

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

**"The Lord will reign
forever. Your God, O
Zion, to all generations.
Praise the Lord!"
- Psalms 146:10**

Things are constantly changing in our world. World leaders die and are replaced by others. A king may rule his country for decades, but finally death comes and another takes his throne. But, it is not so with God! God will reign forever! He has always been and He will always be!

We have just begun our twelfth year of full time evangelism and mission work. What a wonderful eleven years it has been for Barbara and me. Although Barbara has had three serious episodes of cancer during this time, this has still been the most rewarding and fruitful time in our ministry of more than forty-three years. We are so thankful to God for blessing us with so many, many, opportunities to teach the gospel. We are also thankful for so many of our brethren who make it possible for us to seize these opportunities and help to spread the gospel and make the lives of others better. Almost every day we feel a greater

sense of urgency to act quickly in our quest to present the gospel to others while there is still time to do so. We approach the beginning of our thirteenth year with gratitude and humility and yet with a growing zeal to do as much as we can for as many as possible in the time that we have left.

The Lord blessed us with the opportunity to be with the Colony congregation near Bee Branch, Arkansas on Sunday, November 3 to give a report to the brethren about our work and to preach the gospel. Brother Joe Spaulding and his wife, Donna, work with the church at Colony and they continue to be an inspiration to everyone who knows them. Although Joe "retired" many years ago from teaching at Harding and ACU, they have never really retired at all! I believe that the most effective work for the Lord that they have ever done has been done since their "retirement." May God bless you, Joe and Donna, with many more years of productive service.

We are thankful for the brethren who make up the Lord's church in Oskaloosa,

Iowa. It was a pleasure to be with them the second week of November. The church in Oskaloosa is now at a very critical time in their ministry. They have been receiving support, which enabled them to have a full time preacher for the past few years. However, that support is being decreased and they must find another source of support or Brother Anthony Melakian and his family will not be able to continue their work with the congregation. They need help with \$500 per month immediately and will possibly need additional support beginning in January, 2004. The attendance averages about 30-35 each service.

Their contribution is very good when one considers that most of the Christians there are living on fixed incomes. The few younger couples who are members there are able to give substantially, and they are doing so. I believe that they are doing about all that they can do financially themselves. If your congregation has available funds to help some worthy work, let me urge you to contact the brethren at Oskaloosa as soon as possible.

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From Ted's Pen (Cont.)

Here are some brethren that you can contact for further information. Wendell Schultz at 641-933-4819; Jim Street at 641-933-4455; Randy Schultz at 641-622-2224; or Anthony Melakian at 641-673-7425. I also would be happy to come and talk with anyone who would like to have further information about this need.

We were privileged to be with the following Arkansas congregations during November: Cave City, Southside at Batesville, Harding Street at Morrilton, and Plummerville. These brethren all help with our support and it was a pleasure to give a report on our work and preach in these places.

Here is our schedule for the month of December. December 1 I will give a report and preach at all the services of the church at Liberty here very close to home in Conway. December 2-5 we will be in Destin, Florida. On the return trip we will go to Jasper, Alabama on December 6-8 for a time of special emphasis on mission work. On Sunday, Barbara will speak to a combined ladies group while I speak to all the men. I will then preach at both services and report on our work in the U.S. and in Romania. These brethren are heavily involved in missions in various places, especially in Romania. December 15 we will be with the church at Jerusalem, Arkansas for the morning services and with Overcup congregation near Morrilton, Arkansas for the evening services. December 22 we will be at Bellefonte, Arkansas and then we are tenta-

tively scheduled to close out 2002 with the Mars Hill congregation on December 29.

EVANGELISTICALLY SPEAKING LECTURES

We are already trying to inform as many brethren throughout the country as we possibly can of the fourth annual Evangelistically Speaking Lectureship. It is scheduled for April 11-13, 2003 and as usual the lectures will be presented at the Mars Hill congregation near Vilonia, Arkansas. We are hoping that there will be very few conflicting meetings in the area and that brethren from far and near will come to be taught and motivated to become more involved in evangelism. We are looking for vans and buses from many places filled with brothers and sisters who are excited about evangelism. One special feature this year will be a class for ladies only, and it will be taught by Barbara Knight. We are urging our readers to plan now to come and be with us and to help us spread the word to others about the lectureship. We pray that this will be a great time of instruction and motivation that might cause some soul to be led to Christ. Additional information regarding the lectureship, including lodging and travel information, can be found on our website at <http://www.evangelisticallyspeaking.net>.

ROMANIA KINDERGARTEN

We were informed by e-mail on November 29 that four of the children in the kindergarten in Pitesti, Romania were in the hospital with influenza. Several others also were sick,

but will in the kindergarten. Local Christians in Pitesti bought medicine for them, and we are hoping and praying that all of them will soon be well. The director of the kindergarten made a special plea for children's vitamins and that need is being supplied.

