

## PASTOR'S PATCH

### Hearing versus Seeing



This week we will be reflecting on Scripture regarding the first sermon of the apostle Peter following Christ's resurrection. It came about because visitors to Jerusalem could hear the followers of Jesus "declaring the wonders of God in their {own} language" (Acts 2:11).

This got me thinking about languages and the need to be able to communicate effectively if the message is to get across. Sometimes things get lost in translation, or at best are not fully understood.

In my small library of Spanish language books, I have a book of cartoons. Forges is one of Spain's most famous cartoonists. Many of you won't understand the joke above. It's not in a language you might understand. You would understand it if someone explained it to you. So here goes ...

The joke is that the optician is deaf. When the patient rightly says "B", the optician says, "No, sir", whereupon the patient says "Good heavens, I'm blind!".

There is therefore another aspect to communication. Not only do we need to communicate effectively, but we need to ensure we are right in ourselves to be able to listen. D.L.Moody said, "Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian".

There is therefore another aspect to communication. Not only do we need to communicate effectively, but we need to ensure we are right in ourselves to be able to listen. D.L.Moody said, "Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian".

*"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing". (1 Cor. 13:1-3)*

Many an aspect of love has to do with listening, not pronouncing with great pride our spiritual gifting. It is our overall life-style, compassion, kindness, and generosity of spirit that will enable others to see and seek Jesus. As we seek to "Go and make disciples", let's do so in the wisdom of these verses.

**Colin Opie**