“Before people benefit from the Good News, they’re likely to be bothered by the bad news. If our goal is to avoid conflict, we need a different message. If, on the other hand, our goal is to be truthful (something more difficult than open-minded) and loving (something far better than tolerant), then we have the perfect message and the ideal model of how to proclaim it.”

- Randy Newman

Editorial: Content Still King

I wish the internet had been available when I was a kid. Apart from limited television and radio offerings, access to the outside world only came once a week when I pedaled my way across town to the library. In the summer, I’d often read through a significant portion of the night because darkness only lasted a couple of hours in northern latitudes. I strongly suspect that my early reading habits have contributed to poor sleeping patterns. I can only imagine little sleep I might have accumulated if podcasts had been available.

Today, my nights are still short, because they’re filled with streaming audio. Often, I listen to podcasts created by people with a passion for evangelism. Recently, I listened to a short podcast (less than ten minutes) dealing with why first time visitors to a church may not return. The usual suggestions quickly surfaced: the congregation wasn’t friendly, the seating was poor, the service was confusing, felt needs were not met. All of these things, naturally, can lead to a lousy first experience and significantly dampen the likelihood of a repeat visit. Churches that pay attention to such details naturally improve the odds that they will building lasting relationships with members of the community.

There was something missing from the list of suggestions, however, and as I review a lot of
Best Practices For Adventist Evangelism

the current material dealing with guest retention, I find it surprising how often this item is missing from the suggestions: content. What about what's said from the pulpit? Does it play a role in winning guests back for a second visit?

Think about it. You'll put up with a static-filled radio broadcast and a snowy TV picture (think back to pre-digital TV) if you think the content is important. You'll listen to someone with a poor speaking voice and a lack of stage presence if you sense that what's being said is vital. J. Vernon McGee had one of the worst radio voices in broadcasting history—yet he pulled massive audience numbers by simply teaching his way through the Bible.

Sinners in need of a Savior will put up with a less-than-perfect curb appeal if the content from the pulpit is biblical, Christ-centered and life-changing. I'm not suggesting that you can do away with the niceties and the personal touches; you dare not. But if you are not offering the Bread of Life from the pulpit, you will also, in the long term, struggle to keep guests coming back.

What you do doesn't have to be elaborate. You don't have to stun the congregation with your oratorical prowess. But you do have to offer sinners what they need most. "One sentence of Scripture is of more value than ten thousand of man's ideas or arguments," Ellen White reminds us (7 T 71).

My ministering brethren, as you stand before the people, speak of those things that are essential, those things that will instruct. Teach the great practical truths that must be brought into the life. Teach the saving power of Jesus, "in whom we have redemption,... even the forgiveness of sins." Strive to make your hearers comprehend the power of truth. (GW 147)

It's amazing how tolerant an audience will be of oratorical style (or lack thereof) if you are humbly and honestly sharing from the Word. A man sitting next to me on a plane recently expressed it well: "I'd rather hear a plumber talk honestly about what Christ has done for him and back it up with a simple, humble Bible study than hear another vacant thesis from the pulpit."

Let's face it: there will always be somebody with better music. There will always be somebody with a nicer building and a wider variety of programs. But given the rich understanding of scripture bestowed on Seventh-day Adventists, there should be nobody else in your town who presents Christ more clearly from the pulpit.

Is America Post-Christian?

Don't be too quick to declare American Christianity dead.

A Rasmussen poll taken last Easter (2012) suggests that the vast majority—86%, in fact—of American adults polled believe that Jesus was a real historical figure. More importantly, 77% said that they believe that Jesus rose from the dead. A recent Pew Forum survey suggested that 36% attend church weekly, and only 16% of the American public say that religion is not an important part of their lives. By comparison, only 17% of the American public regularly attended church at the end of the 18th century, when the nation was founded.

Add to that the unstoppable popularity of History Channel's The Bible, which is shattering records, and you have at least anecdotal indications that the general public in North America is far from done with Christianity and Christian themes. Apparently, God's Book is popular: Entertainment Weekly reports that the series sold a "stunning" 525,000 units in its first week of release on home video. It beat out such popular offerings as HBO's Game of Thrones, Band of Brothers and NBC's The Office. The series closed over Easter Weekend with nearly 12 million viewers.

Another statistic, this time from The Week: 34% of American adults favor making Christianity their state's official religion; 32% favor making it the national religion. One third of the
public still favoring an official blend of church and state is not only an indication that Christianity is far from dead; it should also be interesting to students of Revelation 13.

