

Lift Up Your Eyes

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. (John 4:35; Matthew 9:38)

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Baptist Bible Translators Institute

Why Do You Talk Funny?

by Rex Cobb, Director



The Lord has ways of humbling His missionaries. About the time they think they're learning the new language, someone will inadvertently or blatantly let them know they talk funny. Do we really sound bad? What makes us talk with a foreign accent? Can it be avoided? Why do missionary kids speak so much better than their parents? The adults have superior intelligence and education, but language learning has little to do with these. The parents attend classes and slave over books while their children learn the language playing with the native kids. We could learn a lot from our children!

There are three basic aspects to speaking a language: pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. Mom and dad missionary can use their intelligence and education to advance in the grammar and vocabulary. Their children will probably excel more in the pronunciation. Grammar is important. We must know the correct word order, verb tense, gender, number, noun modifier agreement, etc., or we may be misunderstood. Our vocabulary must increase, or we will limit our message and talk like children instead of the educated adults we are. A missionary might say, "I get by in the language." May I say as kindly as possible, dear brother, "As an ambassador of Jesus Christ, you must do better than that!" Correct grammar and an ample vocabulary are important, but in the beginning, pronunciation must take top priority.

Do you know anyone, perhaps your family doctor, who is from a foreign country and speaks English with a strong accent? You would not question his intelligence or education; it probably far exceeds yours, as does his vocabulary. But he talks funny. You have to really think hard to understand some of his words. Will his speech improve with more time in our country? It's not likely. Perhaps he has been here twenty-five years already. Is it possible for a missionary to sound funny speaking a new language? Will he sound funny even if he stays on his field for twenty years? I don't need to tell you the answers. The important question is this: does he *have* to sound funny? Or can he learn to speak without a bad American accent?

(Continued inside)



Did You Know?

378 of the 816

languages of

Papua New Guinea

do not have even one
verse of Scripture

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Contact us for a free CD presentation about our courses.

◀ **See Inside:** Millions of Zhuang in China are perishing without hope.

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Bilingual Blooper

There is always a risk of errors when one attempts to learn a new language. Mistakes are inevitable. That is why the tools we give missionaries to make their journey to bilingualism much quicker and easier are so important. May all our blunders be harmless and hilarious!

A newly arrived missionary in Costa Rica wanted to go to the market and begin learning Spanish. He looked up how to ask the price of things in his Spanish-English dictionary and found the words for “how”

and “much” to be “como” and “mucho.” He walked around the market pointing at things and saying, “Como mucho.” Everyone laughed because he was actually saying, “I eat much.”

Profile of a Graduate



Don and Amy Heinz are pictured with their children, Nathan (18), Elisabeth (16), Maria (14), David (12), Jonathan (10), and Daniel (8). They are currently serving their third term in Chile.

Don Heinz was born in the city of Brotherly Love, and at the age of eighteen, God began to give him a love for his fellow man who is lost without Christ. Don joined a mission-hearted church, Lehigh Valley Baptist Church in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. It was there, during the preaching of a missionary from France, that he first began to lift up his eyes and consider himself a candidate for the mission field. The old saying is, “A call to preach is a call to prepare.” Thus, Don attended Bible college where he met his future wife, Amy.

During his college years, Don spent a summer in Kenya, Africa, where God burdened his heart even more for the mission field. Believing that missions is a special work, Don and Amy looked to the Baptist Bible Translators Institute for specialized training. They graduated in 1993.

Let Brotherly Love Continue

Don, Amy, and their three children left for the field of Chile, South America in February of 1995. Since then God has given them three more little missionary helpers. They worked hard at learning Spanish, and Don preached his first sermon in only four months! The Heinz' have been privileged to work with the Gary Castner family, also from Lehigh Valley Baptist Church, who preceded them to BBTI and Chile.

We are commanded to love our neighbor. Jesus defined “neighbor” as a person who needs our help. Don and Amy have found some lost Chilean neighbors and they use various ways to show them the love of Christ. One very effective way to reach and disciple young people is a summer camp program. Newspaper ads, radio broadcasts, and an Internet website called *Manantiales Celestiales* (*Heavenly Fountains*) have also been used to bring men to Christ.

