

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

I suppose that every reader of our report will have the events of September 11, 2001 indelibly stamped in their mind for as long as they live upon this earth. The murder of thousands of innocent people by angry and mad cowards have stirred emotions in me that I never knew existed and I am not proud of some of them. It is hard to maintain the right spirit and it is only with God's help that we can do so.

The one thing that has been clearly underlined in my mind from this tragedy is the necessity of Christians throughout the world waking up and recognizing that the solution to such sinful deeds is the blessed gospel of Jesus Christ and His abundant grace and mercy. Our efforts to preach the gospel to the whole world must be increased greatly. I know of no other solution. Simply gathering in a mass audience and saying and listening to prayers offered by leaders of the Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, and Muslim world will not solve the problem of sin.

We can pray in the court house, on the Capitol steps, in Yankee Stadium, in church buildings, and everywhere else, but until we really turn back to an unreserved respect for the authority of God's word and

follow what it teaches, we are going to continue the downward spiral that we have seen develop through the years and that results in such tragic events as we have experienced this month. We can agree to be tolerant and agree to disagree, but just look where such an attitude has brought us. Yes, we can throw wide open the arms of fellowship to those who are living in religious error, immorality, and ignorance and we will reap what we sow.

I plan to continue to preach the pure, simple, and precious gospel of Jesus wherever I go. I plan to do everything that I can to reach as many as I can with the saving message of Christ's death, his resurrection, and his coming again. I am determined never to compromise His truth, not even one word of it, in order to gain the favor and support of men. The gospel is still God's power to save man from his sins according to Romans 1:16.

I pray that every reader of our report will resolve to tell the story of Jesus. Make an opportunity to do so. I heard a bookstore owner say that sales of Bibles had increased during the month of September more than 48% over the same time in 2000. I have been told by several of our own brethren

that attendance at the services of the church has increased dramatically since the events of September 11. That is wonderful, but friends buying a Bible will not take a person to heaven. That Bible must be studied and obeyed without turning to the right hand or to the left hand. Attending a church service will not make one a child of God. Obedience to the word of God will. Therefore, we must do everything within our power to preach the gospel to the world. May God help us to do just that.

Now, I will turn my attention to the other activities of the month. We were blessed to be at Levy on Sunday, September 9 and I gave my annual report on our work to the brethren there. We are so grateful for the support and oversight of the elders at Levy, the mission committee, and so many, many, Christians whom we have known and loved for more than 35 years. On September 11 I hosted the Area Wide Fellowship and due to the horrible events earlier in the day I was afraid that the attendance would be very low. However, in spite of some congregations having special prayer services that night, we still had a

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marvelous crowd and we too spent some time in special prayer for those who were suffering and for our entire nation. I don't know of any place where I would have felt better than I did being with over 100 Christians from about 25 congregations throughout Central Arkansas that night. Our schedule for September 13-16 was postponed due to the airlines being grounded. It will be rescheduled at a later time.

I cannot really tell you how blessed Barbara and I felt to be with the congregation at Gravel Hill September 20-23. We began on Thursday night with a wonderful audience and it got bigger for every service. I was surprised on Friday night and then again on Saturday night when the house was full. Then on Sunday we had a wonderful crowd for the services, a great potluck lunch following the morning service, and then the afternoon service at 2:30 and almost every person stayed for all of the activities. These brethren have been supporting us for 10 years and they continue to be a real blessing to our work. We owe a special debt of thanks to the preschool children who gave us their 'Creepy Can' full of money. What is a 'Creepy Can'? For a long time these children put their money in a can each week and it was given to Brother Luther 'Creepy' Hodge for his mission efforts. Since Brother Hodge passed away they have not had a special place to send the 'Creepy Can' money. So, they gave it to Barbara to help with the children's work in Romania. Isn't that something?

My trip to Romania, which was to have begun on September 27 was also postponed. I was

going to be traveling alone and although I believe that everything would have been fine, my family and a lot of our supporters were cautious and encouraged me to postpone the trip. Since the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, Romania had been closed a few weeks before because of the danger of terrorism, I decided to make plans to go later with some other workers. Therefore, I am scheduled now to go on November 8 with eight other brethren.

I had two Sundays open since I would not be going to Romania, so I preached at Hattiesville, Arkansas on Sunday, September 30 and at Harding Street in Morrilton that evening. I gave a report on our work to both congregations. They have both supporting us from the beginning of our work.

ROMANIA UPDATE

The Romanian Bible Training School started again on September 16 with Harvey Starling and Phil Jackson doing the teaching. Thirty-one students enrolled for the classes and Harvey reports that the school is going great. The students are excited and are studying and working hard. This school is one of the highlights of the year for these students and is proving to be a tremendous asset to the work of the church and the growth of the individuals in their spiritual lives.

