

## Day 6: Thursday, June 26

*“My tongue will proclaim your righteousness, your praises all day long.” (Psalm 35:28 NIV)*

Like many of you, I grew up in the country. While most of us had telephones in the house, some of us still had “party lines.” If you don’t know, a party line is a shared phone line where multiple subscribers are connected to the same circuit. So, as children, we would often sneak to Grandma Baumgarner’s telephone seat and listen to the conversations of others. Grandma would give us a tongue lashing when she caught us eavesdropping.

Although being nosy is a problem many of us share, it is not a characteristic for which we are often proud. In his letter, James has very harsh words regarding our tongues when he reminds us, “The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”

The question is whether or not we have tamed our curiosity and our tongue. One of the pieces we sing this week paints another picture of how the tongue can be used for good. “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing,” was written by Charles Wesley for worship on Sunday, May 21, 1739—the first anniversary of his conversion. In this hymn, Wesley, uses hyperbole right from the start with “O for a thousand tongues to sing,” to heighten the emotional impact of the poem.

How are you using your tongue this week – to encourage someone else, to sing God’s praise, to tell others about your relationship with Christ? There is not greater role for our voice than to express our praise of the God who loves us so deeply. Share the Good News on your party line! Let others hear it too!

Food for Thought – “Heaven finds an ear when sinners find a tongue.”