To the probable chagrine of atheist prosleytizers like Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris, et al, atheism appears to be unpopular with the U.S. Postal service. Atheist Shoes is a German shoe company that makes footwear “for people who don’t believe in god(s),” Their products are shipped to America sealed with branded tape: the word atheist is splashed across the package. The company claims that their packages take longer to deliver and are ten times more likely to disappear than when the word isn’t displayed. Naturally, if their packages really are being targeted, that’s utterly wrong and someone needs to answer for it—but the fact that European mail doesn’t seem to disappear on the company is telling. Is misguided religion the cause?

From the other side of the pond: Speaking of Dawkins, a recent Spectator article indicates that his brand of polemics is falling out of fashion with the next generation of atheists: some are beginning to feel uncomfortable as they listen to his cut-and-dried attacks on religion. His caricatures of religion as the source of humanity’s greatest ills are starting to bother some of his followers, who are beginning to admit that religion has done a lot of good.

Seven Common Public Speaking Mistakes

If you haven’t been tracking Thom Rainer’s blog, you might want to start: it’s rich with practical suggestions that are easily adapted transported into a Seventh-day Adventist context.

A recent feature article written by Chuck Lawless (Professor of Evangelism at Southeastern Seminary), for example, underscored seven key mistakes that public speakers often make. "I understand that humility may be the driving force behind [statements that emphasize the speakers’ weakness]," Lawless writes. "Nevertheless, don’t be surprised if the audience is uninterested after you’ve told them you’re unexciting, unprepared, and/or unqualified. Let your hearers make that assessment without your help. They might find you engaging and enlightening."

Click here to read all seven suggestions.

NY13: Compassion March

Compassion resonated throughout New York city on the weekend of March 22-24, not just in words, but also in actions. Jose Cortes, Jr., director for Youth Ministeries at the Atlantic Union points out that since March 22, "thousands of youth and young adults ... have been volunteering their time and provided 20 to 30,000 of voluntary service and love.”

The weekend involved young people volunteering their time showing compassion across New York City's boroughs and suburbs. The highlight of the weekend was the Compassion Rally, which involved a march against violence across the Brooklyn Bridge.

You can read more about this inspiring event at the Greater New York Conference's website.

There are YouTube videos documenting the Compassion rally here and here.

NY13: Revelation of Hope Website Now Live

The Revelation of Hope website is now live. Church members can use this...
new website to invite friends and family to one of the more than 400 meetings taking place in metro NY in 2013.

Please take some time to browse the site and share with those you know in the greater New York City area. More evangelistic meeting sites are constantly being added daily. Search by your zip code to find a meeting, health seminar, youth, or Impacto 2013 event near you.

NETS Express

The Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) opened April 14 at the Jackson Heights Church in Woodside, New York. It was the kick-off for a three-weekend, 15-hour NETS Express training experience-a key part of the NY13 comprehensive strategy.

NETS is an evangelistic training school that prepares soul-winners who are cross-trained in Bible work, health evangelism and public evangelism. Graduates are prepared for an entry level career in lay ministry or to more effectively serve God in their own churches, communities or schools. You can read more about the program at their website.

George Beverly Shea Dies

Legendary gospel singer George Beverly Shea, whose career spanned much of the 20th century and who long served the Rev. Billy Graham, died Tuesday, April 16 at the age of 104 in Asheville, North Carolina after a short illness. His signature voice, for decades, inspired Billy Graham evangelistic audiences around the world.

Shea will be interred today at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association released this official obituary last week.

USA Today remembers his long-time career in this article. Time Magazine remembers him here, and the New York Times here.

Refugee Relief: A Powerful Update

Imagine that you have no family, no home-no country! What would you do? Thousands of people find themselves in such a place-in the United States. They get off a plane or a boat with nothing. A few months ago, we shared how the Paradise Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church (National City, CA) is reaching out to the refugee community and seeing amazing results, not only in the lives of those they help, but also in the growth of the church. Under the direction of Pastor Will James, the program continues to flourish.

Have a look at a recent video report from the program: you'll be powerfully inspired. In the words of Pastor James, “This is what makes ministry fun!”

Are You a Spurgeon Fan?

Did you know that a woman gave her heart to Jesus after reading a single page of Spurgeon sermon wrapped around a brick of butter she'd purchased? The prince of preachers is an evangelistic legend for a reason: he preached an average of ten sermons per week, bringing countless thousands to believe in Christ. Some estimate that his lifetime audience exceeding ten million people.

