

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 12, Issue 3

March 2003

Special points of interest:

- We hope you like the new layout for ES!
- A number of exciting changes—listed below—are planned for the publication.
- We will begin regular publication of guest columns.
- Expansion to six pages from the current four.
- A regular column with emphasis on tools, ideas, and methods for helping Christians teach the lost.

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Schedules 3

Gifts of Memorial and Honor 4

GUEST COLUMN: In Everything Give Thanks 2

From Ted's Pen

We marvel at the greatness of our God and we rejoice that He is attentive to our every need. We are never alone and never beyond His reach. Praise Him for all of His goodness toward us.

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain."

- *Psalms 48:1*

The month of January was one that we never want to recall. I spent most of the month undergoing tests to try to find the cause of some problems that I have had for almost 7 years. It was determined that I have a gall bladder that is functioning at about 26%. So, on February 27 the wretched thing will be removed and I should feel

much better than I have felt in a long, long time. We were so concerned that we would not get to make the trip to Romania in February, but the doctor gave his approval with the surgery to be done immediately upon our return. So, I am writing to you from Pitesti and, following surgery, will be "kickin' high" again!

The month of February has been incredibly busy. We enjoyed a wonderful day with the church at Greenbrier, Arkansas on February 2 for their annual Missions Day. On that day, special reports are made concerning the mission work that is being supported and a special contribution is taken to help further mission endeavors. We are thankful to the Lord for the Greenbrier congregation, our home for 12 years, and for their encouragement and support for more than 23 years.



We left on February 4 for Romania and arrived safely and without any complications. In fact, it was probably the best trip that we have ever made from the travel standpoint. We began our studies on February 6 and from that day on we had very little time off. In spite of the fact that it snowed almost every day and was bitter cold the entire time we were there, we were able to conduct about 80 Bible studies. Harvey and Pat Starling were already there and had several good prospects lined up and waiting for Bible studies when we arrived.

(Continued on Page 2)

"Someday I Will" by Marty Knight

There is an obscure song by a popular artist that I enjoy listening to entitled "Someday I Will." In this song the artist refers to things that he's seen in his life—a white sail skimming across a blue bay, an airplane flying across the sky—that make him think of the dreams that he hopes to one day attain.

One boyhood memory of mine that stands out is of Brother Ted Sorrels, an elder at the Levy congregation, regularly asking me if I was going to be a preacher like my father. He would always smile at my enthusiastic reply of "Yep!" Indeed, that has always been a dream: to someday work with Dad for the cause of Christ.

Over the years it seems that the time has never been right to do so. The children were not the right age, my job situation was not conducive, or I simply did not feel adequately prepared to take on such a challenge. However, "someday" has arrived for me and my family.

(Continued on Page 3)

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

Barbara and Pat Starling conducted a ladies seminar for over 100 women during the first weekend we were there. I taught one special singing class and then on February 22 I spoke twice at a personal evangelism training class. Ten baptisms took place while we were there and we rejoice with our new brethren! We visited the kindergarten and the children put on a wonderful program for us. They are doing well. The local Christians are helping supply medicine for them as needed. We expressed to them the love of many of you who help us to provide for their needs.

I am very happy that this issue includes an article written by our daughter, Kathy Hall. She

is a talented lady and a dedicated Christian. For over 15 years she has directed a home for developmentally disabled men. The United Way recently recognized her for outstanding achievement for her role in caring for the residents of My House in Mayflower, Arkansas. She has been through a lot and her article is an encouragement to us all.

I am also very happy to announce that our son, Marty, will be joining our work in Mission Evangelism beginning in February. Marty is a project manager with Acxiom Corporation and is a very successful man professionally. He serves as one of the deacons at the Robinson and Center church here in Conway. He has devel-

oped material from his secular job into a special series of lessons that hold great potential for the church. He calls it "Spiritual Project Management" and the material excites me a great deal. He will give more details about it.

While he will continue working with Acxiom, he is taking a great deal of his free time to work for the Lord, especially in our work with missions and evangelism. He plans to improve and expand this publication and it's sister web site so that we can use it as a tool to teach the gospel all over the world. He has developed several seminars which he hopes to present to congregations everywhere. I am excited about his coming on board with

Barbara and me. We have really needed some additional help for a long time. We do not have any administrative support which makes it a challenge to handle things such as communications efficiently. Marty is going to be a tremendous help in this. So, as we go along you will see more and more the effects of the work that he will be doing with us here at home and in meetings elsewhere in the U.S. and abroad.

Continue to remember those who are laboring for the cause of Christ around the world during these very challenging times. May God bless you for your prayers and support of our work.

GUEST COLUMN

In Everything Give Thanks by Kathy Hall

While studying recently I came upon a verse that seemed to jump off the page. As a child of God who has attended church services all of my life, I have heard this scripture more than once, but lately it has been on my mind a good portion of each day. Any of you who know me realize that if something has my attention I worry about it until I completely understand it.

The scripture that I am talking about is 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." It is easy to give thanks for the good things in our life, but what is this "give thanks in everything" business? Does that mean in illness, depression, grief, and failure we are to give thanks? What about the feelings that come when

others fail you? Do you still give thanks when you have been lied to or about; when you feel cheated or even, imagine this, spit upon?

As I think about this concept it has led me to many places. What do most of us experience during difficult times in our life? The feeling most prevalent in my life during hard times is fear! What will happen next? How much worse will things get? How will this thing affect the people that I love the most?

