

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

THIS TRULY IS FOREIGN EVANGELISM

Beloved, I fully intended to publish a different article, but I must share something with you. What is it, you ask? It is one of the most disgusting “evangelism” reports I have ever read. The fellow who wrote the report is named Josh Beall. His is a “mission” work supported by a liberal church in Arkansas. The report (entitled “The Young and The Young at Heart”) is so far out there I’d laugh if it did not make me want to cry and if it did not fill me with righteous indignation (**Plp. 3:18; Ps. 119:104; Rom. 12:9**). I’m sure you’ll agree that Josh’s brand of evangelizing Olomouc, in the Czech Republic, is truly foreign to the Word of God. Please read his words:

Why is my body feeling every ounce of pain that I’ve put it through in the past few weeks?

Perhaps it’s because I’m getting old. No, that can’t be it... I just like to think that it’s because of all the “youthful activity” I participated in recently. The summer has provided many opportunities for being outside and enjoying warmer temperatures and more-active lifestyles. I’d like to mention a few. Our team has played frisbee about 11 times during the past six weeks in the park across the street from our apartment, and we’ve invited children from local schools and any who walk by to join us. Several times we had a group of around 12 students and we played Ultimate frisbee; at other times fewer students and we spent more time playing and talking in a small group. It has given us better insight into the lives of several of our new, young friends, as well as provided a safe, fun environment in which for them to spend their long, free summer days. For me, there have been a few moments in which getting off the ground seemed harder than it did a few years ago, and the bruises don’t seem to heal as fast... A few days ago we had the privilege to visit a Christian, summer English camp for a few hours in an area north of town. It was a moment to witness ministry among and for Czech youth. We got some great ideas toward our intentions of one day hosting a similar camp for those we know in Olomouc. During the two-hour volleyball match in the afternoon, the two of us who played also got some great sun and carpet burns, blisters and a wrenched neck to go along with our great fun and fellowship... The day following volleyball and the evening following frisbee, I joined my friends at the after-school center where I volunteer for an eight-hour fun extravaganza. It was an all-nighter, but I left at 2:00am to ride my bike back home and fall into bed... Today we visited the local pool for the first time. The water felt quite refreshing and we had a blast. I even ran into one of the students from the after-school center and got to meet some of his friends. We took a few running jumps together into the pool, and I’m glad I didn’t trip or slip on the wet platform and bust my head. Thankfully there were no injuries to report, except perhaps that to our embarrassed egos when we saw we were the only ones within sight wearing either long swimming trunks or one-piece bathing suits. We’ve yet to make it to the local swim store and update our fashion... So, perhaps we’re not feeling so “young,” but I like to think that we have the young “at-heart.” JB.

Does anyone else besides me feel sick to his/her stomach? Does anyone else besides me feel like saying “Shame on you!” How sad that this “preacher” spends so much time engaging in fun, frolic and trying to “fit in” with the community. Has he never read that God is a non-conformist (**Rom. 12:1-2**)? Has he not ever read that a preacher is to be a soldier, not a soda jerk at an eight hour fun extravaganza (**2 Tim. 2:3-4**)? Has he never read that the gospel, not Ultimate Frisbee, converts people to the Lord (**1 Cor. 1:21; Rom. 1:16**)? Does this guy really think he has the “young at heart” seeing that he can’t wait to get them to a local swim store to buy short shorts and bikinis (**Gen. 3:7-10, 21**)? This fellow dares to call himself a gospel preacher? You have got to be kidding me. He sounds more like a carnival director than an evangelist. I hope one day he will discard the “bait and switch” tactics and stop trying to “woo” people into obedience, and instead simply sow the precious seed of the gospel (**Lk. 8:11**). I wish he would start being a worker for the Lord and stop being a worker of iniquity (**Matt. 7:21-23**).

Folks, when a local congregation supports a preacher such is fellowship (**Plp. 4:15-16**). No congregation that respects Bible authority would support such a socially minded fellow. Hey, many liberal churches I know of would not support him. Yet the Mount Comfort church of Christ does. What does that tell you about that group?

How sad it is the depths to which some have sunk.