

# 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

**"He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.  
He counts the number of the  
stars; He calls them  
all by name."  
- Psalms 147:3-40**

Two Harvard astronomers have discovered a 'great wall' of galaxies that they estimate to be 500 million light years long, 200 million light-years wide, and 15 million light-years thick. (One light-year is 5.88 trillion miles.)

The amazing thing is that God created all of those galaxies and sustains everything that exists by His powerful hands. He uses those same hands to sustain and comfort each one of us. His loving touch is felt by billions of suffering human beings who are kept under His watchful eye. Father, thank you so much for your wondrous and marvelous care.

The month of December delivered some very painful news to some of our dear friends. Sister Arvie Cook of Greenbrier was killed instantly in an automobile accident on December 9. Barbara and I accompanied our son-in-law, who is a deputy sheriff, and the State Police to inform brother Carl Cook of his wife's death. It was a very

painful time but God was there to sustain and give strength to Carl and his children and a host of brothers and sisters in Christ.

On December 16 two more friends departed this life just hours apart. Sister Anita Henriksen had battled cancer for a long, long, time and had been a great encourager and friend to Barbara through Barbara's struggles with the same disease. Anita was a great lady and full of faith and courage. "Rat" Heffington passed away the same day and I was asked to speak at both of these funeral services but could be at only one because they were at the same time. Since the Heffington family called first I was with them. Our love and sympathy is extended to all of these precious brothers and sisters who remain.

I know of two congregations of the Lord's church that need a preacher very badly. They are located very near one another in Northern Indiana. One is the congregation at Michigan City, Indiana and the other at LaPorte, Indiana. If any of our readers know of someone who might be interested in either place, you may contact James Alred at 219-872-1804 regarding the Michigan City congregation or write

to Church Of Christ, P.O. Box 58, LaPorte, Indiana 46350.

Our schedule for 2001 is almost completely filled. I do have a little time scattered throughout the year for two or three meetings, but most of the time is already scheduled. I will be making three trips, possibly four, to Romania.

Barbara and I will be going in February to work in both Pitesti and Craiova. In July I will be taking a small group with me to conduct a city-wide campaign in Pitesti. All of the workers are confirmed and we have a really good team for that campaign. In September-October Barbara and I will return and work in both cities again.

Our work in Romania is really moving along wonderfully well. Both congregations are growing and the gospel is being taught to many more people every week. In Pitesti we were blessed to move into our building on April 2, 2000 and it has really been a great boost to the work in that city. We have an auditorium that will seat 100 people and already we have had over 100 on at least four occasions. We have five children's classes and on Sunday,

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## From Ted's Pen (Continued)

December 17 there were 69 children in those classes and 72 adults in Bible class. Most of the children do not stay for worship, but in the worship assembly that day there were 110 people. One of the young brothers has been teaching a class in English since November with more than 30 students in the class on Monday and Friday nights. These brethren are really excited about learning to speak English. They conduct a singing class each Saturday afternoon for about two hours. Some of the ladies are conducting classes on Saturday at one of the orphanages that we assist. A ladies class is conducted on Saturday afternoon and most of the ladies attend.

So, you can see that there is a lot of activity that was not possible when we did not have a place to meet, so the building is really giving us the opportunity to do much more in edifying the church and in reaching out to others. The average attendance on Sunday is about 85 in Pitesti and we expect very soon to exceed 100 in average attendance and, by Spring, have to begin having two services if we can possibly work it out. God has surely blessed His work in the city of Pitesti.

In Craiova the church has made tremendous progress during the past year. I just can't tell you what a thrill it is to hear the report from Craiova each week. In August of 1999 we wondered if the church there was going to even continue because there seemed to be so few who were interested. We conducted a campaign there and it seemed to spark some interest and since that time great strides have

been made. On one Sunday in October when Harvey and Pat Starling were there, 157 people were present for worship! Following the services that day, five were baptized into Christ! As of right now the average attendance at Craiova is about 80 each Lord's day. Now, here is the real critical problem—**WE DESPERATELY NEED A BUILDING IN CRAIOVA!**

The church is meeting in a room that seats at best 60 and they are having to seat people out in the hall and even on one Sunday had to spill over into another room across the hall in order to accommodate the number present. We **MUST** have a building to meet in if we are going to continue to grow.

We have found a wonderful building that can be transformed into a great place for the church to meet and also house workers from the United States who go to teach. It is available now! We need to raise \$180,000 to purchase the building and begin the remodeling of it. Additional funds will be needed to furnish it and complete the job, but we need to get it started 'yesterday' as we often say. I am not a good fundraiser at all, but I am asking everyone who reads this to help us in any way that you can. Give whatever you can. Tell others and ask them to help us. We need your help right now.

Here is one other amazing thing about the congregation in Craiova: the church began meeting on November 23, 1997. There were three Christians at that time. Since that time there have been more than forty other baptized into

Christ and not one single Christian has become unfaithful! Every person who has obeyed the gospel in Craiova in the more than three years that the church has been meeting, has remained faithful. You see, we do not just baptize everyone who comes along.

We teach, teach, and teach some more before one is baptized. All of those who go to Craiova and Pitesti to teach work real hard to make sure that those who are being taught are fully aware of what they are doing before they are baptized. We strongly believe that this is the way the work should be done.

