

Evangelistically Speaking

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Special points of interest:

- Be praying for the 13,000-plus souls within the Romanian districts of Arges, Dolj, Olt, and Valcea who are enrolled in Bible study courses.
- Mark your calendars for the 5th Annual Evangelistically Speaking Lectureships which will be on April 2-4, 2004 at the Mars Hill church of Christ near Vilonia, Arkansas.
- Remember to let us know if you would prefer to receive ES over the Internet by using the contact information on the back page.

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From Ted's Pen

March has been a month of mixed emotions for Barbara and me. We had some plans that had been on our schedule for a long time and we have anxiously looked forward to their completion. However, sometimes things happen that we have absolutely no control over and plans must be changed. This has not happened to us very often, but unfortunately they did happen during March.

Immediately after our return from Romania I called Brother and Sister James Knotts to check on Brother Knotts' physical condition because we knew that he had been quite sick and I had talked to him briefly before we left. Sister Nancy answered the phone and told me that James had passed away on February 6 while we were away. Then on

March 8 Brother Mike Montgomery who has served as an elder in the Levy congregation for several years and was a dear friend of 38 years, passed away after an intense battle with cancer. These were two great men and we will miss them so very much. Our prayers are with both of these good families.

Some time before we left for Romania Barbara began to have some pain in her chest, back and left arm. She went to the doctor and they did a bone scan which did not reveal any type of problem. So, the doctor gave her some pain medication and we went on to Romania. While there the pain worsened considerably, but she just kept going on as best she could. As soon as we got home we contacted the doctor again and they did an MRI



and a CT Scan. An appointment was made with a heart specialist after further tests showed that there was fluid buildup around her heart. After a stress test found the possibility of blockage in the arteries he decided to do a heart catheterization on Monday, March 15. The results showed the arteries to be clean. However, the doctor believes that she had a bad case of pericarditis, which is an inflammation of the lining of the heart, and he put her on medication.

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Marty's Thoughts

The site is well-known today as the home to one of America's most endearing holiday traditions. In what would make a great "rest of the story" for Mr. Harvey, one of the caretakers of that botanical garden in the mid-1800's was none other than Clement C. Moore, author of "Twas the Night Before Christmas".

Ironically, the massive real estate development began with the simple notion of replacing the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. John D. Rockefeller Jr. was brought into the project due to his love of the arts. After years of development and enormous investment, the one thing missing from the development was, you guessed it, the opera house!

Isn't it ironic that the largest real estate development in the world to this date never accomplished it's original goal! By almost any standard—especially economic—it was an overwhelming success for the Rockefeller family. But, it did not include the original idea.

As I considered this enigma, I could not help but think of how many times the church loses sight of it's real purpose. We become so engrossed in "keeping house" or "minding the store" that we fail to remember what we are here to do. Consider our attitudes about our facilities. Isn't it sad how wrapped up we become in the church house?

(Continued on Page 3)

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

At this point she is doing much, much better. They do not know if it will come back after she stops taking the medication, but we certainly hope and pray that it doesn't. We are anxious for Barbara to be completely healed and for her to be able to proceed with our work for the future.

We were privileged to enjoy some good work in spite of all the aforementioned problems during the past month. On March 7 we were with the congregation at Eglantine, Arkansas. I spoke during the Bible class hour and during worship and we enjoyed some good fellowship with these brethren. Brother Dub Clark is the preacher there and the church is doing well. We were scheduled to be with the Caney congregation near Yellville, Arkansas for a meeting March 14-19, but due to Barbara's illness the brethren felt that it would be better to postpone the meeting.

It was good that we did because I really needed to be with Barbara during the surgery and a few days following it. So, on March 14 we worshipped with the church at Levy in North Little Rock and it was really good to be there. We only have the opportunity to be at Levy 2-3 times each year and this was our first time to worship

there in 2004. We were really happy that Barbara could accompany me to give a report on our work and preach at Higden, Arkansas on Sunday, March 21. The church at Higden has been supporting our work for more than twelve years and it is always a joy to be with them. Brother Carroll Sites has been preaching at Higden for about 15 years, if my memory serves me correctly. Then, we were privileged to be in Iowa March 26-28 with the church at Oskaloosa. We also got to see a number of friends and brethren from the West Liberty congregation near Montezuma, Iowa and it is always great to be with our brethren in that area. So, even though we had some problems, we were still blessed to be able to accomplish some good things and good work in the kingdom during this time.

We are thankful for all of your prayers, phone calls, e-mails, cards, and other expressions of support during these past few weeks. One brother said to me, "Barbara seems to get into more problems, but she always bounces back." That is right and we believe that it is because of the prayers of so many faithful brethren that she does so well. May God bless you for your love and support.

- Ted

Holding to Right Traditions

by Kathy (Knight) Hall

I write this article tonight having just returned from a basketball game in Nettleton, Arkansas where my daughter, Melanie, played one of the few remaining ball games of her career. Nettleton is located near Bay, Arkansas where my parents grew up and my grandmother still lives. It seems only natural that I would be thinking of family traditions tonight. I have been going to northeast Arkansas all of my life. It is a place of flat land filled with cotton patches and stories of my parents and their families. It is a humble place without sophistication or airs.