Then I realized that this is how we learn to trust God. I looked back at some of the hardest times in my life. Times when I worry about losing my husband because he is in law enforcement, my child or parents, my home or job. All these circumstances

have worked out much better than I could have imagined. And, you know why? Because I was not the one in charge! God was there and He knows more than I do. The hard things teach us to trust in Him ALWAYS. Sometimes hard things may happen to us and we may never know the reason they happened, but God knows and someday all things will be revealed. I am sure that when we all get to heaven we will have some questions as to why certain things happened in our life. The good thing is, we will have an eternity to ask.

I want to challenge each of you to do as I have been doing in the past few weeks. Give thanks in everything and see where it leads. I know where it took Joseph. He was kidnapped, beaten, and thrown

Sometimes hard things may happen to us and we may never know the reason they happened, but God knows and someday all things will be revealed.

into prison, yet he was able to look upon his brothers with a spirit of forgiveness and see the reason that God allowed this hard thing to happen. This same thing must have been what led our Lord and Savior to go to the cross for us. If He had not been able to see us being saved eternally through His sacrifice, do you think that this hard thing called "Hell" would have been created? Observe those around you and see the difficult things they endure. Then find a way to give thanks in **everything**. See where it leads you!

“Someday I Will” (Continued)

On March 1, I will join Dad in the work of Mission Evangelism. As an extension of his efforts, my work will also be directed by the elders of the Levy church in North Little Rock. Some of the work that I do will be tied directly to current activities such as this publication and the annual ES Lectureships that are co-hosted with the Mars Hill church in Vilonia, Arkansas. Other facets of my work will represent additions. One additional program that will be of intense focus during the coming months is a seminar entitled **Spiritual Project Management**.

This seminar is designed to help the leadership within congregations be more effective in identifying the needs of the congregation, empowering the church, and communicating with the body.

In my “day job” with Acxiom Corporation, I have spent the last 18 months deploying a project management office. The single purpose of this team is to help our organization realize strategic business objectives. It has occurred to me many times that the same techniques that I apply everyday are not only practical for

the church, but sorely needed in many congregations today. Many churches are in dire need of a method to help them reach their stated objectives in various programs of work. **Spiritual Project Management** will provide them with a means to accomplish those goals. Using Biblical principles the seminar is built around a proven 5-phased methodology that is an accepted practice in today’s business world.

One of the key components of the seminar will be a session on relationship management that uses the Birkman Method® — an extremely effective tool for improving communications, resolving conflict, and building teamwork. I use this tool extensively at Acxiom and feel that it’s application in the church would be of great benefit. In order to use this tool as part of the seminar, I will be attending training during March.

Additional information regarding the seminar will be made available during the month of March and I will begin scheduling them as early as the middle of April. In the meantime, if you have questions or interest in this program, feel free to contact me using the information on the back page. A num-



ber of other seminars are in development, including workshops designed to identify and implement outreach opportunities within the local church and a program designed for those interested in planting new congregations.

As I stated earlier, I have no plans to leave my secular job. I have begun raising some support to cover the expenses that I incur through this work. I certainly appreciate any financial consideration that you can give me as I begin this work.

More importantly, I solicit your prayers—not only on behalf of my family, but for the work that I will be doing. I would be totally remiss if I did not mention the support of a wonderful wife and two Christian daughters. Without them this work would not be possible. I love Lisa, Brittany, and Kyndall a great deal for their support and thank God for them everyday. And, by the way, they are planning a mission trip of their own

to Mexico in early June. I’m not sure that Mexico is ready for the three Knight girls, but “ready or not” here they come!

Over the years I have written occasional columns for this publication. Many of you have shared kind words with me regarding my past contributions and I thank you for those encouraging comments. You will now be hearing from me on a regular basis through this publication as I keep you apprised of what is occurring with my work. May God bless each of you for what you mean to His church.

Many churches are in dire need of a method to help them reach their stated objectives in various programs of work. Spiritual Project Management will provide them with a means to accomplish those goals.

Upcoming Schedule

- March 4—Central Arkansas Fellowship—Plummerville, Arkansas
- March 9-14—Gospel Meeting (Ted)—Caney, Arkansas
- March 16-21—Birkman International Training (Marty)—Toronto, Ontario
- April 6-9—Gospel Meeting (Ted)—Mammoth Spring, Arkansas
- April 11-13—Evangelistically Speaking Lectureships—Mars Hill, Vilonia, Arkansas
- April 20-23—Gospel Meeting (Ted)—Gainesville, Arkansas
- April 21—Crowley’s Ridge College Lectureships (Ted and Barbara)—Paragould, Arkansas
- April 25-26—Men’s Retreat (Marty)—Barton Bible Camp—Murfreesboro, Arkansas
- April 26—Ladies Day (Barbara)—Salem, Arkansas

**EVANGELISTICALLY
SPEAKING**
LEVY CHURCH OF CHRIST
P.O. Box 1297
Conway, AR 72033-1297

Non-profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Conway,
Arkansas
PERMIT 498

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

MISSION EVANGELISM
A Ministry Directed by the Elders of the
Levy Church of Christ

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Ted—ted@evangelisticallyspeaking.net
P.O. Box 1297
Conway, AR 72033
Phone: 501.327.6116

Marty—marty@evangelisticallyspeaking.net
70 Weaver Circle
Vilonia, AR 72173
Day Phone: 501.342.3541
Evening Phone: 501.796.4124

We're on the web at
<http://www.evangelisticallyspeaking.net>

Please send address changes to
P.O. Box 1297
Conway, AR 72033

GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR

In Memory of
JOHN SCROGGINS
by
Sam and Jamie Queery

In Memory of
JIMMY THORNTON
by
Sam and Jamie Queery

In Memory of
JESS WILCOXSON
by
Fran Davis