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February—March 2002

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

**"My son, keep my words,
and treasure my
commands within you.
Keep my commands
and live, and
my law as the apple
of your eye."
- Proverbs 7:1-2**

Isn't it wonderful that we are not left without instruction and guidance in life? We have been given direction by the Creator of the universe and are not left to our own devices and are not dependent upon our own intellect to know what is right and what is wrong. When the law of the Lord becomes the apple of our eye, and the decisions that we make are based upon His law, life is going to be fruitful and happy.

The first month of the new year is now gone. We had a full schedule and hopefully the work was fruitful in the vineyard of the Lord.

We worked with congregations at Mars Hill, Formosa, Bay, Mammoth Spring, Colony, and Pocahontas here in Arkansas. We also enjoyed participating in the Romanian/Albanian/Moldova/Kosovo Workshop in

Gresham, Oregon. It was good to meet brethren who are working in all of those places and to learn of the efforts being made to spread the gospel in these countries. I also enjoyed sharing with them what we are doing in our work in Romania. Since it was the first time that Barbara and I had been in that part of the United States we took advantage of the opportunity to see some of the beautiful country when we had the time available.

We were treated to a special trip up on Mount Hood where the temperature was about 20 degrees below zero and the snow was blowing so hard that it was difficult to see. But the skiers were having a great time. Brother and Sister Bill Dryden and their son, Tom, who are originally from Greenbrier, Arkansas took us on this wonderful tour and took us out to eat two wonderful meals. We have known the Dryden's for a long time and they made our first visit to Oregon and most pleasant and enjoyable one.

On January 14 it was my pleasure to host the monthly

preachers Bible study here in Conway. I had invited Brother David Smith, a noted cardiologist from Little Rock and a deacon in the Lord's church, to speak to us concerning stem cell research and Biblical ethics. We had the largest crowd that we have ever had for one of our studies and Brother Smith did a wonderful job presenting some material on this subject.

I learned more that day than I have learned in just one day in a very long time. If you ever have an opportunity to hear him speak on this subject, I would certainly advise you to do so.

This issue of ES will be for the months of February and March both. As you will see in our schedule, we will not be at home until the very last of March in order to prepare another issue.

LECTURESHIP SERIES

The Third Annual Evangelistically Speaking Lectureship is scheduled for April 12-14. It will be conducted at the

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From Ted's Pen (Continued)

Mars Hill church building located on the White/Faulkner county line just off Highway 64 between Beebe and Vilonia, Arkansas. Speakers include Harvey Starling, Jim Davis, Bob Harris, Harold Turner, Leo Rainey, Clyde Slimp, Marty Knight, David Riley, Ariz Ortiz, Jose Martinez, and Ted Knight.

Harvey Starling will begin the series with a sermon on the subject, "The Fields are White, Laborers are Few" on Friday evening at 7:00. Other topics include the following:

- **The Parable of the Sower**
- **The Prodigal Son**
- **Let Down Your Nets**
- **Young People and Soul Winning**
- **Don't Leave God Out of Your Efforts**
- **Are You Ready to Be a Soul Winner**
- **The Effects of Soul Winning**

There will be two special sessions. On Saturday afternoon a panel of brethren will discuss the work among the Spanish among the congregations throughout the area. On Saturday evening special emphasis will be given to the work of young people in soul winning and we are inviting and expecting young people from all the congregations in the area to come and be a part of this meeting.

We hope that all of our readers in the section of the country will plan to attend this lectureship and be informed and inspired to greater in-

volvement in evangelism. If you need more information please contact me or Brother David Riley and we will be glad to assist you. David may be reached at 501-796-2052 and my phone number is 501-327-6116.

Thank you brethren, for your continued prayers and support on our behalf. God is richly blessing us through your faithful and loyal support and we pledge to do our best to reach as many as possible with the powerful gospel of Jesus Christ. May God bless you.

Where Are We Headed?

By Ted Knight

When I was a youngster a preacher came to our home congregation at Bay, Arkansas to conduct a gospel meeting. One night during that meeting I was baptized into Christ. On Sunday of that meeting the preacher was not there and I later learned that he had been sent home because the elders believed that he was teaching error. A few years later a congregation in another town nearby split and I was told that it was over some "issues" that I knew nothing about. A little later I learned that these "issues" involved churches supporting "Orphan's Homes." I had no idea what was going on except that I saw congregations and even families being divided over these things.

In my second year of preaching on a full time basis, I moved to work with a congregation that had split over these

"issues." I attended a debate between Brother Bill Heinselman and Brother Glen Shaver. I remember thinking that this was a sad time in the church and I wished that divisions like these would stop.

One of the things that I remember most was the prediction of the brethren who opposed supporting the orphans homes, that many, many other things would begin to be accepted and practiced by brethren through the years to come. And, the opposing brethren boldly declared that such would not happen.

Forty years have passed since those days. During those years we went through a time of very rapid growth. Evangelism was emphasized and churches of Christ were recognized as one of the fastest growing religious bodies in the entire world. Campaigns and gospel meetings were conducted everywhere. New congregations were planted all over the world. Mission work in foreign countries was strong and preachers schools were springing up to train men to preach the gospel of Christ. "Our" colleges were strong and people were proud to send their children to receive their education and maybe even meet their Christian mate and begin the building of a happy home.

