

Evangelistically Speaking

Mission Evangelism

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

"No man is a follower of Jesus unless he is a fisher of men"

EVANGELISTICALLY SPEAKING

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From Ted's Pen

I once read about a young man who responded during a meeting and wanted to tell everyone what Jesus meant to him. He closed with these words, "He promised that if I tell the world about Him, He'll tell the Father about me." Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if every Christian could capture that spirit? Think about this: if others do not hear, they cannot believe. If they do not believe they cannot be saved. If we do not tell them, they cannot hear. And, if we do not tell them and they cannot believe, obey, and be saved, do we really think that Jesus is going to tell the Father about us?

Brethren, we have not been chosen to be silent followers of the Lord. If we really believe that people who are outside of Christ are lost, and if we sincerely want Jesus to confess us before the Father, then surely we will want to tell others about Him.

We published our last issue of ES for the months of June and July because we knew that we would not have time to publish two separate issues. So, it is good to be in touch again for the month of August. During the first two weeks of June we were privileged to preach at Center Ridge, Arkansas and

Marietta, Oklahoma. The brethren at Center Ridge have been assisting us in our work for many years and we are always thankful for the opportunity to preach there. The church at Marietta began helping us some time ago and it was a pleasure to be able to go there and tell them about the work that we do. We have worked with the congregation there in meetings and Barbara has spoken at a special ladies day program as well.

One of the recently appointed elders at Marietta is Gary Labeth. Gary and his family worshipped at the Hillcrest congregation in Oklahoma City when we lived and worked with the church there many years ago. Gary served as one of the deacons at Hillcrest and has also preached the gospel for many years. We had a great time with the elders and their wives on one night and were delighted to enjoy our fellowship with the entire congregation.

On July 7-10 we enjoyed being with the Lord's church at Bellefonte, Arkansas for the 13th Annual Northwest Arkansas Lectureship. I have spoken on every one of these lecture series and also conduct the open forum each day. Brother Ray Crawford is the preacher

at Bellefonte and also the director of the lectureship. This year the theme was "Lifting Up Jesus" and every lesson was splendid. The dates for the 2003 Northwest Arkansas Lectureship are July 13-16 and it would be great if you could plan to be present.

One of the congregations that we always enjoy being with for a meeting is the one that meets at Mt. Judea, Arkansas. It is located in one of the most beautiful sections of the world that I have ever seen. And, the people who make up the church in that area are some of the most wonderful people that one will find anywhere. It was a great pleasure to be with them for a meeting July 14-17 and we pray that much good was done.

We enjoyed being with the Lord's church in Hickory Ridge, Arkansas for a gospel meeting on July 21-24. We have been to Hickory Ridge in the past in meetings and they are always an encouragement to us. They are presently looking for a preacher to work with them. Anyone who might be interested in that work can contact David Wilson at 870-697-2505 or Lawrence Sanders at 870-697-4267.

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From Ted's Pen (Continued)

ROMANIAN SUMMER BIBLE SCHOOL

Barbara and I are thankful that we were privileged to be with the church in Pitesti, Romania for the very first Summer Bible School that was planned and taught by Romanian Christians. There have been summer classes for several years taught by American teachers, but this time every teacher was a Romanian Christian. Barbara and I were there to assist, but our help was only slightly needed.

We had taken material for the Summer Bible School when we went to Romania in February of this year. Sister Cindy Tatum had obtained the material for us at no cost. We left the teachers manual and a student book with each teacher and told them that the rest was up to them. We were amazed and thrilled at what we found when we arrived in July 19!

First, the teachers have worked diligently to prepare their material to teach. They had translated everything into the Romanian language so that the students would be able to work with it. Barbara and I have worked in Vacation Bible schools for nearly 40 years. I can tell you that I have never seen a group of teachers work any harder and work together in a great spirit of unity than did the Pitesti Christians. We were just absolutely astounded at the detailed preparations that they had made. I had given the teachers of each class \$50.00 to buy additional materials and supplies and I could hardly believe that they had prepared everything as they did with that amount of money.

We were able to go to the classes and listen to and watch

these teachers as they did their work. More than once we were moved to tears as we watched them, many of whom we had helped to teach and assisted them in becoming Christians themselves, and now we marveled at their growth and development in Christ.

The Romanian children were just wonderful. We had a pre-registration day on Saturday, June 22 and many children and parents came. We began with 72 students on Monday, followed by 78, 81, 89, and 94. We had not advertised the school publicly because we did not want so many children that they could not be properly taught and our building would not be sufficient to handle the number attending. Many children came for the first time. We were thrilled with the way they behaved and with their exuberance and excitement. I just wish that all of you could have been there to see and hear what took place in this school.

We had a closing program on Friday evening June 28 and about 150 crowded into the auditorium for it. Each class had prepared a short program for their parents and again Barbara and I just sat in an almost trance-like state as we watched and listened to these teachers and students.

Here is one of the most thrilling parts of the Summer Bible School. On Sunday morning several of the children and some of the parents attended the regular services of the church for the first time. This is what it is all about! We have the name and address of every student and their parents. Special letters were sent to the parents the week following the school. We will keep in con-

tact and hopefully we can study with some of them in one on one Bible studies. Here are some excerpts from messages that the teachers and students gave to us following the completion of the school.

