

Evangelistically Speaking

Mission Evangelism

A Ministry Directed by the Elders of the Levy Church of Christ

EVANGELISTICALLY SPEAKING

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From Ted's Pen

We are always ready to begin a new year with eagerness and anticipation and this year was no exception. We had a great beginning by attending our first Area Wide Fellowship of the year, hosted by the congregation at Jerusalem, Arkansas on January 9. It is always a great joy to enjoy being with about 150 of our brethren in this area for a period of singing praise to God, good food, and wonderful visiting.

On January 7 I spoke at the morning services of the congregation at Mars Hill. The brethren there have supported us in our work from the beginning and continue to be a great source of encouragement to us. In addition to their support of our work, they are leading a great work in building the church in Costa Rica. Brother David Riley and several other members of the congregation makes trips there each year to teach the gospel and to help in other areas of need that the church in that country experiences.

On Sunday evening, January 7 I preached at the Woodrow congregation near Vilonia and gave a report on our work during the year 2000. These brethren have helped us for a long time and we are thankful for their encouragement and

support. On January 14 it was a pleasure to be with the congregations at Cave City and Mammoth Spring. Both of these congregations have meant a lot to us through the years with their support and in many other ways as well.

We had left the weekend of January 21 open and intended to take off for a few days and just rest and relax. We had some free nights in a hotel and some free airline tickets, so we made our plans to go to Oklahoma City, one of our favorite places. Then the weather forecast scared us out of that because we had just had all the ice and snow that we wanted.

We were trying to make other plans when the phone rang and it was great to hear the voice of John Bishop, a dear friend of more than 40 years and who spends the winters in Casa Grande, Arizona. John and Marie were calling to invite us to come to Casa Grande for a visit and it took us all of about 30 seconds to accept the invitation when we found out what the temperature was in Arizona.

So, we flew to Arizona on Thursday, January 18 and had a wonderful visit with the Bishops until Sunday afternoon. At that time we were picked up by

our long time friends, Don and Dorcas Rackley of Gainesville, Missouri, who also spend the winters in Arizona. They took us on a tour of some of the most beautiful country and then we attended Sunday evening worship at the Camelback congregation in Phoenix and that was a great experience too. Monday morning the Rackley's showed us a lot of the beautiful city of Phoenix, fed us a great lunch, and then we flew back home. It was hard to leave the 74 degree weather and come home where it was 29 when we landed in Little Rock, but we came home with great memories and refreshed bodies.

On Sunday, January 28 it was a privilege to preach at the congregation at Higden, Arkansas. We have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the congregation at Higden for many, many years and they have been wonderful supporters and co-workers with us in our ministry. So, the month of January is over but we believe that it was a good month and we are eager to continue for the rest of the year.

LECTURESHIP SERIES

There was a conflict in the original dates for the second

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From Ted's Pen (Continued)

annual lectureship at Mars Hill and so the dates have been changed. They are now set for APRIL 6-8. The theme for the lectures this year is "Building A Soul Winning Church."

Brother Al Jolly of Bryan, Texas will be our first speaker on Friday night and then a host of other very fine speakers will deal with many areas of soul winning in the local congregation.

The first series of lectures in 2000 was a great one and we expect this one to be even better. We are hoping for better weather conditions and as few conflicts with area congregations activities as possible. We would like to see the building filled for every session beginning Friday night, all day Saturday and Saturday night, and then for all services on Sunday.

Lunch on Saturday will be provided by Mars Hill and following the last afternoon session we will have a cookout under the pavilion on the grounds of the meeting house. Please make your plans now to be with us for this great event. You will not be sorry that you made arrangements to attend.

BARBARA'S HEALTH

We are just thrilled to report that Barbara's latest medical examinations and blood tests have been very good! I took the phone call when the nurse called to give us the results and her words were, "The results are wonderful!"

Barbara is feeling good and although the doctor says that she will not be restored to full health until July 1, we are

pleased beyond our ability to express with her condition at the present time. We hope that you will continue to pray for her continued good health.

ROMANIAN WORK

Barbara and I will leave on February 8 for three weeks of work in Pitesti and Craiova, the two Cities in Romania where we have labored for the past several years. We have one of our translators who is working right now to have personal Bible studies already scheduled when we arrive.

Barbara will have at least one special class for all of the ladies and we will try to have time to have a special youth meeting as well. We will work in both cities and I will preach in both cities while we are there. Please pray for our safe travel and that the Lord will bless our efforts with a good harvest. There are many souls just waiting to be taught and we are anxious to get there and teach them.

