

Evangelistically Speaking

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Special points of interest:

- We solicit your prayers on behalf of Romanian mission efforts that are scheduled in the coming months. Marty will be leading a team of U.S. teachers to Craiova on July 25 and return on August 4. Ted and Barbara will be traveling to Pitesti on July 30 and will return home on August 11. Pray to God for our safe travel and a fruitful harvest for Him.

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From Ted's Pen

It may be that the most comforting piece of knowledge that we have is that the Lord will indeed hear us when we pray. We have confidence that He will answer according to His will for us and we should ask only for that. His answer will be according to His righteousness and will be best for us. Thank God that His ear is always open to our expressions of thanks and plea for His guidance in our lives.

"Hear my prayer, O Lord, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness."

- Psalms 143:1



When my family moved to rural Faulkner County from Oklahoma City in 1975, I felt like a fish out of water. For a city boy moving to the country, the adjustments started early. I'll never forget my trepidation as Kathy and I stood on the front porch waiting for our first ride on that big yellow school bus. Boy, was I nervous.

Our work in April has been very enjoyable and we pray that it has been profitable as well. We were involved in a gospel meeting with the church at Mammoth Spring, Arkansas on April 6-9. We have been in many meetings with the congregation there since 1974 and it is always a pleasure to be with them.

Brother Ted Clarke is the preacher and also serves as editor of the Fulton County Gospel News. This paper has been published for more than fifty years! Brethren like Boyd Morgan, Clovis Ragsdale, Richard England, Erwin Cowan, and many others have served as



editor of the paper while working with the church at Mammoth Spring. The paper is mailed free of charge to many thousands of people throughout the world. Brother Clarke has been the preacher there and the editor of the paper for eleven years and does an outstanding job in both roles.

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Marty's Thoughts

As I stepped on that bus, the driver greeted me with instructions to sit down behind him. Although I didn't notice it at the time, he must have sensed my apprehension. In between stops he asked me questions about our background—where did we live before moving there, etc. He pointed out landmarks such as the "Eight Mile Store" that has stood at the same intersection for a century. As the ride continued, I felt more and more at ease.

Little did I realize that I was becoming one of the thousands of lives influenced by a humble teacher named Paul Krisell. In 1977 I was privileged to be included in one of the 31 sophomore English courses taught by Paul. And I got such a kick out of the fact that last year Paul taught my oldest daughter Brittany in her 10th grade English class. They shared some interesting conversations about me!

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Spiritual Project Management Website
<http://www.spiritualprojectmanagement.com>

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

We were involved with the Fourth Annual Evangelistically Speaking Lectureship on April 11-13. These lectures have been conducted at the building of the Mars Hill church of Christ since the very beginning. The lessons which were presented were excellent and the attendance was good. However, I would like to see the building overflowing with souls interested in being motivated to do more in evangelism and in learning how to do a better job of that. The dates for the Fifth Annual Lectureship are April 2-4, 2004. Why don't you plan to come and participate in this great event?

We were with the church at Gainesville, Arkansas on April 20-23 and enjoyed working with these brethren. We were just thrilled to learn that one of my nephews, Roger Knight is now one of the elders of the church at Gainesville.

While we were at Gainesville we both spoke on the lectureship at nearby Crowley's Ridge College. Barbara spoke to a ladies class on the subject of "Agreeing in the Lord." My assignment was to speak to the combined audience on the subject, "A Plea for Unity - Be of One Mind." I used an overhead projector chart to show the Lord's church as He

planned it and another chart to show what man has done to the precious Body of Jesus Christ.

It is such a shame that we have divided the church into many warring groups. We are at the present time debating issues that should never have to be debated among Christians. Many cities and towns where there should be one strong congregation of the Lord's church have two or more congregations because of disagreement over one or more issues that should easily be settled with a firm stand for the truth. May God help us to respect the prayer of His Son in John 17:20-23 and devote our-

selves to teaching a lost world about the hope that is in Christ Jesus.

On April 26 Barbara spoke to a Ladies Day program at Salem, Arkansas. Approximately 100 ladies were present and I was told by some of them as they left the building that Barbara did a remarkable job with her lessons. Barbara spoke four times during the month of April. I thank God for such a wonderful wife and co-worker in the Kingdom of God. May God bless each of you for support and prayers on our behalf.

- Ted

Prisoners of War by Ted Knight

When I first heard that some of our soldiers had been captured and taken as prisoners by the Iraqi army and that there was at least one woman among them, I could hardly contain my composure. I had seen a story about Jessica Lynch on television just a couple of days earlier and the first thought that came to my mind was, "That can't be little Jessica Lynch!" But, I was to learn later that it was her.

