others. I Cor. 11:1, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." We must be an example of what believers ought to be.
2. We advise before we understand. "People don't care how much we know until they know how much we care." Sympathy has to do with feeling what others feel. Empathy has to do with understanding the situation of others. Understanding needs to go before being understood. Phil. 2:4, "Look not on the things of others." Do we really listen to others in order to understand them? It may appear we're listening while merely planning our reply. Jesus, the Master Teacher, had perfect understanding and compassion.
3. We assume that good example and relationships are sufficient. Character and compassion are not enough to communicate the truth of the gospel — it takes words! Rom. 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Obviously we must strive to balance courage and consideration. We must also be courteous as well as candid. The Gospel — continued

Teens

January dates to remember:

Jan. 28—Movie afternoon

Winter Area Devotionals:

February 3—Christiansburg 6-7:30

March 10—Lake Drive 6-7:30

Dates for Teens:

February 17, 2007 Mock Bible Bowl

March 3, 2007 Southwest Virginia Bible Bowl

June 17-23, 2007 VCC

July 1-6, 2007 Horizons Senior Week

July 8-13, 2007 Horizons Junior Week

I Take That Back—continued

provides an avenue for influence. Paul reminds his readers that their speech should always be gracious or “acceptable”. The unique character of Christian speech is then further defined: “Christian speech should be seasoned with salt” (*The Living Word Commentary*, Vol. 11, p.100).

And James said we could and should **bridle** our tongues: “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain” (Jam. 1:26).

Brethren, we seldom get in trouble for what we do not say, but rather for what we do say and how we say it. Let us not render our religion vain by false and /or careless speech. Let us determine to measure our speech and to heed the words of the little children’s song, “Be careful little tongues what you say.”
- The Elders

Neglect Commonsense...—continued

is of no benefit unless it’s made “manifest”. Col. 4:3,4, “Withal praying for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds. That I may make it manifest, as I sought to speak.”

There are three basic forms of teaching: 1. What we are (character). 2. Our understanding and concern for other people (compassion). 3. What we say (communication). We need to strive for a complete, mature ability to influence others for good. - Don

West Side's Older Workers

The next WOW meeting will be Tuesday, February 13 at 11:00 at Famous Anthony’s.

Team Events

New Team events are going on!!! Check here every week for activities your team will be doing!

Team 1 - Tom Duff

Thanks to all who showed up and enjoyed the fellowship. We will be conducting a Sweethearts Banquet in February. Details to follow.

Team 2 - Bob Garby

Team 3 - David Brown

January 28 after morning service there will be a pot luck meal.

Team 4 - Tom Rogers

TEAM LEADERS: This section will be in the bulletin every week. E-mail any events to the office before Friday 8 AM.

SICK

Betty Jenkins is waiting on test results.

Glen Hartman will have rotator cuff surgery tomorrow.

C.E. Mannon is in room 823 at Memorial.

Sam McNeil, **Luetta's** brother, is in room 822 at Memorial.

Minnie Bowles, **Susan Montcastle & Shree Lowe's** mother is recovering from surgery.

Remember the following in prayers: **Teresa White, Larry Phillips, Dan Hudgins, E.V. & Effie Wimmer, Bessie Gilpin, Danny Guard, Brandon Grigsby, Marquerite Charles, Elizabeth Mullins, Oliver & Mariam Majors.**



Happy Birthday this week to:

Jo Ann Edwards—1/21

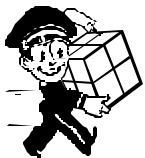
Tom Rogers—1/23

Murphy Scott—1/25

Sydney Durham—1/25

Jerry Anderson—1/26

MILITARY: Ty Stricklin at 29 Palms Marine Base, **Jonathan Simpson, John Shannon** and **Gabriel Hayes** who are in Iraq. **Jonathan Chumley**, Kosovo.



JANUARY/FEBRUARY ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS: Pepperoni and Crystal Light (assorted fruit flavors). Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!!

LIBRARY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If you leave books in the library, please leave a note with these books saying who they are from and for what purpose they have been left. This will help keep the librarian from getting things mixed up.

We have some old filmstrips in the library that have not been used for a long time. If you wish to use any of these for teaching programs, please come and get them and keep with your Bible material. Otherwise they will be donated to someone who can use them.

GUEST SPEAKER

Cy Stafford will speaking to us this morning.

POT LUCK—TEAM 3

There will be a pot luck for Team 3 on 1/28 after morning services.

WEDDING RECEPTION

There will be a reception honoring newlyweds Paul & Eloise Faw on Sunday evening, Jan. 28 following evening services. Join us for cake and punch to congratulate this fine couple. If you'd like to give a gift, we suggest certificates to local restaurants or to Wal-Mart.

ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS MEETING

There will be an EDP meeting on Sunday, February 4 at 4:00.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

We still have openings for hostesses in January, February and April. If you're interested sign up on the board or contact Jo Ann.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVATIONS

There is a new calendar in the kitchen to be used to reserve the Fellowship Hall. If you have an event that requires the use of the Fellowship Hall please check the availability and pencil it in and NOTIFY the office.

Lots of books and papers to pick up from the foyer. Make sure your family has a copy of the 2007 Plan of Works, The Spiritual Sword and Truth International.

January 2007**Announcements** Danny Guard**Song Leader (AM)** Eric Earnhart**Opening Prayer (AM)**

1/7 Mike Durham

1/14 Gary Sartain

1/21 Jim Bush

1/28 Luke Guard

Preside at Communion Jeff Durham**Serve Table**

T. Rogers J. Black

G. Durham M. Brooks

Closing Prayer

1/7 Grat Tucker

1/14 Walter Jenkins

1/21 Glen Hartman

1/28 Jim Cooke

Song Leader (PM) Adam House**Opening Prayer (PM)**

1/7 Greg Edwards

1/14 Charles Gwaltney

1/21 Charles Maness

1/28 Collin Gregory

Scripture Reader

Ethan Rogers

Closing Prayer (PM)

1/7 Gene Benefield

1/14 Richard Simms

1/21 Jerry Anderson

1/28 Squeaky Valentine

Serve Table (PM) J. Harrington A.C. Janney**Song Leader (Wed)** Tom Richardson**Prayer (Wed)**

1/3 Tom Duff

1/10 Fred Altizer

1/17 David Brown

1/24 Glen Gabbard

1/31 Mitch Jearls

Door Man David Brown**Greeters** Neighbors Argabrights**Nursery Attend** K. Anderson A. Brown**Ushers** Bob Garby Roger Mays**Handouts** Mike & Bradford Durham

Tom & Preston Duff

Alternates L. Shrader D. Brown**Prepare comm.** G. Myers M. Wood**Last weeks attendance** 1/14 & 17/07

Bible Class—150 Worship Service—183

Eve. Worship—140 Wed. Service—134

Contribution—\$6031