

Speak in Tongues

On this day descended the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire.
Blazed with zeal the disciples spoke in tongues.
People 'from every nation under heaven' at that time
heard the disciples in their own languages.

The disciples knew only Aramaic.
The crowd heard them in Chaldeo-Pahlavi, Medic,
Elamite, Sumerian, Hebrew, Phrygian, Greek,
Egyptian, Arabic, Kyrene, Latin etc.

Everyone understood One unknown language.
Now One Church speaks every known language.
With millions of eyes, ears, hands, legs and hearts,
the Church now speaks in thousands of tongues.
People everywhere hear the message
in his or her own mother tongue.

We should speak in tongues –
tongues familiar to the modern generation.
Classical, neo-classical, modern
and existing languages are obsoleted by electronic languages.
Sumerian cuneiform, Egyptian hieroglyphs,
Chinese characters, American Maya, Phoenician alphabets etc.
are being replaced by tweets and Instagram.

Speak in familiar tongues that they may understand our message.
Their media sometimes alienate us.
Typing instead of writing; watching instead of reading;
texting instead of conversing; selfies instead of groupings and so on.
If we are distanced from their media, we might be called illiterate.

When we speak in their tongues, they may turn around and listen.
After Peter's speech, the crowd asked him,
"What are we to do, my brothers?"
Likewise, they may ask the right question.

Even today without the Spirit nothing will move.
We should be moved by the Spirit so as to move others.
Movement is life.

May this Pentecost make us speak in tongues –
that which may be understood and responded to.