

## january 2010 – frequently stated exclamations

*You've heard of 'frequently asked questions' (FAQs). Well, here are my 'frequently stated exclamations' (FSEs) with those learning to preach...*

Oh yes, master the changing techniques within preaching - most definitely.  
BUT first be mastered by the unchanging convictions behind preaching!

Oh yes, learn to unpack the biblical text - most definitely.  
BUT also learn to unpack your listeners, your world, and yourself!

Oh yes, long for the Spirit's anointing on your preaching - most definitely.  
BUT also acknowledge his inspiring of the text, illuminating of the listeners,  
and convicting of the world and depend upon it!

Oh yes, with illustrations, be a surfer - most definitely.  
BUT better still, be a habitual watcher, reader, listener, and thinker about life as it flies by .  
thereby giving space for the incubating which allows the best illustrations to grow.

Oh yes, aim at transformative preaching - most definitely.  
BUT not by minimising the role that information plays in the transformation which prevails!

Oh yes, use an abundance of images - most definitely.  
BUT not out of a diminished confidence in the power of the spoken word  
to create something out of nothing in peoplesqlives!

Oh yes, look to improve the eyes and the hands and the voice and the face - most definitely.  
BUT nothing beats your own transparent, urgent, and conversational passion!

Oh yes, aim at note-free delivery and maybe even go walkabouts - most definitely.  
BUT not at the expense of the clarity and depth which prevents it all  
becoming a rambling waffle!

Oh yes, utilise the powerpoint slides - most definitely.  
BUT only as a complement to good structure, not as a crutch for poor structure!

Oh yes, work with story-telling because it reaches where nothing else can reach.  
BUT don't minimise the role which propositions play as the rational spine to the story!

Oh yes, become an apply-er of the truth - most definitely.  
BUT first be an even-handed explainer of the truth - otherwise you will pander to  
consumerist forces and truth will gradually be remade in the image of listeners!

Oh yes, have your various gurus from whom you catch some inspiration . most definitely.  
BUT keep investing in your own development, learning and growing all the time, so that your  
own life and preaching provides those who follow with some aspiration.

*Paul Windsor*  
*Associate Director (Langham Preaching)*