

Volume 12 , Issues 1/2

January/February 2003

# *Evangelistically Speaking*

## ***Mission Evangelism***

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

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

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EVANGELISTICALLY  
SPEAKING

is published monthly  
by Mission Evangelism

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## **From Ted's Pen**

**"Truly my soul silently  
waits for God;  
From Him only comes  
my salvation. He only  
is my rock and my  
salvation; He is my  
defense; I shall not be  
greatly moved."  
Psalms 62:1-2**

In these words of David we see a reflection of ourselves as we struggle from day to day with the battles of this life. We find victory and comfort only in God, not in our own wisdom and strength. We must be firmly committed to the stance that David expresses in these words and only then will we know the peace and joy that comes from total surrender to God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

We begin the year 2003 with solid faith that as we are led by God's word and are diligent in our efforts to please Him, He will reward our work with good fruit to His honor and glory. We seek no credit for ourselves.

This first issue of *Evangelistically Speaking* will be for the months of both January and February. You will note that we will be in Romania for almost the entire month of February and will return to the regular publication schedule upon our return from Romania.

We were very busy during the month of December, but I will only mention a couple of the highlights from the month. The Midway church of Christ in Jasper, Alabama had invited us to be with them for their first annual "Mission Day" on December 8. This congregation is involved in several mission works throughout the world, including the oversight of the work of the Worldwide Evangelism program of Harvey and Vernon Starling.

The elders of the Midway congregation had prepared a booklet outlining, in detail, all of the mission endeavors of the congregation. I appreciated their diligent effort in fully communicating with the congregation the

details of their mission work. Brother Kerry Richardson is the new preacher at Midway as Brother Joe Spivey, who had been the preacher for six years, has just moved to work with the Lord's church in Kingston, Tennessee. We regretted that on that day Brother Bill Gill, one of the much loved elders of the congregation, became ill and had to go home. Brother Gill was valiantly fighting cancer and passed away on December 29.

December 14 was a special day for us. We went to the graduation ceremonies at Harding University and watched as Gabriela Iacoboaie and Ana Iacoboaie each received their degrees from Harding. Both of these young sisters from Romania have worked with us through the years in translating our lessons for us as we taught others the gospel. Both of them are good teachers themselves. Gabi has translated for me a lot in our work there and I have

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## From Ted's Pen (Cont.)

missed her a great deal since she came to school here in the United States. Both of them graduated with honors. Gabi graduated Magna Cum Laude and Ana graduated Summa Cum Laude. Both of them have scholarships to continue their education and obtain their Masters degree and they have already started to school for that. We extend our congratulations to both of these young sisters in Christ. We are praying that they will both return to Romania and become devoted and diligent workers in the Lord's work in their homeland.

It was a special joy for me to get to visit with Brother Perry Cotham for a few hours on December 31. We met in the home of Brother and Sister Max Harper in Dallas, Texas. Brother Cotham is one of the really great preachers and teachers in the Lord's church.

I have known of Brother Cotham for many years having read some of the books and articles that he has written and followed him in some of the places where he has preached the gospel. Brother Perry celebrated his 91st birthday on January 5, 2003. He had just returned from a mission trip to Thailand when I visited him. He continues to travel all over the world and he told me that he would like to go with me to Romania. What a great servant of the Lord he is!

Our schedule for the month of January calls for us to be with the following congregations here in Arkansas: Bay; Pocahontas; Mars Hill congregation in Vilonia; Higden; Formosa; Center Ridge; and Bigelow. These congregations help to support our work and we are thankful for them. I will also host the Area Wide Preachers Bible Study on January 13. We are going to study the subject, "Resolving Conflicts In The Church."

We will also be making our plans for departure to Romania. Due to the increased baggage screening process brought on by the terrorist problems we must do a better job of planning and packing for these trips. We are not sure how much of the medicine that we usually take for the children that they will allow us to take and are unsure about the allowance of food that we normally take.

We were thrilled to learn that about ten of the local Christians in Pitesti went to the kindergarten in December and had a holiday party for the children that we are helping there. Each child received a piece of candy, a box of yogurt, a Sprite, one toy, an orange, and several other smaller items. The Christians reportedly had a wonderful time visiting with the children and listening to them as they presented a program that their caregiv-

ers had helped them prepare. The local Christians also reported that they had bought two stoves for the children to have hot meals. Their cook stove had recently quit working and could not be repaired. They also bought two radiators so that they would have heat in the building. They purchased some medicine because almost every one of the children had been sick with the flu and four of them had been hospitalized.

The Romanian government made some changes regarding child care that has affected our children. The kindergarten is now allowed to have children who are four years of age and younger. Older ones are cared for somewhere else.