So, we are very proud of the work being done in Pitesti and Craiova. There are many, many, people involved in this work and I thank God for every one of them. Harvey and Vernon Starling and thier wives are outstanding co-workers and they work tirelessly to help build the Lord's church in these two cities.

Harry Middleton leads groups to Craiova every year and Harry and his group work diligently to teach the lost and encourage the brethren. So many people are participating in our work. The most important thing of all is that God is blessing the faithful efforts of all of us and good fruit is being produced by Him.

We ask that you continue to pray for the brethren in Pitesti and Craiova and that you help us if you possibly can with financial help in getting that building in Craiova. Marty has worked a lot in Craiova and he and I or either one of us would

be happy to come and talk to you about the needs of the church there if you should desire that we do so. May God bless you as you consider the needs of the Lord's people in these two cities.

## No Let Downs

One thing that we often hear athletic teams talk about is "letdowns." It is a common problem that many teams face. After a big victory it is often easy to underestimate the next opponent. Confidence is sky-high and they feel that after winning the previous game it should be easy to win the next. Inevitably they lose that next game. Why the sports lesson? Well, as Christians we need to guard from letdowns as well. It's easy for us to feel like we have arrived. That we are doing so well, we are above temptation. The Bible warns us to avoid that attitude, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor. 10:12). Just like sports teams, when we get overconfident, we become vulnerable.

Paul warned of this danger, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:11-14). There is a continuing need for us to realize that we have not "arrived." Christianity is a lifestyle in which we must continue to grow until we depart from this life. There is a unending need for us to discipline ourselves. Let us never get too comfortable with ourselves. I am not saying that we can't be sure of our salvation but rather that we must guard to make sure that we don't lose it through our own negligence.

- Adapted from the *Gabanna-Jefferson Church of Christ Bulletin*

**UPCOMING PLANS**

# January 2001

**January 7**

Mars Hill—Vilonia, Arkansas  
Woodrow—Vilonia, Arkansas

**January 14**

Cave City, Arkansas  
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

**January 28**

Higden, Arkansas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Mars Hill and Woodrow - Vilonia, AR</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Cave City, AR and Mammoth Spring, AR</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>Higden, AR</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**Let My People Go** *by Ted Knight*

The words above are familiar to every Bible student. God had sent Moses to tell Pharaoh, "Let My people go."

I have recently been studying again these events in the Old Testament and I have been amazed at how Pharaoh rejected God's instructions and denied freedom to God's people even though he brought extreme suffering to himself and his people. He finally died still fighting against God.

I think of those words in another way. I am thinking of what might happen if the leaders of the church today were to "Let God's people go". Here is what I mean.

Six years ago the Levy congregation in North Little Rock began having what they call "Harvest Sunday". On that

day a special contribution is taken and the entire amount is used to fund mission work in various part of the world. The first special contribution was just over \$6,000. It grew to near \$20,000 in 1998.

In 1999 the congregation was challenged to contribute \$50,000 on Harvest Sunday and fell just a little short of that amount. On September 10, 2000 they were challenged again to reach that \$50,000 contribution on Harvest Sunday, October 30, 2000. At this time the contribution stands at a little over \$68,400! I would not be surprised to see that total amount exceed \$70,000 before the end of 2000.

I know that many elderships believe that there should be no "special contributions." But, I wonder what would happen if

every eldership across the country would set a date and urge the congregation to make a special contribution for preaching the gospel to the world?

I am firmly convinced that if the people were encouraged to do so they would make great sacrifices to spread the gospel. I know that people would even borrow money to help with such an effort.

Elders, would you consider letting the people go? Would you consider exhorting the brethren to give in a special way to preach the gospel in mission fields throughout the world? Why not just give it some thought? Who knows what the results would be.

- Ted

*"Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, Thus says the Lord God of Israel: Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.' And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go."*

- Exodus 5:1-2

## To What Are We Enslaved? *by Marty Knight*

Unless you've been in a cave recently, you are aware that the residents of Arkansas endured a brutal December. Many were without electricity for days at a time. We were all made aware that we are "slaves" to many of the modern conveniences of our time. Many people sat freezing in beautiful new houses simply because those homes were built around modern technology. Without electricity our homes are no different than a simple log cabin in the woods. Like it or not, we are totally dependent upon the utility company and without it we are helpless.

Consider Paul's letter to the church at Rome. In Romans 6:16 he said, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness."

Think about your daily activities. Not just the "big" things, but everything you do throughout the day. Your habits, your speech, the things that you watch, read, or listen to through a typical day. Are there things that enslave you? Can you function without those activities? Does it ruin your day if you can't engage in one of them?

You see, when we think of being "slaves to sin" we conjure up images of the crack addict lying in the gutter, the murderer on death row, or the hopeless alcoholic who forfeits everything for drink. We tend to overlook the little things—idle speech, gossip, backbiting, abuse of bodies through obesity or tobacco use. If we are totally and helplessly dependent upon those things, then we are slaves to them. "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." - Romans 6:17-18

IF YOU CAN ASSIST THE  
KNIGHTS IN THEIR WORK  
FOR THE LORD, PLEASE  
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