The local Christians are also buying two ovens for them to be able to provide hot food for the children. They had an old oven that had worn out so it is being replaced with two new ones and that will be a great improvement. They are also supplying each child with a bag of fruit, candy, and yogurt, which will last them for two weeks. And, they will buy more medicine next week.

We are so thankful for the assistance that many of you give for the care of these children. We will be taking medicine for the children when we go in February. Your love and support has made life much, much, better for these children and we love you and thank God for your concerns for them.

A PERSONAL NOTE

In our last published report we noted that we needed to raise some additional support to replace some that had been lost. We were notified on November 27 that the monthly premium for our health insurance was being increased. This usually happens every December and about July or August of every year. On January 1 our monthly health insurance costs will increase to \$1,459.44. This is an increase of \$123.00 each month. Therefore, it is even more needful for us to raise some additional funds. We were

needing to replace \$300 per month that we lost during the year and now we have the increased health care costs so we need to raise even more to cover that. I would be happy to come and visit with any congregation or eldership about these needs. If you are interested, please contact us at the address on this paper or call us at 501-327-6116.

One other personal note as well. Barbara had an examination with her throat specialist on November 7 and he told her that she would not have to come back for another exam unless she had some kind of problem. There is no sign of throat cancer and so he dismissed her. On November 6 she had an examination from her oncologist and she told Barbara that she was doing so well that she would not need to see her for one year. She normally would see her at least every six months. Isn't God good? Our prayers have been heard and we will continue to pray. Thanks to all of you who have prayed so much for her.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

This season of the year is a wonderful time. We do not celebrate the birthday of Jesus on December 25, but we do enjoy the time of loving fellowship of family and friends. It is a time of reflection for us about how wonderfully blessed we are and a time when we find pleasure in giving to others, especially those who are in genuine need. Barbara and I extend to you our best wishes for a very happy holiday season, and we pray that 2003 will be a year of blessings for you. May God bless and keep you in His loving care is our prayer.

UPCOMING PLANS

December 2002

DECEMBER 1
 Liberty Congregation
 Conway, Arkansas

DECEMBER 6-8
 Mission Workshop
 Jasper, Alabama

DECEMBER 15
 Jerusalem, Arkansas (AM)
 Overcup Congregation
 Morrilton, Arkansas (PM)

DECEMBER 22
 Bellefonte, Arkansas

DECEMBER 29
 Mars Hill Congregation
 Vilonia, Arkansas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Liberty Conway, AR</i>	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Mission Workshop Jasper, AL</i>	7 <i>Mission Workshop Jasper, AL</i>
8 <i>Mission Workshop Jasper, AL</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 <i>Jerusalem, AR Overcup Morrilton, AR</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 <i>Bellefonte, AR</i>	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 <i>Mars Hill Vilonia, AR</i>	30	31				

The Glory Days *by Ted Knight*

Brother Ward Hogland recently wrote an article with the title, "The Glory Days." In it he mentioned that Brother James P. Miller often referred to some of the times of the past as "Glory Days" in the church.

Brother Hogland has in his possession a paper called "Facts and Figures" which was printed in May, 1952. In that issue it was reported that the Church of Christ was the fastest growing church in America and some facts were given as proof.

During the first four months of 1952 (January-April) it was reported that 6,402 people were baptized into Christ! There were people from thirteen denominations converted during that time, including fourteen denomi-

national preachers! In addition, fifty-five new congregations were established and thirty-four religious debates were conducted.

What brought about such phenomenal growth? First, Christians talked more freely about the gospel and studied with others. I remember going to services in my Dad's truck with the back filled with neighbors whom we had invited to go with us. I recall Sunday afternoons when our front yard was full of people who were talking about the church, the plan of salvation, and such. We were far more evangelistic then than we are at the present. We reached outward instead of inward.

Second, there were gospel meetings everywhere, espe-

cially during the summer months, and they lasted two to three weeks at a time. During 1946 three of my older brothers were part of a group of 46 who were baptized in the Gum Slough Ditch during a meeting with Brother V.E. Howard. Brother Howard recounted this meeting with me just a few years ago. Now, many brethren are convinced that gospel meetings will not work and have discarded that practice in favor of one-to three-day programs.

Third, we weren't afraid to confront error and were knowledgeable enough in the scriptures to do so successfully. Do you older readers remember the time when Christians were referred to as "Walking Bibles?" Religious debates were con-

ducted regularly. At times the spirit of the debaters was not what it should have been, but the truth reigned and souls were led to the Lord. Today, we are lacking in knowledge and fearful that we will "hurt someone's feelings" to the point that, in many cases, we are just joining them instead of studying with them.

Yes, there have been many glory days in the Lord's church. And, let me hasten to add...in spite of the things that I have just written, I DON'T THINK THAT THE GLORY DAYS ARE ALL PAST! I am hoping and praying that there will be a revival of interest in evangelism and that some wonderful glory days are ahead of us. Let us all pray for that!

EVANGELISTICALLY SPEAKING
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FOR THE LORD, PLEASE
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