So, at this time we only had 28 children and all of them are four years of age or less. They are expecting to have more children, but we regret losing some of those whom we have come to know and love over the past year and a half.

Please allow us to extend our special thanks to those of you who are making life so much better for these children. And, this effort is providing the opportunity for the local Christians to get involved in helping others and not focus solely on their own problems. May God bless you brethren for your special efforts to provide for these children.

We have a very good schedule of work for the year 2003. Barbara has several special ladies day programs scheduled. We will both speak on the lectureship at Crowley's Ridge College in April. Barbara will go with me twice to Romania - in February and June/July.

I do have a little time available for meetings if you have a need for one. I want to remind you of the "Evangelistically Speaking Lectures" which will be presented at the Mars Hill congregation April 11-13, 2003. I urge you to make your plans to attend these lectures where the complete focus is on EVANGELISM!

Brethren, we thank you for the prayers, encouragement, and support that many of you have provided for the past eleven years of this ministry. We have already moved into our 12th year of this work and we are just thankful to God and to all of you who make it possible for us to be used in this work. We are looking forward to a great year and we earnestly solicit your diligent prayers for us.

- Ted

**Links to a number of Christian publications and web sites are available through our online version. Please inform us additional sites that would be helpful to other Christians and we will post those sites.**

**UPCOMING PLANS**

# February 2003

**FEBRUARY 2**  
Greenbrier, Arkansas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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**FEBRUARY 4-27**  
**Mission Campaign**  
**Pitesti, Romania**  
**Craiova, Romania**

						1
2 <i>Greenbrier, AR</i>	3	4 <i>Depart for Romania</i>	5 <i>Romania</i>	6 <i>Romania</i>	7 <i>Romania</i>	8 <i>Romania</i>
9 <i>Romania</i>	10 <i>Romania</i>	11 <i>Romania</i>	12 <i>Romania</i>	13 <i>Romania</i>	14 <i>Romania</i>	15 <i>Romania</i>
16 <i>Romania</i>	17 <i>Romania</i>	18 <i>Romania</i>	19 <i>Romania</i>	20 <i>Romania</i>	21 <i>Romania</i>	22 <i>Romania</i>
23 <i>Romania</i>	24 <i>Romania</i>	25 <i>Romania</i>	26 <i>Romania</i>	27 <i>Arrive from Romania</i>	28	

## Finding the Answer *by Marty Knight*

The group of people that I work with on a daily basis—about 75—recently began giving out a monthly award to the person who commits the dumbest act. It doesn't have to be work-related as long as it generates lots of laughs.

Some of the recent winners have done things such as wear different colored shoes to work and inadvertently dump a load of lumber into the busiest intersection in Conway. This past months winner was a classic. Seems this gentlemen couldn't locate his cell phone. So, he proceeded to call the phone over and over and walk through the house trying to find it. He could hear the muffled ring, but just couldn't locate the phone. After some time, he realized that it was in the pocket of his jeans!

At least he had the confidence and good nature to admit this little scene to his co-workers.

In our world today, many people are looking for answers. So many are wandering aimlessly through life searching for a way to find direction. Self-help groups abound—filled with those searching for answers to life's problems—an offer solutions to things such as money problems, weight loss, or self-esteem. I'm thankful that many of these solutions are available to people.

Sadly enough, many people turn to things such as television or talk radio for their moral compass in life. I even know Christians who put more stock into—and more time listening to—talk radio than they do the word of God!

Where do I find answers in life? How can I make myself a better person and boost my confidence? Where can I find advice about ridding myself of debt? Or, more importantly, how do I rid my life of sin?

If you find yourself asking questions such as these, let me offer two suggestions.

First, turn to God for answers. How much time have you spent reading His word versus the latest self-help book? Think about this: not only do you have the Bible—the one book with all the answers—you also have the church. The church should be the one place where we feel most comfortable in going for answers to life's problems. After all, we all share the same values and should aspire to the same goals.

The next time that you need advice, think about your brethren. Is there someone at church who could help me with my problem? Are there others like me who are challenged in this way? If so, then get with them! Talk about the common problem! If you don't the church that well, then talk to the elders or preacher and ask for their assistance in finding others.

Second, I would challenge the church to forward-think in this respect. Elders, have you fostered an environment where the flock feels comfortable approaching you about a problem that is very personal? Do you make an effort to stay on top of current societal issues such and offer guidance to those in your charge? I'm not implying that elders must do this personally, but they should see that these things are done. Let's not dwell on the elders—members, do you work to make the church a place where people are comfortable? How well do you know your own brethren? Do you know them well enough to recognize when they are struggling? If we do these things, then the church can become that refuge in a very troubling world.

So, the next time you're looking for an answer, ask yourself: is the answer right here in my own pocket? Is my Father and His church the answer?

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