

The Exchanger

Volume 05, Issue 5

May, 2005

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE CHURCH
WHITE ROCK

**The Mission of
FBCWR:**
*Connecting People to
God's Life-Changing
Power*

*We've Got
Connections!*

He who guards
his mouth
and
his tongue,
Guards his soul
from troubles.

(Proverbs 21:23)

INSIDE

Say Ahhh—An exam of the tongue	1
What's News at F.B.C.W.R.	2
Calendar	3
Ministry Spotlight	4

Say "Ahhh"

-Isaiah 6:1, 5-8 - *In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple... Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven". Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

It's easy to believe we are fairly advanced in the Christian life when we compare ourselves with other people, or, with where we once were. We may have overcome a bad habit or learned a lot of Bible—but what is the ultimate standard? Isaiah the prophet had been faithfully delivering God's Word when he had a disturbing revelation of how he measured up. The Lord showed him something he only knew in theory. When Isaiah caught a glimpse of God's holiness, His absolute purity and light, he was crushed by his own sinfulness.

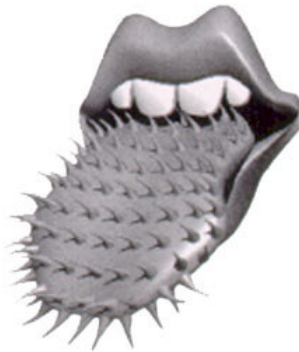
Lip Service

So in what area do you think Isaiah most acutely sensed God's displeasure? It

was his tongue—his lips—his words. "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips". Now he was talking. Now the Lord could really use him, and his tongue.

James said the tongue is untamable. No wonder when Paul gets specific about all men "falling short of God's glory" he goes right after the tongue, the Achilles heel of man's self-righteousness. Romans 3:13-14 says, "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR

TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING, THE POISON OF ASPES IS UNDER THEIR LIPS, WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS". Who among us has not chopped down someone to their face, or behind their back, with careless or even well-planned words?



Say What?

The tongue has power—awesome power - to heal or to wound, to build up or break down, to unite or divide. With God's empowerment we must choose. Proverbs 18:20-21 makes it clear, the stakes are indeed high, "With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; He will be satisfied with the product of his lips. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit."

-Joe Fornear