Untold numbers of pastors with a passion for public evangelism seem to become fans of Charles Haddon Spurgeon along the way -including our own prince of preachers, H.M.S. Richards, Sr. Thanks to Stephen McCaskill, who...
Best Practices For Adventist Evangelism

Sung Kwon operates the website www.chspurgeonquotes.com, here are 32 things you didn't know about Spurgeon.

Coptic Evangelism

Evangelism among Muslims is a hot topic: how will we approach more than 1.6 billion adherents with the gospel of Jesus Christ? An understanding of Islam and its relationship to Christianity in Middle Eastern countries is a useful tool to put in your kit; to that end, you may find this article recently published in Christianity Today quite useful. Authors Jayson Casper and Khalid Fahmi describe the challenges faced by Coptic Christians trying to live their faith against tremendous odds in Egypt.

While you're in that frame of mind, have a look through this story, which hits a little closer to home because it involves Seventh-day Adventist families living in Pakistan. Christian homes in Lahore were recently destroyed by an angry mob because their occupants had allegedly blasphemed Mohammed. The Adventist church was also attacked, but firefighters managed to save the building.

How Not to Tweet

Last month, we presented tips on blog writing. As a follow-up, we present tips from Alex Aspinall (head of digital content at B2B Marketing) on how to improve the impression you're making with Twitter. Pastors, evangelists and church members spend a lot of time wondering how they might be able to tap into the connectedness of Twitter (and other social networks) to share the gospel of Christ and introduce people to their churches—and this article may help you get started by reminding you what not to do.

One of the best suggestions he offers is good advice no matter what platform you're using to share our message: Don't forget to be human. Jesus, after all, became fully human ... and we'd probably fare best if we appear human with our audiences.

Register now for a FREE Webinar: Sharing the Good News in the 21st Century

This month's webinar presentation will take place Tuesday, May 21 at 1:30pm EST. Sung Kwon, Director of NAD Adventist Community Services and Co-founder of the Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program, will present Sharing the Good News in the 21st Century.

Because community outreach is the essence of our mission, Dr. Kwon will address why we have dualistic piety in our approach to community and church. He will focus on the essentials of community connectedness and share examples of church growth addressing these essentials. He also will share a better understanding of serving God and His people in Isaiah 58.

Join us as we discuss the real essence of reaching communities around our churches.

Find more information and register at our website.
Follow NAD Ministerial on Twitter

If you haven't started following NAD Ministerial on Twitter, you haven't lived! OK, perhaps it's not as earth-shattering as that, but we would love to keep in touch and let you know what we're up to. And it's easy. Just click the link to follow.

@NADpastors

C'mon - you know you want to help!

Remember what it was like when you got started with public evangelism? How challenging it seemed? Then remember how, later on, you discovered that someone had already discovered solutions to some of the problems that plagued you most - years ago?

Someone out there is just getting started. You have already faced a number of challenges, and God has blessed you with ideas to make life easier. Don't let them discover - years from now - that you've already solved some of their biggest problems. Let them discover it now!

Find out how to contribute to the discussion here.

Please write as if you are writing for an audience. We're happy to do some light editing, but if you address it personally to the editors or submit it in the form of bullet points, it's not nearly as useful.

Tools of the Trade: iTunes U

History classes are very useful if you're involved in public evangelism. Christianity, is, after all, an historical religion. Consider opening a file somewhere and start keeping track of amazing stories from the world's past that bring the prophetic passages of Daniel and Revelation to life.

Consider taking a course on Alexander the Great to broaden your understanding of who he was. Spend some time in ancient Roman society. Understand what it meant to be a Persian in the ancient past, and broaden your understanding of life in the Middle Ages. There are so many stories available to the evangelist that there is no excuse not be forever fresh in the pulpit.

Many of the leading universities are now making some their materials available-absolutely free-to the general public, and a good place to start is with Apple's iTunes U. If you happen to own an iPad, you'll find the experience particularly rewarding, because that platform keeps your educational media organized in an app separate from your music. But if you have no iPad, no worries: you can still access iTunes U through the iTunes store, which is available on both Mac and PC platforms.
Seven Mistakes in Public Speaking

by Chuck Lawless

As a teacher, consultant, and preacher, I talk to groups for a living. In fact, I’ve been a student of public speaking for more than 30 years. I’ve learned by studying in the classroom and by simply listening to others. Too often, I’ve learned the hard way by making my own mistakes.

