

Evangelistically Speaking

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Special points of interest:

- Be praying for the nearly 12,000 souls who are currently enrolled in Bible correspondence courses within the Arges, Dolj, and Olt districts of Romania.
- Happy holidays and seasons greetings to all from the Knight family!

From Ted's Pen

Author Ragnar Arlander tells about the time he and some friends were climbing Mt. Rainier. At a certain point they decided that they had gone far enough and that they would go back down. Arlander continued to climb to find one of their friends who had gone on ahead. When he found the man he was sitting and resting while gazing at a beautiful glacier. The man was ready to go back too, but when he saw Arlander approaching he jumped up and shouted, "Since you've come, let's go higher."

In Acts 28 Paul was traveling to Rome when he met some of the other believers. In verse 15 the Bible says, "When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage." There is something encouraging about seeing and

knowing others who are interested in the same things that interest us. This is especially true when we see and know those who are interested in trying to reach as many people as possible with the gospel of Christ. There are so many of you who lift us up when we are discouraged and want to quit and we are thankful for each one of you. You inspire us to keep on climbing and doing our best to share the message of salvation with more and more people. Thank you for your love and faithful and loyal support.

During the month of November we have been very busy visiting with some of the congregations that have helped to support us for a long time. It was a joy to be with the Colony congregation



near Bee Branch, Arkansas on November 9. Brother Joe Spaulding and his wife, Donna, continue to do a great work with the church there. Brother Joe and Sister Donna have been "retired" for about thirty years, but during this time they have worked full time with several congregations and established one new congregation. They are amazing Christians and, in their advanced years, continue to do a great work for the Lord.

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Marty's Thoughts

geria who needs you to transfer 150 million dollars, or junk notes with seedier content.

For some time now our home congregation has been using e-mail for something much more productive. As I'm sure other congregations are doing, Robinson and Center has an electronic prayer chain which allows us to share our needs with others in a very timely fashion. It is used daily. Off the top of my head I would guess that there are 50 to 75 families who are a part of this ministry. It is such a comforting thing to know that you have a vehicle for sharing your deepest and most heartfelt needs with a group of Christians who care and are willing to pray for you.

After receiving one of these notes today, my good friend and sister in Christ Patti Summers had this to say:

May I just comment on how life has changed, that these days I do some of my best and most needed praying for my brothers and sisters sitting in front of a computer screen? And how comforting it is to know that when the hard time comes upon my family, as it inevitably does for each of us, the prayer chain can start from a hundred different hearts in just a moment. Amazing.

Well said! If you aren't part of one of these prayer chains, let me encourage you to do so. It will be a tremendous blessing to you and others.

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From Ted's Pen (Continued)

On the evening of November 9 I preached at Greenbrier in the absence of Bob Turner who is the preacher there. On Sunday November 16 I gave a report and preached at Cave City, Arkansas at the morning services and at the Southside congregation at Batesville, Arkansas that evening. Both of these congregations are growing and they are wonderful supporters of our work.

On Sunday, November 23 I preached at the morning services at Gravel Hill which is located near Dover, Arkansas. This congregation was one of the very first to begin supporting our work twelve years ago. They have always been an inspiration to us and continue to be so encouraging to our work. They are growing and have had to make additional room for the assembly for worship. Brother Bill Roderick has been preaching there for several years, but there are also several other men in the congregation who preach at area churches.

It was a pleasure to be with the Downtown congregation at Morrilton, Arkansas to give a report on our work that evening. Brother Mickey Burleson is the preacher at Downtown and is doing a fine work. We closed out the month with the church that meets at Harrison and Willow Streets here in Conway on November 30. These brethren have also been a great help to our work through the years and we always love to have the opportunity to worship with them. Brother John Phillips, Sr. is the preacher and has worked with the church there for many years. We have had a good relationship with the Harrison and Willow congregation for almost 30 years and we thank God for them.