We are pleased to announce the beginning of a new congregation in Budeasa, Romania. This is a village where Brother Aurelian Iupano lives. He became a Christian about one year ago and since that time has been bringing others for study and doing some of the

teaching himself. Now there are eight Christians in the village and it was becoming more and more difficult to get all of them into Pitesti for worship. So, one of the young men, Brother Ovidiu Loghin is going to Budeasa each Sunday to teach and preach the gospel. We will continue to work with them and encourage them and study with others in the village as well. May God be praised for these good things.

I have a poem that I carry in my Bible all the time. I read it often and it is printed below. I believe that with the events of September 11 it would be good to share these thoughts with all of you.

Thank you brethren for all of your help and for your prayers on our behalf. May God bless and keep every one of you in our prayer. We love you.

IT'S IN THE VALLEY I GROW

Sometimes life seems hard to bear,
Full of sorrow, trouble, and woe.
It's then I have to remember
That it's in the valleys I grow.

If I always stayed on the mountain top
And never experienced pain.
I would never appreciate God's love
And would be living in vain.

I have so very much to learn
And my growth is very slow.
Sometimes I need the mountain tops
But it's in the valleys I grow.

I do not always understand
Why things happen as they do.
But I am very sure of one thing,
My Lord will see me through.

My little valleys are nothing
When I picture Christ on the cross.
He went through the valley of death
His victory was Satan's loss.

Forgive me Lord for complaining
When I'm feeling very low.
Just give me a gentle reminder
That it's in the valleys I grow.

Continue to strengthen me, Lord,
And use my life each day
To share your love with others
And help them find their way.

Thank you for the valleys, Lord
For this one thing I know.
The mountain tops are glorious,
But it's in the valleys I grow.

- Author Unknown

UPCOMING PLANS

October 2001

OCTOBER 7

Bigelow, Arkansas
Plummerville, Arkansas

OCTOBER 10

Mayflower, Arkansas

OCTOBER 14-17

New Blaine, Arkansas

OCTOBER 21-24

Greenbrier, Arkansas

OCTOBER 28-31

Russellville, Arkansas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Bigelow, AR and Plummerville, AR</i>	8	9	10 <i>Mayflower, AR</i>	11	12	13
14 <i>New Blaine, AR</i>	15 <i>New Blaine, AR</i>	16 <i>New Blaine, AR</i>	17 <i>New Blaine, AR</i>	18	19	20
21 <i>Greenbrier, AR</i>	22 <i>Greenbrier, AR</i>	23 <i>Greenbrier, AR</i>	24 <i>Greenbrier, AR</i>	25	26	27
28 <i>Russellville, AR</i>	29 <i>Russellville, AR</i>	30 <i>Russellville, AR</i>	31 <i>Russellville, AR</i>			

***Patience in Restoration* By Marty Knight**

I recently heard Brother Clyde Sloop deliver a wonderful lesson on repentance during which he used an interesting analogy. In illustrating the transformation that we undergo during conversion, he compared the restoration of our souls to that of a vintage car that has been returned to it's original luster. I guess it's a sign of my advancing age that I occasionally see cars that I remember being new with "Antique Car" license plates!

We've all seen cars that have been restored to their original pristine glory and marveled at the work that went into such an achievement. As the point was made during Clyde's lesson, I thought of my good friend Todd Wynne. I met Todd in 1973 and we became fast boyhood friends at age 12 and still remain close.

When I met Todd he and his father had a 1929 Ford Model A sitting in their garage on sawhorses. I can't begin to describe how much Todd loved that car. I don't know that I've ever met anyone who loved old cars as much as Todd does to this day. There were countless times that he mentioned what he had planned for the old car as he restored it.

Slowly but surely, he restored the old car to working order. Amazing as it seems, he successfully hand-signalized the old girl through his drivers test in 1978 and made the front page of the *Daily Oklahoman*.

28 years later the old car is still a work in progress for my good friend. During a visit in 1995 I got the chance to ride in the old car and ragged Todd a

bit about the slow progress he was making. He answered, "She (the car) is patient."

As Christians we must realize that spiritual restoration never ceases. Like Todd's old car, we are a work in progress. Thanks be to God for the redemption that is found in the blood of Christ! As Paul said in Romans 6, we have the opportunity to "walk in newness of life." Will that walk be perfect? Certainly not! Will we stumble along the way? Of course we will. But as long as we continue to "walk in the light" as John instructed, we can rest assured of forgiveness. James tells us to "let patience have it's perfect work." It may take Todd a lifetime to restore that old car. And it is certain that spiritual restoration is a lifetime commitment between the Christian and God.

"Then He is gracious to him and says, Deliver him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom. His flesh shall be young like a child's, he shall return to his youth. He shall pray to God and He will delight in him, he shall see his face with joy, for He restores to man his righteousness. And he looks at men and says, I have sinned and perverted what was right, and it did not profit me. He will redeem his soul from going down to the Pit, and his life shall see light."

- Job 33:24-28

GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR

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

In Memory of
Herbert Henry Knight
From
Marty Knight

In Memory of
Claude Bud Bradford
From
Lisa Knight

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