On a positive note, I have seen that it’s possible to exercise leadership from the public platform. A well-timed, well-delivered address can rally the troops, strengthen the team, and compel them toward excellence. On the other hand, I’ve seen (and exhibited at times, I’m sure) some mistakes in public speaking. Here are a few of those.

1. Not knowing the audience – Speaking to teens is not the same as speaking to senior adults. Communicating with a gathering of relationship-oriented non-Westerners is different than speaking to a group of Western businessmen. Most speakers have some sense of the importance of audience analysis, but understanding analysis and acting on it are two different matters. I’m amazed by the number of speakers I invite to different venues who never ask about the intended audience.

2. Inviting indifference – Maybe you’ve heard speakers do it:

   - “I’m sure this is not exciting, but it’s important.”
   - “I really haven’t had much time to prepare, so please bear with me.”
   - “This really isn’t my area of expertise. I’m sure there are others who are more qualified.”

I understand that humility may be the driving force behind these kinds of statements. Nevertheless, don’t be surprised if the audience is uninterested after you’ve told them you’re unexciting, unprepared, and/or unqualified. Let your hearers make that assessment without your help. They might find you engaging and enlightening.

3. Boring the audience – Here’s the difficult part with this mistake: only once have I ever met a boring speaker who knew he was boring (and he was forced to admit that after he fell asleep during one of his own lectures!). It would not hurt us to have friends who evaluate our speaking and critique us honestly. Good training and increased passion can help overcome a boring style, but not if we fail to recognize the problem in the first place.

4. Using irrelevant stories and illustrations – Much of the world learns best by stories and illustrations, so using stories is a significant communication strategy. Watch an audience when you begin to tell a story or use an illustration; often, they will lean forward, almost as if they are closing the space to hear better. The speaking strategy thus opens the door to effective communication. If, though, the story itself lacks relevance – like using automobile illustrations when speaking to urban poor who never owned a car – the technique loses its force. Again, knowing the audience matters.

5. Assuming audience application – Public speeches have different purposes. Some inform, and others convince. Some simply address a special occasion. Many public speeches, though, are intended to lead the hearer to do something. Support a candidate. Give to a cause. Adopt a belief. Accept a decision. Join the team. Celebrate a victory. Change a lifestyle. The problem is that speakers often fail to state clearly what they want the audience to do. Instead, they assume the hearers will listen intently, naturally connect the dots, and then respond appropriately. A lack of specific instruction from the speaker then results in a lack of intentional application among the hearers.
6. **Ignoring time parameters** – Seldom are speakers given open-ended time slots for speaking. Most often, we have an established time period that fits neatly into the organization's overall plans and goals. To ignore those parameters is not only disruptive to the schedule; it is inconsiderate at best, arrogant at worst. Finishing within the allotted time shows respect, and it might even strengthen our speaking by demanding brevity.

7. **Neglecting continued improvement** – I suspect the more we speak, the less we see a need to improve. Perhaps we subconsciously convince ourselves that practice really does make perfect. There is little question that speaking regularly can make us more comfortable with the task, but actual improvement is not always the result. Growing as a public speaker requires an intentional strategy for improvement.

I realize I've included only a few mistakes on this list. What other mistakes have you seen in public speaking? On the flip side, what have you seen that characterizes strong public speaking? Help me to learn from your experiences.

*Chuck Lawless currently serves as Professor of Evangelism and Missions and Dean of Graduate Studies at Southeastern Seminary. You can connect with Dr. Lawless on both Twitter and Facebook.*
May 1, 2013

George Beverly Shea dies; sang with Billy Graham

http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/people/2013/04/16/george-beverly-shea-dies-billy-graham/2089545/  

George Beverly Shea, whose booming baritone voice echoed through stadiums and squares during a decades-long career with evangelist Billy Graham, died April 16, 2013, in Asheville, N.C. He was 104.

The booming baritone that accompanied Billy Graham's crusades has fallen silent.

George Beverly Shea, who performed for many years on Billy Graham's crusades, died Tuesday. He was 104. (Photo: Chuck Burton, AP)

Story Highlights

- George Beverly Shea sang to millions of Christians with evangelist Billy Graham
- Shea was well-known as a gospel soloist before he and Graham met in the early 1940s
- He performed live before an estimated 200 million at crusades and recorded more than 70 albums

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Legendary Gospel music singer George Beverly Shea, whose career spanned much of the 20th century and who long served the Rev. Billy Graham, died Tuesday at 104 here after a short illness.

