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# Keystone BAPTIST

Official Paper of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches

## YOU CAN TELL FROM THEIR LANGUAGE

By Dr. Clay Nuttall

(Taken from the "Shepherd's Staff" with permission)



In the grand book of Deuteronomy, chapter twenty-eight, God continues to explain the judgment that will come to Israel if they are disobedient. These curses include a nation that will be identified by its language: *The Lord shall bring a nation against thee, from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand.* (28:49) In a walled city, if you were to hear a strange tongue, you would be on guard; in this text, it was a warning of judgment.

The land I live in is filled with many languages. Some of these tongues quickly identify the national background of the speaker. Normally, for a nation to be united, the country has to have one major language. It is misguided to think that all languages could be equal in one nation. The growth of a language, other than the one that unites the people, could be a signal of disruption and a possible sign of judgment. It would be unwise to demand that all languages but one be silenced. When a new language threatens a coup, however, trouble is on the agenda.

Languages help us identify many things, good or bad.

## WORDS HAVE MEANING AND IDENTITY

Not only can our language identify our national backgrounds, it can also place us as being from a certain area of the country. Our community here is a retirement development. Some of our folks have had all the snow they want, so they come from New Jersey, New York, New England, and places like Boston. Others have come from mid-America and the deep South. When we have a community social, it becomes a plethora of accents.

When Peter tried to deny his relationship to Jesus, he was caught by his speech. *And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee.* (Matt. 26:72-73)

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### The Faith of Abraham

A study in Hebrews and in particular chapter eleven is always a tremendous challenge and blessing to the heart. The presentation of the

“Hall of Faith” overwhelms you verse by verse. When pondering each individual named (and many, many unnamed in verse twelve) in their exercise of obedience, submission and trust – it was a demonstration of faith as God has spoken and they believe Him so they will not question. They will do as He has said and directed. Wow, how many of us do that each day we walk through?

With all of this understood there is that profound instruction in verse six, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* Our Heavenly Father is expecting us to obey, trust and walk each step of our life by faith. Wow, again how many of us are doing just that?

Abraham is one of those demonstrating or I like to refer to it as exercising a great faith. In chapter eleven and verse eight through ten it says, *“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”*

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### From the Parsonage Window



### By Faith



Hi, I’m Judy Connor, Paul Connor’s wife of 49 plus years – Yep, next year is the BIG one - 50 years. WOW! I never dreamed we would be so close to that anniversary time. I guess because I was so very sick for so long, but by God’s grace we may get there. We are living “By Faith”. God is Good.

We have a new hoop waiting for us – either to hang on and continue to serve the Lord with the PARBC or to jump through the hoop and serve the Lord somewhere else “By Faith”. You know I told Paul we served Marsh Creek Fellowship Baptist Church, Wellsboro, for almost 20 years; now we may be starting our 20<sup>th</sup> year with the PARBC or we may go through the hoop and serve another 20 years in another ministry. It’s all “By Faith”.

Noah built his ark “By Faith”. Hebrews 11:7 says, “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteous which is by faith.” Noah built his ark “By Faith”. He didn’t know why, how or even what rain was – or even what an ark (boat) was. He listened to God, was mocked, but he built the ark to save his family as God had told him. He didn’t ask why – WOW! That’s a hard thing not to do –ask why – especially for me.

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Words make up our vocabulary, so the speech of an educator, doctor, scientist, or engineer leaves you with a fairly good idea of what is his/her vocation. Then there is the moral quality of conversation. Tongues that freely take God's name in vain, or are risqué, tell you a lot about the speaker's background and moral perspective. Before you ever ask someone a direct question about their spiritual condition, their language has already betrayed them.

Yes, I am going somewhere with this. It applies to what has been happening in the circle of those who profess to be Christians as well as the phenomenon of the remaking of the American church. The political atmosphere at this point in time only adds to what we need to know about those who attempt to identify with Christianity.

## THE WORLD OF THEOLOGY

In every discipline there are popular words, and the "in crowd" is obligated to use them to prove they are current. It is so obvious that it is humorous. In education and in theological symposiums, it seems that every paper or presentation has to use these terms even if they aren't relevant to the specific subject. It is a strange way to try and prove you are a scholar. The problem is that this use of pet words is passed along to those who don't know what they mean.