Later, when all of the nation was thrilled with her rescue, it is hard to describe how I felt. Even later I was to learn that one of her rescuers who was carrying the stretcher out of her prison with her on it, was a young soldier from my hometown of Bay, Arkansas.

A few days later we rejoiced again as more of our soldiers were freed from their prison and brought home to their families and again our entire nation rejoiced with exceeding joy. Those who were in prison are now free! What a blessing!

Now, I am thinking of the billions of people in our world who are help captive in Satan's prison of sin. If they continue to live in sin and die in that condition they are headed to certain destruction in a devil's hell.

The only way for them to be set free is to learn the way to freedom in Christ Jesus and to comply with the terms of that freedom. And, for many of them the only hope they have of hearing about God's plan for their freedom is for you and me to tell them about it. If we don't tell them, they will remain in bondage and be forever lost without God and without hope.

Does that truth concern you? Does it bother you as much that billions of people are servants of sin and imprisoned by sin? Are you willing to do something that may bring about their freedom? Are you ready and willing to tell them of salvation and freedom in Christ Jesus?

The Institute for American Church Growth asked over 10,000 people this question:

“What was responsible for your coming to Christ and this church?”

.5% responded that they were influenced most by a gospel meeting

1% replied that they had simply visited that church

3% indicated that they had a special need that was met by that particular church

3% said they just walked in off the street

5% gave credit to Bible classes

6% credited the minister

An incredible 79% said that a friend or relative influenced them the most!

What are you doing about those friends and relatives of yours who are lost?

Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

So it was a great shock to our small community to learn that Paul had been killed by a drunk driver in late February. In the preceding two months I had attended the funerals of two other men who taught and coached me during my adolescent years—Richard Martin and Claude Fulmer—both of whom had been retired for a number of years.

Given the tragic and untimely circumstances of Paul's death at 56, the community has grieved long and hard. There is a tremendous void left by his passing. To help bring about closure for his current students, a memorial service had been scheduled for Friday, April 25. Little did we know that our community would suffer yet another loss on April 24. On that Thursday another life was taken by a drunk driver. This time it was a 14-year-old student whose promising life was taken on his birthday while traveling with a church youth group.

This young man was a classmate and friend of my younger daughter, Kyndall. An outstanding student, he was also a member of the cross country teams—a close-knit group of kids that in-

cludes both my daughters. The Knight household—like most others in Vilonia—has been dealing with loss. Each of us have come to grips with our feelings of anger, pain, and loss. We haven't had to look far to find reminders of the brevity of life. They seem to be overwhelming us around here lately.

And with each reminder comes the thought that we have a job to do for God. Our Father has business that we must be about each and every day of our lives.

Recent events bring to mind all of the clichés—

"Life is so short"

"We have no guarantees"

While these clichés and others may seem tired, they are true. James compares our life to a "vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."

Let me encourage each of you to consider your own life. Are you making the most of the opportunities set before you? At his funeral, Paul's family shared the following poem with those in attendance. While it is a fitting tribute to him, it also sends a powerful challenge to those who seek to serve the Lord. God bless each of you for your service to the Master!

"There's Work That I Must Do"

By Paul Krise11

My service to Him is not finished;
Or else I would be gone.
He has put me here for a purpose:
My life is not my own.

There are people who do not know Him:
My job is go and tell.
There are those that if I don't reach them,
Eternity waits in Hell.

There is someone needing a listener.
My friend, could it be you?
There is someone needing assistance
Who knows not what to do.

When my time of service has ended,
Then I'll be homeward bound.
When there's no more work for me to do,
I'll hear that trumpet sound.

But, for now I must keep on working;
There's much He'd have me do.
Until He decides it is finished
There's work that I must do.

Upcoming Schedule

- May 4-7—Gospel Meeting (Ted)—Cabot, Arkansas
- May 11-14—Gospel Meeting (Ted)—Plumerville, Arkansas
- May 13—Central Arkansas Christian Fellowship—Plumerville, Arkansas
- May 16-18—Gospel Meeting (Ted)—Hot Springs, Arkansas
- May 23-25—Gospel Meeting (Ted)—Farmerville, Louisiana
- May 29-June 5—Gospel Meeting (Ted)—West Branch, Michigan

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GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR

In Memory of
MARY EVE SIMPSON
by
Ted and Barbara Knight

In Memory of
IRENE GOTCHER
by
Ted and Barbara Knight

In Memory of
HAROLD HENRY
by
Marty and Lisa Knight