The Canadian-born Shea was a Grammy-winning singer, whose deep rich voice led him to be known as "America's beloved gospel singer." He recorded 70 albums, toured the world, and earned 10 Grammy nominations. He won a Grammy in 1965, and the Grammy organization gave him a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.

Shea was also a member of the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame, inducted in 1978, was inducted into the Religious Broadcasting Hall of Fame in February 1996 and was a member of the inaugural class of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists' Hall of Faith in 2008.

But Shea was best known for his partnership and friendship with Graham, which dated to 1943 while the singer was appearing on a Chicago radio program. In 1947, Graham asked Shea to join his ministry.

"We had the privilege of ministering together across the country and around the world," Graham said in a
statement released Wednesday. "Bev was one of the most humble, gracious men I have ever known and one of my closest friends. I loved him as a brother. My prayer for his wife, Karlene, and his children, Ron and Elaine, is that God will strengthen them during this time."

In a 2011 Citizen-Times interview, Shea recalled that fateful day.

"I said 'Billy, the only gospel singers I have known will sing a verse or two and then start talking. Would I have to do that?' And he said 'I hope not.'"

Shea accompanied Graham on countless crusades and frequently appeared on radio and television. Well past age 100, he continued to perform concerts. He held the Guinness Book of World Records mark for singing in front of the most people ever, a combined audience of 220 million, most of it with Graham.

"I've been listening to Bev Shea sing for more than 70 years, and I would still rather hear him sing than anyone else I know," Graham said Wednesday.


(Photo: Steve Dixon, Asheville, N.C., Citizen-Times)

Besides his distinctive voice, Shea was known for his trademark rendition of How Great Thou Art and his inspirational The Wonder of It All.

But Shea never considered himself a star.

"They didn't come to hear me," he said in 2011. "They were a captive audience. They had to listen to me before Billy spoke."

Shea lived in quiet home in Montreat, N.C., not far from Graham. The house was filled with music and memorabilia. A gold record hung on a wall, and his Grammy was perched on a small table.

He continued to talk by telephone with Graham on a regular basis.

"He is such a gentleman," Shea said two years ago. "He could have gotten a great singer with him, but he stuck with me. He never disappointed me."

She was born Feb. 1, 1909, in the small town of Winchester, Ontario. His father, Adam J. Shea, was a Wesleyan Methodist minister. Shea's first public singing was in the choir of his father's church. He credited his mother, Maude, for encouraging him to sing as a boy.

Shea never planned on a career in music, and in his 20s he headed to New York where he worked at the Mutual of New York insurance offices. It was there he landed his big musical break, singing on "the amateur portion" of comic Fred Allen's weekly NBC radio show.

"It was in (NBC) studio 8H," he said, the same space used today for NBC-TV's Saturday Night Live.

"He could have gotten a great singer with him, but he stuck with me."

— George Beverly Shea on his partnership with Billy Graham

"Radio was big," Shea said. "I did my song, and I got a pretty good low note. I got second prize. First prize went to a yodeler. He was so nervous in the green room, he was smoking two cigarettes at a time."
That led to more singing opportunities. At age 23 he composed the music to one of his best known solos, *I'd Rather Have Jesus*. Eventually, he found radio with broadcast preachers.

He moved on to Chicago, announcing and singing on WMBI-AM, operated by the Moody Bible Institute.

After joining with Graham, the men quickly went to work. He accompanied Graham in 1947 and his first crusade at the old armory in Charlotte, N.C.

As Graham traveled the country and globe, so did Shea, who became a familiar presence alongside the minister on stage, radio and television.

Traveling with Graham was a remarkable life, he said. "I've been to Japan about three times, Australia four or five times. It was marvelous. I could bring my wife and two children."

Shea's marriage to his sweetheart, Erma, continued for 42 years until her death in 1976. Survivors include his children from that marriage, Ronald and Elaine. In 1985, he married again to Karlene Aceto and they remained a devoted couple.

*Contributing: The Associated Press*
32 Things You Might Not Know About Charles Spurgeon

January 31, 2013 it will have been 121 years since the great preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon passed away. In memory of him I bring to you 32 things you might not know about Charles Spurgeon.

1. One woman was converted through reading a single page of one of Spurgeon's sermons wrapped around some butter she had bought.