THANK YOU

Thank you beloved brethren for your loyal support and fervent prayers. Without your financial support we could not begin to do the work that we are doing. And, without your prayers for us and God's strength, we would simply be helpless in our endeavors. We thank you and love you for all that you mean to us. Our report for March will be later than usual because we will not return home in time to get it out on time, so please be patient with us. May God bless and keep you every one.

- Ted

Dealing with Trials *by Ralph Price*

Everyone has problems! No doubt about it, this life is full of trials and temptations of every kind. Many times, in the face of the seemingly overwhelming problems, we simply give up or give in. How can one deal with these kinds of problems? As a Christian, we are given many wonderful promises from God about how we can deal with the problems which we will face day by day. Let us see how!

First, God has promised the Christian that He will provide for all of his needs. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Mt. 6:33). Keep in mind that God promised to provide for those things which we need. Not for every little thing that we want. This does not mean that bread is simply going to fall from heaven to feed the Christian but it does mean that, if we do the best we can, God will make sure that we have the things that are needed to survive. What a blessing this is!

Second, God has promised that we will be able to make it through our trials. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Cor. 10:13). We can take comfort from knowing that others have dealt with the same problems that we have dealt with. Many times, we can be comforted by them; "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the

God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." (2 Cor. 1:3-4). Also though, God has promised that, no matter what the problem, He will give us a way of escape. He doesn't promise that the way will be easy, but it will be there for us. We must be observant enough to find it and strong enough to use it.

Third, the Christian can find great power in dealing with troubles through prayer.

God desires us to make all of our needs known to him. The Christian is admonished to "pray without ceasing." (1 Thess. 5:17). Furthermore, God promises to answer those prayers; "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." (1 Jn. 5:14-15). We must ask ourselves; "Do I believe in prayer?" When a Christian prays, he must believe that God can and will answer that prayer; "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." (James 1:5-7). We must realize, however, that God's answer may not be the answer we desire. However, His answer will be what is best for us.

UPCOMING PLANS

February 2001

February 4
Greenbrier, Arkansas
Missions Day

February 8
Leave for Romania

February 9-27
Craiova and Pitesti, Romania

February 28
Arrive from Romania

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>Missions Day Greenbrier, Arkansas</i>	5	6	7	8 <i>Travel to Romania</i>	9 <i>Craiova and Pitesti, Romania</i>	10 <i>Craiova and Pitesti, Romania</i>
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"Legally Accurate" *by Tim Nichols*

It appears that accuracy is divided by some into new categories these days. In the old days accurate things were things that were conforming to what is true, right, exact, genuine, and honest. Nowadays some accuracies are merely moral matters. Some are legal. In order to properly understand history we will need to view the events of the past and consider the past actions of God and man in light of these new standards.

Ananias and Sapphira come to mind right away. They sold land that they privately owned. The amount they received is none of your business, so the Holy Spirit did not record it. What they did with the money was, in a sense, their own business and

no one suggested that they ought to have done anything in particular with it. As far as I know, and my knowledge is limited, there were no Roman laws prohibiting them from bringing some of the money to church, giving it to the apostles for distribution to those in need, and pretending that they were giving all of the proceeds of their sale. Many would say that no one had any right to ask them about it. It was, legally, no one's business.

When Peter confronted the husband with his deception, God took the life of poor Ananias before he had had a chance to explain that his duplicity had been "legally accurate." About three hours later Sapphira, not knowing that God's death sentence had

already been carried out upon her husband, came in and gave her own detailed and "legally accurate" testimony. God judged her "legally accurate" statement according to the moral scale and she was buried right next to her husband (Acts 5:1-11).

Can you bring yourself to think that God would have changed His mind if He had waited to hear their "legally accurate" argument? If they had had the time to sit down with the finest speech-writers and damage-control experts in all Jerusalem, do you think they would have been able to convince the Perfect Judge, who needs no help from juries, to alter His judgment? I think not. Quibbling that would have induced the most gullible guys back on my

High School debate team to roll their eyes in derision and would not have checked the hand of our omniscient God.

The truth is rather simple before it is blurred by double-talk. While the laws of our land may not impose consequences for all lying, those lies that are legally overlooked are not accurate. Uttering a thing that is not true is not any species of accurate, although it might be a non-illegal lie.

Accurate things are still things that conform to what is true, right, exact, genuine, and honest. Hold onto your old dictionary and to your awareness that God is watching. He does not judge on the basis of whether or not men will prosecute.

GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR

One of the ways that you can honor your loved ones and help our work at the same time is by sending a contribution in memory or in honor of those whom you love. We have received the following memorials in recent weeks.

IN MEMORY OF

Sister Bobbye Taylor

by Dorothy Glover

IN MEMORY OF

**Brother W. C. Arendall
Brother Jim Harris
Sister Bobbye Taylor
Brother Bud Paul**

by Jerry and Ova Lea Leighton

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