In Chile, like many other places, people may be hesitant to attend a Bible-preaching church, but willing to study the Bible in the privacy of their home. Thus, the Heinz' often give evangelistic Bible

study courses in homes. Don reaches out in new locations as the Lord gives contacts. Sometimes a work thrives; other times people are not really interested. Don tries to invest his time with those who respond.

While on furlough in 2000, the sixth Heinz child, Daniel, was born. Within a few months it was discovered that little Daniel had a congenital heart defect. We can only imagine the anxiety the family felt, but God in His faithfulness led them to the right doctors. An operation was successfully preformed, and in time the Heinz family returned to Chile.

Their love for Chile may never be announced world-wide, but it is known in Heaven and will be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ. They are faithful in the place where God placed them, standing as roadblocks to those on their way to Hell. They reach the lost and disciple the saved—this is brotherly love.



Potential leaders gather at a recent men's retreat.

Why Do You Talk Funny? *(Continued from cover)*

Yes, he can! First, he can begin at a very young age; two or three years old would be good. But since he has missed that window of opportunity called childhood, he must take a second option. He cannot *be* a child, so he must be *like* a child. A child hears and imitates new sounds. That's why he speaks the new language without an accent. The doctor speaks as he does because he carries his native language speech habits over to English. That is what all adults tend to do.

Suppose I am learning Spanish. I see the word "pesos." I think the "e" sounds like "ay" in *pay*, and the "o" is like that in *so*. Of course, I know how to pronounce the "p" and "s". I say the word and the native speaker understands me, but I have mispronounced at least four sounds in this word! I sound funny. I try again with a little word like "tal." I know the "a" is like "a" in *father* and I already know what a "t" and an "l" sound like; we have them in English. However, I make two errors on the "t," and the "l" is seriously flawed. The problem is that I have no idea I am saying the word wrong. I sound funny to the native speaker, but he doesn't know what I am doing wrong. He probably thinks all gringos talk funny. Maybe I need to learn shorter Spanish words like "y," which means *and*. I know both the "y" and the "i" in Spanish sound like the vowel in *bee*. Trying to say that little one-letter word I make at least two mistakes. First, I begin the word with a consonant! (We always begin English words such as *eye*, *arm*,



Students learn how sounds are made.

open, and *eat* with this consonant called a glottal stop, but we don't even hear it!) Secondly, I pronounce an English vowel and then glide toward the Spanish "i."

The way to avoid forming bad habits in a new language is to begin by learning new habits. That's what our doctor, mentioned above, failed to do. It might be good if we didn't see the words written at first. Remember, children learn—and learn well—with their ears, not their eyes.

Since it is impossible for a missionary to change his age from twenty-eight to eight, the next best thing is to learn the skill of phonetics (the study of human speech sounds) before he begins forming bad pronunciation habits. Then when he hears the word "pesos" he will learn it phonetically. He will listen carefully and notice that the "p" is unaspirated and the vowels are pure and unglided. He will also recognize that the final "s" is really the "s" sound and not the "z" sound that an English speaker would naturally say in this context. His phonetic skill enables him to produce the exact sounds. He also recognizes and imitates the rhythm of the new tongue.

A few missionaries are exceptionally good language learners, and they learn to speak quite well. Imagine what they could do with specialized preparation! Some without linguistic training will speak with an atrocious accent. And most will just sound funny. However, we at BBTI believe the King of Kings deserves ambassadors that don't sound funny!

Bibleless Nations

God says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17). Where does that leave a group of people who do not have the Word of God in their language? How are they going to hear or believe? There are nearly three thousand such language groups in the world today!

God also commands us to pray for laborers for His harvest. Pray that God will send forth Bible translators who will pay the price to give people His precious Word.

Zhuang—Southern China

The Gwangxi province is home to the largest minority group in China—over seventeen million Zhuang. There are two main groups, the Northern and the Southern Zhuang. While the Northerners are being assimilated into the Han Chinese culture and becoming largely atheistic, the Southerners still maintain their traditional practices of ancestor and spirit worship and their agricultural lifestyle.