2. Spurgeon read The Pilgrim's Progress at age 6 and went on to read it over 100 times.

3. The New Park Street Pulpit and The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit—the collected sermons of Spurgeon during his ministry with that congregation—fill 63 volumes. The sermons' 20–25 million words are equivalent to the 27 volumes of the ninth edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica. The series stands as the largest set of books by a single author in the history of Christianity.

4. Spurgeon's mother had 17 children, nine of whom died in infancy.

5. When Charles Spurgeon was only 10 years old, a visiting missionary, Richard Knill, said that the young Spurgeon would one day preach the gospel to thousands and would preach in Rowland Hill's chapel, the largest Dissenting church in London. His words were fulfilled.

6. Spurgeon missed being admitted to college because a servant girl inadvertently showed him into a different room than that of the principal who was waiting to interview him. (Later, he determined not to reapply for admission when he believed God spoke to him, "Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not!")

7. Spurgeon's personal library contained 12,000 volumes—1,000 printed before 1700. (The library, 5,103 volumes at the time of its auction, is now housed at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.)

8. Before he was 20, Spurgeon had preached over 600 times.

9. Spurgeon drew to his services Prime Minister W. E. Gladstone, members of the royal family, Members of Parliament, as well as author John Ruskin, Florence Nightingale, and General James Garfield, later president of the United States.

10. The New Park Street Church invited Spurgeon to come for a 6-month trial period, but Spurgeon asked to come for only 3 months because "the congregation might not want me, and I do not wish to be a hindrance."

11. When Spurgeon arrived at The New Park Street Church, in 1854, the congregation had 232 members. By the end of his pastorate, 38 years later, that number had increased to 5,311. (Altogether, 14,460 people were added to the church during Spurgeon's tenure.) The church was the largest independent congregation in the world.

12. Spurgeon typically read 6 books per week and could remember what he had read—and where—even years later.

13. Spurgeon once addressed an audience of 23,654—without a microphone or any mechanical amplification.

14. Spurgeon began a pastors' college that trained nearly 900 students during his lifetime—and it continues today.

15. In 1865, Spurgeon's sermons sold 25,000 copies every week. They were translated into more than 20
languages.

16. At least 3 of Spurgeon's works (including the multi-volume Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit series) have sold more than 1,000,000 copies. One of these, All of Grace, was the first book ever published by Moody Press (formerly the Bible Institute Colportage Association) and is still its all-time bestseller.

17. During his lifetime, Spurgeon is estimated to have preached to 10,000,000 people.

18. Spurgeon once said he counted 8 sets of thoughts that passed through his mind at the same time while he was preaching.

19. Testing the acoustics in the vast Agricultural Hall, Spurgeon shouted, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." A worker high in the rafters of the building heard this and became converted to Christ as a result.

20. Susannah Thompson, Spurgeon's wife, became an invalid at age 33 and could seldom attend her husband's services after that.

21. Spurgeon spent 20 years studying the Book of Psalms and writing his commentary on them, The Treasury of David.

22. Spurgeon insisted that his congregation's new building, The Metropolitan Tabernacle, employ Greek architecture because the New Testament was written in Greek. This one decision has greatly influenced subsequent church architecture throughout the world.

23. The theme for Spurgeon's Sunday morning sermon was usually not chosen until Saturday night.

24. For an average sermon, Spurgeon took no more than one page of notes into the pulpit, yet he spoke at a rate of 140 words per minute for 40 minutes.

25. The only time that Spurgeon wore clerical garb was when he visited Geneva and preached in Calvin's pulpit.

26. By accepting some of his many invitations to speak, Spurgeon often preached 10 times in a week.

27. Spurgeon met often with Hudson Taylor, the well-known missionary to China, and with George Muller, the orphanage founder.

28. Spurgeon had two children—twin sons—and both became preachers. Thomas succeeded his father as pastor of the Tabernacle, and Charles, Jr., took charge of the orphanage his father had founded.

29. Spurgeon's wife, Susannah, called him Tirshatha (a title used of the Judean governor under the Persian empire), meaning "Your Excellency."

30. Spurgeon often worked 18 hours a day. Famous explorer and missionary David Livingstone once asked him, "How do you manage to do two men's work in a single day?" Spurgeon replied, "You have forgotten that there are two of us."

31. Spurgeon spoke out so strongly against slavery that American publishers of his sermons began deleting his remarks on the subject.

32. Occasionally Spurgeon asked members of his congregation not to attend the next Sunday's service, so that
newcomers might find a seat. During one 1879 service, the regular congregation left so that newcomers waiting outside might get in; the building immediately filled again.