This is one of the ways that Bible ignorance has infected the Christian conversation. Some of my pet peeves include the word "kingdom". It is used by many who seem to think it is some kind of magic wand. The truth is they have no idea what "kingdom" they are even talking about! "Similarities are not equal", and the Bible describes a number of kingdoms. The use of cute little phrases is simply nonsense. People talk about "building, growing, enhancing, or strengthening the kingdom". Which kingdom is that? God has made it clear that He alone is in charge of His kingdoms. God will build all of His kingdoms. He may use us to help in some minute action, and we may act as servants, but we are not building His kingdoms. When did God die and leave prideful man in charge?

To add insult to injury, in addition to taking credit for what God is doing, men have the gall to defend their views, ideas, opinions, and interpretations. Those human conclusions are irrelevant. There is only one true idea, the one that God has stated clearly in the Bible text before men began to insert their own ideas. Our speech definitely betrays us.

One more illustration is the use of the word "holiness". Holiness is the sovereign possession of a holy God. We have no holiness and cannot beg, borrow, or steal it. God alone is holy, and if any of His holiness is in my life, it is because God dwells within each believer. Any holiness that flows in or out of my life is totally God's working through this earthly frame; I am not the source or the owner.

For the self-centered person, this looks like a matter of splitting hairs. The truth is that this religious cancer is destroying many of the young bucks in ministry today. The younger generation is enamored with false intellect. The purveyors of error - often scholars - poison young minds by their use of words that hide real meaning. What they are reading and following is obvious because "their speech betrays them". Watch for the "buzz words" that are used in order to make one sound so much like the "in crowd". In their youth and inexperience, they fail to ask about the theology behind the verbiage. Their heads and hearts have been turned from the scriptures, where the answers really lie - turned instead to those who have hidden truth behind their terminology and speech. But that is a topic for another day...



## Upcoming Events

Fall Conference – September 12-14, 2016  
(See schedule on page six)

Pastor & Wife Retreat – February 6-7, 2017  
Best Western Country Cupboard Inn, Lewisburg

Youth Retreat & Talents for Christ – March 31- April 1, 2017  
Calvary Baptist Church, Bloomsburg

Spring Conference – April 24-25, 2017  
Hope Baptist Church, Hanover

Fall Conference – September 11-13, 2017  
Marsh Creek Fellowship Baptist Church, Wellsboro

**SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS**  
[www.parbc.org](http://www.parbc.org)

## Churches Searching for a Pastor

Bible Baptist Church, Brownsville ▼ First Baptist Church, Corry

First Baptist Church, Ebensburg ▼ Sharon Baptist Church, Hermitage

Jersey Mills Baptist Church, Jersey Mills ▼ First Baptist Church, Lock Haven

Mountain Top Baptist Church, Mountain Top ▼ Chestnut Street Baptist Church, Port Allegany

Carmel Baptist Church, Saegertown

Calvary Baptist Church, Union City ▼ Waterford Baptist Church, Waterford

Worthington Baptist Church, Worthington

That kind of faith puts most of us to shame. Think about it. Here is a man that God tells to go out and by faith – that is obeying and trusting God as he begins a journey of which he does not know where he is going. He must trust and depend upon his God to direct his path setting up a tent as he moved from place to place. Many of us don't even start to travel without checking our GPS or maps to find out the best route and how much time is involved to arrive at our destination. Oh, yes, those that have "smart phones" will make sure to check the weather because that could determine whether we go or cancel our trip. Not so with Abraham, he listened to God and by faith went which "...is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" verse 1.

This man of faith didn't have to stop and question or have a sense of understanding before he initiated his obedience in faith. He trusted his great and glorious God to take care of every detail. He believed God was able and you see that exercised in verses 17-19.

Since the Lord called me into His ministry some fifty-one years ago I have tried my best to follow His leading by faith. That has allowed me (by faith) to serve Him as a pastor in SC, MI and PA. By His leading I was allowed to pastor Marsh Creek Fellowship Baptist Church in Wellsboro, PA, for twenty years. By faith Judy and I have had the privilege and blessing of serving His churches in the PARBC for almost twenty years. By faith we are seeking His will and leading of our ministry. We are trusting our Lord to show us very clearly by the decision/vote of the churches at our annual business meeting (09/13/16). Please pray for the blessed fellowship of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches and please pray for Judy and me. Above all we want to Please God!