Although the Zhuang are friendly to outsiders, their diversity of language and culture, the mountainous terrain, and the remoteness of many villages pose a seemingly insurmountable obstacle in communicating the Gospel. Little has changed since a 1922 report stating that there are fifty-eight cities, seven hundred market towns, and over seventeen thousand villages in Gwangxi alone where no effort is being put forth to preach Christ. Of the fifty-plus dialects of Zhuang, none have the Scriptures.

Praise Report: Several BBTI graduates left for the field in the last month: Niels Gade family and also Cherith Stevens to Papua New Guinea, Jeff Klein family to Argentina, and Lydia Pitman to Vanuatu.

For information on over 40 other Bibleless nations, visit our website: www.BaptistTranslators.com/babel.

Saved from the Other Side of the Tracks

A story from Chile

by Missionary Don Heinz

Roberto Soto Hernandez was born in 1985 and was raised on the “other side of the tracks.” When his mother deserted them, his father married a woman thirty years his junior to help raise his eight children.

Roberto stayed out of trouble and did well in his studies. He won a partial athletic scholarship to Frontier University where he studied structural engineering. He had a passion for music and took his stereo everywhere, listening to rock and heavy metal.

Baptized Catholic, Roberto took his first communion, but he never really knew or accepted all the doctrines of his church. He thought that what the university taught him about evolution and the survival of the fittest made much more sense.

One day Roberto met Felipe Sandoval, who was very different because he talked about the Bible. He and Roberto entered into deep discussions about the origin of the universe and the need of men to be saved. Roberto accepted an invitation to church and met many others who also witnessed to him. He heard how God created the heaven and the earth and also a very well-reasoned explanation for why the world is the way it is. He saw reason in the fact that men must be forgiven for their sins and hope in Jesus as the way to be forgiven. Returning home after a talk with Felipe, Roberto became burdened with his many sinful thoughts and ideas. Understanding that Jesus wanted to forgive him, he bowed before the Lord and accepted Him as his Savior. Felipe and all the brethren were ecstatic!

Roberto was soon in church and hasn't missed much since. Though he can still be seen in many places with his mp3 player, his taste in music has changed; now he loves godly Christian music. Roberto has become a defender of the truth of creation and salvation through Jesus Christ. He is *on track* for God!



Oswald Chambers
(1874-1917)

An itinerant Bible teacher who was converted under the ministry of Charles Spurgeon.

Answering the Call

by Kellie Davis

“I shall never go into the ministry until God takes me by the scruff of the neck and throws me in.” Most Christians would be surprised to know that these words were spoken by Oswald Chambers, author of the devotional book “My Utmost for His Highest.”

When he wrote these words, Oswald Chambers was in art school, preparing to turn the world of art upside down by being a witness for Christ to an exclusive group of people. He was a gifted artist and probably would have done well, but God closed door after door in his face and called him in another direction.

Chambers wrote to a friend, “*the repeated and pointed shutting of doors that seemed just opening . . . leads me to consider most earnestly before God what is His will.*” Shortly after this he wrote, “*my whole being is ablaze and passionately on fire to preach Christ. All my art aims are swallowed up in this now. . . . in the midst of a keen consciousness of complete unworthiness, my soul cries out within me—Here am I, send me.*”

Once Chambers surrendered to the call of God, God began to use him mightily. After ministering as a traveling preacher and as the principal of a Bible training college, Chambers entered his last and greatest field of service—reaching British and Australian soldiers from a Y.M.C.A. tent in Cairo during W.W.I. Although seasoned workers predicted that the soldiers would never attend religious meetings, the tent was packed with hundreds of men every week. Many of the entries in his devotional book come from the talks given in that meeting tent. The Chambers also kept a continually opened house where they were able to reach thousands of soldiers. Chambers died at just forty-three, but hundreds of thousands have been inspired to earnestly seek God because of his little book, “My Utmost for His Highest”.

When God clearly directs, the choice is simple: to obey, or disobey. Are we seeking God's will, or stubbornly searching for an open door in an area where they all close in our faces?

Quotations from Oswald Chambers: Abandoned to God by David McCasland



Roberto Soto Hernandez