

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

is published monthly
by Mission Evangelism

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From Ted's Pen

**"Commit your works to
the Lord, and He will
establish your thoughts."**

- Proverbs 16:3

When a person becomes a Christian he/she must surrender completely to the Lord's will. That is quite a commitment. One should not consider such a thing lightly because it is not a temporary arrangement, but a permanent one. Have you made such a commitment to the Lord? I hope that you will if you have not done so, because it is by far the most rewarding and happy life that one could ever imagine.

We enjoyed a great meeting with the church in Michigan City, Indiana October 6-9. When we arrived we learned that there had been some recent problems, mostly communication problems, and that some of the brethren had begun worshipping elsewhere. We did a lot of praying and studying and there were several responses to the invitation and things have greatly improved. There were a lot of "I love you's and "forgive me" mixed in with a lot of tears shed by some wonderful people who wanted everything to be right among them. Also, a lady whom we have known from

over forty years and who at one time was a co-worker of Barbara's, was restored to her first love and we thank God for Sister Thelma Blake.

A man came out of the building at the last service and said, "Your lesson moved me; it really moved me." I called back as soon as I got home and told one of the brethren there about that, and he told me that the gentleman had already called him and expressed the desire and intent to become a Christian. The church has just begun a new chapter in its history with a new preacher, Brother Gordon Wonzy and his wife Beulah. We are praying that some great days are ahead for our beloved brethren in Michigan City.

It was such a thrill on Sunday, October 13 to see our son, Marty, baptize our youngest granddaughter, Kyndall, into Christ. Kyndall is Marty and Lisa's younger daughter. I cannot describe the feeling that comes with the knowledge that all of our children and grandchildren are now Christians. It just doesn't get any better than this.

On October 19 Barbara enjoyed a Ladies Day with the Pyburn Street congregation at

Pocahontas, Arkansas. I accompanied her and had the pleasure of visiting with some of the brethren while the ladies were having their program. The Pyburn Street church is a really fine congregation and has a rich history of service to the Lord.

On October 20 I preached at Heber Springs, Arkansas. These brethren are looking for a preacher to move there to work with the church. There have been some recent problems and we are praying that these will be resolved and a spirit of unity and peace will prevail as they work together to build the Lord's church in Heber Springs.

It was a great pleasure to be with the Lebanon church of Christ in Sedalia, Kentucky for a gospel meeting October 27-30. We had never been in this area before. Brother Gary Hill and his wife, Mondean, work with the Lebanon congregation and were instrumental in convincing the elders to invite me for the meeting. This fine congregation meets a few miles out of town on the highway between Murray and Mayfield, Kentucky. We really enjoyed the meeting with them.

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From Ted's Pen (Cont.)

One of the highlights of this trip to Kentucky was to be able to visit with some longtime and dear friends. Brother Wendell Needham and his wife Helen, lives in Murray, Kentucky near their daughter Brenda and her family. Brother Needham preached the gospel for 59 years until he had a stroke and also came down with Parkinson's disease. He is now able to use a cane to get around and we were thrilled on Monday night of the meeting when the Needham's walked into the Lebanon building. On Tuesday we went to visit them in their apartment at Glendale Place, a retirement home in Murray.

The Needham's are two of the most beloved and most highly respected people that we know. I could write several pages about what they have meant to Barbara and me and many others throughout the country. Brother Needham has preached the gospel all over the U.S. and in several foreign countries. Sister Needham has taught ladies classes and special Ladies Day programs throughout the country as well. Their example, especially for younger preachers and their wives, has been and continues to be a splendid one. We thank God for them and pray that they will continue to enjoy serving the Lord in the most effective way possible in Murray.

We learned that on Saturday, October 26 our Brother Frank Strovers from the West Liberty church of Christ in Montezuma, Iowa passed away. Brother Frank had celebrated his 100th birthday in June of this year. He was a splendid man and brother in Christ.

The Levy congregation in North Little Rock, Arkansas had their annual Harvest Sunday contribution on Sunday, October 27. We had challenged the church to give \$65,000 for special mission work on that day. We have been informed that the total contribution on October 27 exceeded \$114,000 with about \$61,000 of that earmarked for mission work and the rest for the regular contribution and the building fund contribution. The goal of of \$65,000 is expected to be reached with several late contributions. What a great day!

I have known several elderships through the years that would not allow the congregation to be challenged to give a "special" contribution. There are several reasons for such an attitude and I am certainly not judging elders who are trying to do their best for the flock under their oversight. However, I have seen some wonderful results in the past few years when brethren were challenged to give sacrificially for some good work that may not have been included in the regular budget.

The Levy congregation had planned for and had a "special" contribution on September 29 for a building program, and then on October 27 had one for their annual Harvest Sunday. During the planning stages for these programs the regular contribution has increased considerably and the two special offerings were just wonderful. It is my opinion that the opportunity to give to some special work may be a great blessing indeed. I am thankful for Levy and the elders as they challenge brethren to give liberally.

ROMANIA REPORT

Brother Vernon Starling and a team of teachers worked in Pitesti and Craiova both during the month of October. Two were baptized into Christ during their work. Since that time two others have been baptized into Christ by the local Christians. Brother Harvey Starling will be leading a team of 10 workers to both cities during November. It is exciting to see the congregations growing.