ROMANIA UPDATES

The work in Romania continues to grow and move forward with great success. This has been a wonderful year for the Lord's work there. New congregations have been established and many

have been baptized into Christ. On February 21, 2003 a mail-out was sent into every home in three districts of Romania. Since that time over 11,000 people have enrolled in our World Wide Bible Study courses and are studying the word of God with Romanian Christians. We are thrilled with the volunteer efforts of the local Christians who devote many hours to grading the lessons, mailing them back, answering questions, and all the other work that it takes to get this accomplished. It would be impossible to even estimate the good that has been and continues to be done. Here are some of the things that have been done to this point.

SLATINA

Brother Harry Middleton has led a group in establishing a congregation in the City of Slatina. The church meets each Lord's day in the House Of Culture and Brother Sorin Dina preaches for the church there each Sunday. At this time three have been baptized into Christ and many others are studying in the WWBS course.

VALEA STANCUILUI

A number have been baptized into Christ at Valea Stancuului and have started meeting at 5:00 p.m. each Sunday afternoon. Brother Ion Fratostiteanu from Craiova drives there each Sunday to preach for these brethren.

CIORIASI

The congregation at Cioroiasi continues to meet with between 10-15 in attendance. Brother Ion Fratostiteanu preaches there at 2:00 p.m. each Sunday. There are twelve Christians in the congregation. We are desperately in need of a more suitable meeting place for the church there.

BENEVOLENCE / BIBLES

Hundreds of Bibles have been distributed to those who are enrolled in the WWBS course. They have no way of studying if they do not have a Bible. We continue to work through the local church in helping the thirty-five children who are in the kindergarten in Pitesti. We did have 29 there, but I have

just learned that there are now 35 of them from infants through age 4. We supply them with food, medicine, clothes, laundry detergent, bedding supplies, and the other things necessary to care for a group of children this large.

Brother Harvey and Sister Pat Starling are in Romania at this time. Harvey is doing everything that he can to find a more suitable place for the church to meet in Craiova and Cioroiasi. The church in Craiova meets in a room in the House of Culture for Students and it is not a good place at all, but the best that we have been able to find to this point. They have raised the rental charges from about \$10 per week just to meet on Sunday to almost \$70 for the two hours that the church meets each week.

We have always conducted our one to one Bible studies there during the week and they have raised the rent for that to almost \$30 per hour. So, we are simply not able to meet there any longer except for Sunday. Harvey is working diligently to find a better place to either rent or buy so that we can do a better job. Several times we have thought that we were about to purchase property and then some problem would come up and destroy the possibility of buying it. We are asking you to please join us in prayer that a good place will become available in both of these places and that we can get this problem settled and proceed with building the church in Craiova and Cioroiasi. When suitable arrangements are made we are going to need funds to help pay for them and we will be calling upon you to help us.

Barbara and I will be returning to Romania for the month of February to work in Pitesti and Craiova and we hope also to visit with the other congregations as well. Marty will also work in Craiova for about two weeks during February. There is so much to be done while we are there that we simply cannot do it all. I talked with Pat Starling this week and she said that there is so much to do that it is simply overwhelming. It seems the more that you do, the more there is to be done. She told me about

visiting some of the WWBS students in a village where they had asked for someone to come and study with them. She saw the postman riding down the street on his bicycle and he was distributing the lessons and Bibles that had been sent through the mail. The postman was enrolled in the course. She told me that several of the children who had received a children's Bible told her that they took their Bible to school to show it to others only to have them taken away by the Orthodox priest and destroyed. The children said that if she would give them another Bible they would not let the priest know they had them.

We ask for your prayers for the Christians who live in Romania. They are wonderful people and live under very difficult circumstances, but they have a great spirit and you would love them if you could meet them. We miss them when we are away from them and always cherish the time that we get to work with them in building the Lord's church. Please pray for Harvey and Pat Starling as they work there at the present time.

We are looking forward to 2004 and the work that is now planned. I do have some time available for meetings here in the U.S. and if you would like for us to come, please get in touch with us. We are excited about the coming of the new year and pray that it will be the very best one ever in our work for the Master. Thanks to all of you who support us, pray for us, and encourage us along the way. May God bless you is our prayer.

The Knight family wishes all of you a very merry Christmas and a wonderful and happy New Year. So many of you help to make our holidays most enjoyable and pleasant and we are thankful to God for you. It is our prayer that your holiday season will be filled with joy and that 2004 will be the very best year that it can be. May God bless all of you is our prayer.