But, in the last ten to fifteen years things have been changing rapidly. Today it is hard to even recognize the Lord's church as the distinctive, unique Body of Christ as it was in days gone by. More and more innovations of men have made their way into the work of the church. Mission work has declined drastically. We are hardly growing at all. We are merging instead of multiplying. Very, very, few

congregations are being planted in the nations and cities of our world. Most of "our" colleges are no longer holding fast to sound doctrine. Our money is being spent on building gymnasiums (although we call them "family life centers") and other things to provide for our interests instead of preaching the gospel to the world. Congregations are dividing all over the brotherhood over whether our worship services should be "contemporary" or "traditional." Fellowship with the denominational world is a common practice. God's will regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage is almost completely ignored. The role of women in the church according to the Bible is considered by many to be outdated and irrelevant. The authority of elders has been challenged and replaced by a majority rule system. There are so many "isms" among us that we should be ashamed.

In spite of these things I believe that the church will live forever. I know that it will because the Bible says that it will - Daniel 2:44. I know many, many, individual Christians and congregations that still serve the Lord faithfully and are seeking to reach others with the saving message of God's grace. There are many knees that have not yet bowed at the feet of false teachers and have not left the old paths. God be thanked for every one of them! Let us boldly hold up their hands and join the battle against Satan and sin and proclaim the blessed gospel of Jesus to the whole world. Where are we headed? We are headed to heaven if we will keep our eyes on Jesus and hold fast to the Word of God! If not, we are headed for destruction. That's the plain and simple truth.

UPCOMING PLANS

February 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Greenbrier Arkansas	4	5 Romania	6 Romania	7 Romania	8 Romania	9 Romania
10 Romania	11 Romania	12 Romania	13 Romania	14 Romania	15 Romania	16 Romania
17 Romania	18 Romania	19 Romania	20 Romania	21 Romania	22 Romania	23 Romania
24 Romania	25 Romania	26 Romania	27	28		

FEBRUARY 3

Greenbrier, Arkansas
Missions Sunday

FEBRUARY 5-26

Romania

MARCH 1-9

Casa Grande, Arizona

MARCH 17

Morley, Missouri

MARCH 24-29

Caney, Arkansas

March 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Casa Grande, AZ	2 Casa Grande, AZ
3 Casa Grande, AZ	4 Casa Grande, AZ	5 Casa Grande, AZ	6 Casa Grande, AZ	7 Casa Grande, AZ	8 Casa Grande, AZ	9 Casa Grande, AZ
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Morley Missouri	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Caney Arkansas	25 Caney Arkansas	26 Caney Arkansas	27 Caney Arkansas	28 Caney Arkansas	29 Caney Arkansas	30
31						

Diagnosing the Problem *By Marty Knight*

A young man with whom I work suffered a fall during one of last winter's ice storms. He broke several ribs and was treated for the pain, but never considered that the fall could have long-term implications. However, during the summer he began experiencing some numbness in his lower limbs. During the fall the numbness progressed to paralysis.

Of course, he became increasingly alarmed at the fact that doctors could not diagnose the cause of his problem. Finally, during the month of December the doctors discovered a rare condition—pockets of fluid that were building up in his spine—that was causing pressure. Left untreated this condition would eventually

result in total paralysis from the waist down. Thankfully, he was successfully treated with surgery and all is well.

As I've considered Michael's problem, it occurred to me that many churches are experiencing a similar dilemma. I don't mean parallels with the fall he suffered or with the pain he was enduring.

I'm referring to the fact that an undiagnosed problem exists within many congregations. Sadly, if that problem is not diagnosed quickly and resolved, many of these churches will suffer total paralysis.

The problem to which I am referring is a lack of growth. Ask yourself this question: has my congregation grown

in the past year? How about the past 5 years? 10 years? 20 years? Many of you who read this live in communities that have grown in size over that length of time. Has the growth of the church kept pace with the growth within our community?

If your local congregation has kept pace with the growth of the community, don't be *too* quick to congratulate yourself. You see, it may be that you're "swelling instead of growing" as one preacher I know is fond of saying. Growth is due to relocating members.

The ultimate question we must consider is this: **Are we reaching the lost?** I fear that many churches of Christ today have lost their focus on

evangelism. Programs of edification and fellowship are highly visible. Unfortunately they are much more common than new and innovative programs of evangelism.

Correction of a problem such as this one begins with diagnosis and diagnosis begins with information. While the church of Christ is not known for our recordkeeping, it is data that will tell us how proficient we are at reaching the lost and keeping them faithful. I would encourage church leaders to begin gathering information about their flock. Know the membership intimately and understand when trends are developing. Recognizing a problem and treating it in time can save us from spiritual paralysis.

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
John Bishop
From
Marie Bishop

IF YOU CAN ASSIST THE
KNIGHTS IN THEIR WORK
FOR THE LORD, PLEASE
SEND YOUR DONATIONS
IN ANY AMOUNT TO:

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