We are still perplexed in our attempts to get a building for the congregation in Craiova. Each time that some property is found, there is some legal problem that arises that prevents us getting it. There are some very serious title problems with a lot of the property in Romania and we would not dare buy something unless the title can be completely clear and free of other entanglements. We believe that the Lord knows what is best for the church there and when the time is right and conditions are favorable we will have the opportunity to have a building. Until then we continue to pray that His will be done in this regard.

Brother Harry Middleton and two other brethren are now in Slatina, Romania attempting to plant a congregation in this city. It is located between Pitesti and Craiova and we are praying that their work will be fruitful and that a congregation can be started there on a permanent basis.

OUR SUPPORT

We are asked occasionally about how we receive the support for our work. Many people believe that the Levy congregation provides our full support because

we work under the oversight of the Levy elders. However, Levy provides about 15% of the personal support that we must have in order to continue this work. The rest is provided by individuals and congregations that we have known through the years.

Most of our supporters have been helping us for years. But, there are occasions when a congregation or individual must discontinue their help. We had one congregation this year that had to discontinue their support of \$100 per month. Another had to reduce their support by \$200 per month. To my knowledge there has never been an individual or congregation that reduced or discontinued their support because they were not satisfied with our work, but because of problems in their own situation that made it necessary to make an adjustment.

We are now trying to make up some of that loss. With the increased expense of travel, lodging, trading vehicles, health insurance, and such we need to obtain some additional support. One of the ways that our readers might be able to help is with "year end" contributions.

Contributions to the "Levy Mission Evangelism Fund" are tax-deductible and they are very helpful to us. If you are interested in helping with our work, we would be happy to come and talk with you and answer any questions that you may have.

Thank you brethren for your faithful support through the years. May God bless and keep you in His loving care is our prayer for you.

-Ted

UPCOMING PLANS

NOVEMBER 3
 Colony Congregation
 Bee Branch, Arkansas

NOVEMBER 8-10
 Gospel Meeting
 Oskaloosa, Iowa

NOVEMBER 12
 Central Arkansas Fellowship
 Plummerville, Arkansas

NOVEMBER 17
 Cave City, Arkansas (AM)
 Southside Congregation
 Batesville, Arkansas (PM)

NOVEMBER 24
 Harding St. Congregation
 Morrilton, Arkansas (AM)
 Plumerville, Arkansas (PM)

November 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Colony, Bee Branch, AR</i>	4	5	6	7	8 <i>Gospel Meeting Oskaloosa, LA</i>	9 <i>Gospel Meeting Oskaloosa, LA</i>
10 <i>Gospel Meeting Oskaloosa, LA</i>	11	12 <i>Central Arkansas Christian Fellowship</i>	13	14	15	16
17 <i>Cave City, AR; Southside, Batesville, AR</i>	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <i>Harding St., Morrilton, AR; Plumerville, AR</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30

A Missed Opportunity at Friendship—Mickey *by Marty Knight*

Isn't it funny how the memories of our childhood shape us? I had the good fortune of spending seven years of my childhood in a great neighborhood in the Levy section of North Little Rock. A typical neighborhood of the 1960's, it was a close-knit area where there were no strangers—everyone knew their neighbor and cared for them.

One of the most powerful memories I have involved a young man from that neighborhood who suffered from cerebral palsy. His name was Mickey and he was in his late teens when I first met him. Mickey wore a football helmet at all times. It was there to protect him from injury when he suffered the frequent seizures that accompany that disorder. Most of us who lived there were familiar with Mickey's disability and watched out for him. It was not unusual for us to witness the horrible things that occurred when he seized.

I remember being scared of Mickey. He was a gentle soul, but it was frightening to a boy of 6 to see a grown man who had very little control over his body. As I grew older those feelings of fear moved toward compassion and sympathy. I remember my heart being touched as I saw Mickey suffer. I can only imagine the challenges that he faced in life. We left that neighborhood in 1973 and my thoughts of Mickey subsided.

I thought of Mickey recently and it brought to mind the story of David and his show of compassion toward the descendant of Saul—Mephibosheth—in 2 Samuel 9. Like Mickey, Mephibosheth suffered from a disability. It was a condition that—like Mickey's—must have caused him a great deal of pain both physically and emotionally.

2 Samuel 9:8 contains one of the most heartbreaking statements in all the Bible when

Mephibosheth tells David, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

David's response should inspire us. Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathon, the son of Saul whom David loved with all his heart. David took this young man—the son of his closest friend—into his own house and treated him as a son. What a marvelous demonstration of compassion and forgiveness on the part of David! We don't have to look far to find those around us who are hurting and need our love and compassion. Opportunities to do good abound.

I hadn't thought of Mickey in years. As I mentioned earlier, my memories of him were stored away in that vault of experiences that shape us and mold us. Then I opened the paper on Saturday, October 26 and listed there in the obituaries was the name—Michael Dennis "Mickey" Ingle. It was

accompanied by a picture and I instantly recognized that face from my past.

As I read his obituary I realized that there were so many things about Mickey that I did not know. With assistance from support organizations he was able to live on his own for many years. He graduated from North Little Rock High School in 1968. He loved our Arkansas Razorbacks. He was active in his church.

It was then that I realized that, trapped inside that flawed body, had been a regular guy. Not a person to be frightened of, but rather a person I should have admired for staring down some of life's cruelest challenges.

It was also then that I came to the realization that I had missed out on a friendship. May we always strive to overcome our fear of the unknown and look for opportunities to reach out to those in need.

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By

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