"We want to thank all the people from this church, for they help us to have our own Summer Bible School. We love you." (Class - ages 8-10)

"Thank you from all my heart for giving us the opportunity to work with the children and to have this wonderful week. Thank you for all you do. God bless you." (Lucia, teacher ages 8-10)

"We want to thank you very much for helping us to have our first summer classes by ourselves. It has been a week of studying, of learning, of spending time with each other and with people from the church who care about us. All of these would not have been possible without your love and your care. Thank you for giving us this week! May God bless you and always be with you." (Teenage class, Iulia Vasile, teacher).

"I would like to thank you for all you have done for us this week. Because it was the first time when we taught SBS, everything was special for us. The time that we share together was very special! I know the lessons had a big impact on the children and because we met every day to study, this helps them more to learn. This also strengthens our relationship with the children. None of this couldn't be done without your help. Thank you for all your love and care and your support." (Ramona Pandeale, teacher ages 12-14)

"This week would not be as beautiful as it has been if you had not been here and your spirit and dedication brought even more beauty to it. I am grateful for you. The studies this week were wonderful. You have touched my heart in a special way." (Irina Deneanu, teacher ages 3-9)

We are excited and the teachers and students are excited about having our Second Annual Summer Bible School in 2003! Brethren, let me remind you - this would not be possible without your help! May God bless you for helping teach these precious children and helping the teachers to grow as Christians.

ROMANIAN KINDERGARTEN

We were privileged to go to the Kindergarten in Pitesti on our recent trip and visit with the children and their care-givers. We could see that the local Christians who are working with them are doing a great work in caring for these children. They had bought medicine, food, clothes, sheets for their beds, cleaning supplies, and many other necessary items and taken them to the children. We can already see a great improvement in the living conditions for the children and those who care for them are much happier as well. The local Christians will continue to go to the Kindergarten about every two weeks and see that there is a good supply of food, medicine, and other necessities for them. The generosity of many of our supporters is making life much, much better for these children. Thank you so very much for your love and compassion.

BARBARA'S HEALTH

Barbara is scheduled at this time to have surgery for removal of an infected saliva gland on August 30. The doctor tells us that he does not believe that it is malignant. She continues to be on antibiotics and we continue to pray that this treatment will clear up the problem and that surgery will not be necessary. We covet your prayers for this as well.

UPCOMING PLANS

August 2002

JULY 31—AUGUST 14
Craiova, Romania

AUGUST 17—18
Hardy, Arkansas

AUGUST 25—28
Cotter, Arkansas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			31 <i>Leave for Craiova, Romania</i>	1 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>	2 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>	3 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>
4 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>	5 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>	6 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>	7 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>	8 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>	9 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>	10 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>
11 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>	12 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>	13 <i>Craiova, Romania</i>	14 <i>Return from Craiova, Romania</i>	15	16	17 <i>Hardy, Arkansas</i>
18 <i>Hardy, Arkansas</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <i>Cotter, Arkansas</i>	26 <i>Cotter, Arkansas</i>	27 <i>Cotter, Arkansas</i>	28 <i>Cotter, Arkansas</i>	29	30	31

AN ANCIENT INSTITUTION FOR MODERN TIMES *by Marty Knight*

St. Joe is a tiny community nestled in the heart of the Ozark mountains in north Arkansas. My maternal great-grandfather was born and raised there in the late 1800's. And based upon the way things look in St. Joe, things haven't changed a great deal. U.S. Highway 65 runs right through the middle of town and we recently passed through on our way to Missouri.

One of the more prominent landmarks in St. Joe is an old general store built of native stone. It must be at least 75 years old. I would not be surprised at all if it were a century old. I make note of it each time we pass by and it never seems to change. Generations have likely seen it as an age-old institution as solid as the rock from which it is fashioned.

However, I noticed one change this trip. Right there on the front of this decades-old building was a sign that read "Internet Service Available Here." Hopefully, I'm not the only one who finds that somewhat amusing and ironic!

I've often wondered, "What has kept that store in business?" That sign may provide a clue!

You see, at it's very core, the store provides the same service to the citizens of St. Joe today that it did the day it opened. I'm sure that most of the 95 people who call that community home can tell of the great service they receive at that establishment. But, I want you think about something—call this Rural Arkansas Marketing 101. In what ways has the store changed?

If, over the years, the store had continued to offer coal oil instead of light bulbs and equipment for maintaining wagons instead of basic auto parts, they would not have survived. There doors would have closed and the store would only be a memory. The goal—providing service to the town—remains the same. The ways of accomplishing that goal are dynamic. What was effective in 1902 won't always work in 2002. In some cases it might, but not always.

Where's the lesson for us? The church is an age-old institution tasked with a single mission—teach the gospel to a lost and dying world. While we have been given boundaries within which we must work, we have also been empowered to market the gospel in such a way as to reach those who need the message.

The message of Jesus Christ does not—and will not—change according to Hebrews 13:8. It remains the **only** hope for man. There is no other name by which we can be saved according to Acts 4:12. **Simply put, the message of the gospel is timeless!**

Here's our challenge! Like the owner of that store, we **must** to find a way to reach people in order to be effective. Be innovative! Think out of the box!

Some residents of St. Joe probably scoff at Internet service being sold in a small country store. But, it must work. Otherwise that ancient old enterprise would have long ago faded into memory. Instead it has become—like the church—an ancient institution for modern times.

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LEVY CHURCH OF CHRIST
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