Why now God? We're comfortable now. We have a nice handicapped home. Why may we go through the hoop? We do it "By Faith". I have to keep telling myself that "By Faith" anything is possible – Hebrews 11:6. Whether we hang on or go through the hoop we will go "By Faith". We are in God's Hands on September 13, 2016. God's will be done.

Thank you for your love through the years. It is so very special. Your support and prayers have touched and blessed our hearts deeply.



*"God is our refuge and strength, a  
very present help in trouble. therefore  
will not we fear, though the earth  
be removed and though the mountains  
be carried unto the midst of the sea.  
Be still and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the heathen  
I will be  
exalted in the earth"  
(Psalm 46:1, 2 & 10).*



# PARBC Fall Conference

September 12 – 14, 2016

Bible Baptist Church, Shickshinny

Hosts: Pastor Donald Thomas & Congregation

Special Speaker: Dr. E. Allen Griffith

Biblical Family Ministries

**Theme: The Word of God**

## Monday, 12<sup>th</sup>

- 10:00am Council of Ten meeting
- 2:00pm Registration and Fellowship
- 3:00pm Keynote message – Pastor Donald Thomas
- 4:00pm Message – Dr. E. Allen Griffith
- 5:00pm Dinner & Fellowship
- 7:00pm Message – Dr. Griffith

## Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup>

- 9:30am Message – Dr. Allen Griffith
- 10:30am Prayer Time – Pastor Todd Baker  
*First Baptist Church of Elimsport, Allenwood*
- 11:00 Break and Fellowship
- 11:15am Message – Dr. Griffith
- 12:15pm Lunch & Fellowship
- 1:30pm Annual Business Meeting – Dr. Charles Dear  
*Crescentville Baptist Church, Philadelphia*
- 3:00pm Workshop # 1 Burial or Cremation? – Pastor Jonathan Hill  
*Union Baptist Church, Kittanning*
- 3:50pm Break and Fellowship
- 4:10pm Women's Workshop # 2 – Mrs. Patricia Griffith  
*Biblical Family Ministries*
- 4:10pm Men's Workshop # 2 – Pastor Jeff Kistler  
*Middletown Road Baptist Church, Pittsburgh*
- 5:00pm Dinner & Fellowship
- 7:00pm Message – Dr. Griffith

## Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup>

- 9:30am Message – Dr. Griffith
- 10:30am Prayer Time – Pastor Richard Sementilli  
*Calvary Baptist Church, New Stanton*
- 11:00am Break and Fellowship
- 11:15am Message – Dr. Griffith

## CRISIS PREGNANCY HOTLINE IN CRISIS!

Dear Pastor or Church Leader,

Back in 1987 Planned Parenthood prepared to open shop in the State College area. The pastor of Faith Baptist Church (a PARBC Church) realized the implications of this for multitudes of women. He rallied the troops and *Pennsylvania Baptist's For Life* came into existence.

Over the years *Pennsylvania Baptist's for Life* (& *Families* added later) has been used of God to present the gospel to many callers, see folks saved, and save some little lives!! For years we have had in place the mechanics of a fully- operational crisis-pregnancy ministry. A ministry which would direct women in crisis to churches within our fellowship (or other like-minded churches) and help in our area.

Over the past 5 years the number of ladies we've had to answer our *Action Line for Life* [800-345-5009] has dwindled. Now, most of the calls are being taken by an answering machine.

We have sent out appeal after appeal trying to get laborers to help. **WE ARE NOW IN A CRISIS OF OUR OWN.** If we do not get someone to direct and oversee the hotline AND ladies to man the hotline, we will be forced to close down. We have set December 2016 as the deadline!

We are reluctant to do this because of all the things that are set in place (an 800 number, training manuals, web site, facebook page, etc). Here is our final appeal. We are looking for someone within the PARBC fellowship of churches that can take on this ministry.

Pastor, if you know of someone within your church that has a burden for the pro-life cause, and the talents to oversee a ministry of this nature, PLEASE approach them and share this need with them. If they are interested, please have them call me directly (my cell is 215-834-4783). Thank you so much!

*Steven Lyon*

Pastor Steven Lyon, Chairman