Passion and Plans *by Marty Knight*

Over the past several months I've shared with you some of my motivation for developing the Spiritual Project Management program. I hope that the things I've said have helped you understand the concepts that drive me.

I recently had the opportunity to sit around a table with a group of deacons and ministers as they were discussing the work of their local congregation. I filtered this conversation through the lens of an observer—one who is trying to help church leaders improve in the way that they plan.

One deacon commented, "We have a great deal of passion, but no plan." We all laughed heartily at the reply of another deacon, "That sounds a lot like a teenage boy!"

After the laughter subsided one of the ministers observed, "You know the opposite can be true. It's possible to have a plan, but have no passion. Just like an old man!"

There is a great deal of truth in all of these comments. Such simple statements, yet powerful words of advice for church leaders. In order for any organization to be successful there must be a balance between passion and logic. Too much of either will prove costly in the long run.

How many times have you witnessed a group of people accomplish great things while riding an emotional high? For example, a team of athletes can do wonder-

ful things when highly motivated. However, that emotion will eventually wear off and reality will settle in it's place.

Virtually every day for the past seven years, I have had lunch with a group of 3 to 4 men. One of them, Tom, had a son who was the same age as my daughter, Brittany. Tom's son, Matthew, was a lot like Brittany in that they were both very athletic—a fact that gave Tom and I a great deal to talk about over lunch.

For Matt, everything was in place for his senior football season to be a very special one. He was the starting quarterback for his team—a natural born leader around whom the coaches had re-tooled their offense. Matt led his team to victory during the first Friday night of the season in glorious fashion.

Two days later, on a routine trip to a nearby store, Matt lost control of his car and suffered a fatal head injury. He died on September 12.

It would have been very easy for his teammates to fold as virtually everyone expected them to do. They took the field and defeated their archrival just hours after Matt's death. It would not have surprised anyone if these young men had collapsed following such an emotional event.

In one of the most amazing stories in recent Arkansas sports history, Matt's team ran off eleven straight wins, reaching the

semi-finals of the state playoffs before losing their first game of the year.

The thing that has been most impressive about this group is their maturity. To a man, they will never forget Matt and losing him will forever be painful to them. I do not use the word "man" loosely when referring to these guys. Once the emotion wore off, as it inevitably does, they dedicated themselves to a plan and that plan was to win for their fallen friend and for themselves. And at the heart of that plan was their coach.

A leader with over 30 years experience, this coach helped them understand that in order for them to be successful, they must play with both their head and their hearts. Their hearts filled with dedication toward a fallen friend and their heads focused on executing a very detailed plan.

Where does this leave us as a church? What lesson can we take from this story?

I believe with all my heart that the great commission which Jesus gave His apostles—and to us—before His ascension was filled with passion and logic.

Is it possible to go to "all the world" and teach the lost without feeling emotional and passionate about those who are dying in sin? Certainly not! A love for the lost is what motivates us! But that emotion will only carry us so far. Before we can accomplish so great a task—whether it be in Romania, Guyana, Cambodia, or our own neighborhood—there must be a plan! We need leaders such as Matt's coach who will help us mature and understand that it takes both passion and a plan!

- Marty

Upcoming Schedule

Ted's Schedule

December 7

Plumerville, Arkansas (AM)
Harding Street, Morrilton, Arkansas (PM)

December 14

Jerusalem, Arkansas (AM)
Overcup, Morrilton, Arkansas (PM)

December 21

Bellefonte, Harrison, Arkansas

December 28

Liberty, Conway, Arkansas (AM)
Mars Hill, Vilonia, Arkansas (PM)

February 4-25

Romania Mission Trip—(Ted and Barbara)

Marty's Schedule

January 9-10

Romanian/Albanian Mission Conference
Maryville, Tennessee

January 16-18

Evangelism University
Savannah, Tennessee

January 23-24

Spiritual Project Management Seminar
TBD, Central Arkansas

January 29-February 9

Romania Mission Trip

SEASONS GREETINGS

from the

KNIGHT FAMILY

Ted, Barbara,
Marty, Lisa,
David, Kathy,
Brittany, Melanie,
and Kyndall



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Marty and Lisa Knight