My memories are filled with hot summer days, watermelons and cantaloupes grown by my grandfather, food, singing at family gatherings, and always the Lord's church. This is the place where my Dad was called "Hook" and some people still call him that. I remember that singing is as much a part of the family as anything else. I grew up with my Dad singing all the time and now I have a daughter who has gotten into trouble at school for singing in class. She sings all the time. It is just like breathing to her.

All of this thinking about tradition made me start to think about the tradition regarding the church in my life. I understand that God does not want us to follow the traditions of men and, in fact, Christ clearly taught against that in Matthew 15:1-9. However, I am reminded that Paul taught us in 2 Thessalonians 2:15 to "stand fast and hold the traditions which you have been taught, whether by word or by our epistle." My pondering led me to this question: "Are we teaching our children the importance of holding to this tradition that Paul talks about?" I know that we should be doing so!

I was taught that drinking, drug abuse, dancing, gossiping, cursing, and many other things were wrong. I was also taught that one attends the services of the church every time the door is open if it is

possible to do so. I was not taught that this was just some tradition of our family, but that it was a matter of the heart being in subjection to God's will for us. I was taught about giving, caring for others, prayer, faith, honesty, submission to the elders, and teaching the gospel to others. These things were taught to my parents by their parents and this is a vital tradition for me. I hope that I have imparted this to my daughter. However, it is not just a "family" tradition, but it is something based upon the teaching of the scripture. It is a wonderfully amazing fact to me that my grandfather passed away on a Sunday morning and, to find most of his family, the phone rang in churches of Christ all over the country.

What I am trying to say in this article is that although we have many traditions in our families that have nothing to do with religion, I am very proud of where I came from and it had very much to do with religion. I hear of denominational people who teach their children that they should be a part of a certain church because of family tradition. But, that isn't what Paul meant when he urged us to stand fast and hold on to tradition. The Lord's plan for us as His children is very simple and not filled with a lot of pomp and circumstance. It is a plan that man has so distorted that many fail to find it. Men have added the rituals, flowing robes, repetitive prayers, and ceremonies which are not found in the Bible.

God's plan is for parents to teach their children His word and exhort them to hold to the tradition found in it. This is some of the most wonderful **evangelism** in all of the world! I am proud to say that I am a member of the church of Christ because my parents taught me that this tradition is Bible-based and that I must stand fast in it. I hope that you will teach your children the same.

**You are encouraged to attend the
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SPEAKERS

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Marty Knight—Ted Knight—Alex Mills
Neale Pryor—David Riley**

Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

My good friend and Romanian brother, Ovidiu Loghin, is an excellent student of the English language. You might say that he learned it the "right way." He chastises me for saying that I ride to Romania "on" a plane—I really ride "in" a plane. He also points out that we cannot go "to church" since the church is a group of the called out. And he's right!

More and more we are losing sight of that fact due to our concern with facilities! A fabulous church building is a blessing, but it is only a tool! Nothing more!

We must ask ourselves if we are losing sight of our original goal when we spend more of our time, money, and thought on what to do with a building than how to fill it up. Let's make every effort to remain focused upon the original goal—you remember—the one that Jesus established for the church prior to His ascension to the Father. Go into all the world and teach the lost!

During the past month I had the opportunity to present reports on our work in Romania to two different congregations. It was an honor to share a report of the February trip with our brethren at Robinson and Center in Conway on February 22.

On March 21 we were with the church in Shirley, Arkansas for both the morning and evening worship services. Lisa's father, Alvin Bradford, serves this church as an elder. They are one of the most loving and caring groups of Christians in the brotherhood and we appreciated the chance to be with them.

I was also afforded the chance to work with several individuals and groups in the area of leadership effectiveness using the Birkman Method. It is always a blessing to witness the effectiveness of this marvelous tool.

Following the ES Lectureships in early April, I will be working hard to complete the planning for our May 27 return to Romania. We are eagerly anticipating the work in both Craiova and Slatina. The current plans call for nightly services to be held in Slatina during the week that we are there accompanied by daily Bible studies. Preparations are underway and we cannot wait to get to the work!

I want to express my deepest appreciation to those of you who support us through prayer, kind words, and funding. May God bless our joint efforts for the kingdom!

- Marty

News Briefs

NEW CONGREGATIONS

March 21 marked the establishment of two new congregations in Romania. One is in the city of Schitu Golesti and the other is in Corbeni. Brother Harvey Starling and some of the Romanian brethren were there to meet with these brethren for the first time.

It is simply wonderful to observe the spread of the gospel in Romania. Some of the brethren are having to work all day on Sunday in order to get from place to place to conduct worship services. We are now working with eight congregations in the three districts. Please pray that these small congregations will grow and that the gospel will continue to be preached and many more congregations established.

NW ARKANSAS LECTURES

It is not too early to begin planning to attend the Northwest Arkansas Lectureship at the Bellefonte congregation on Highway 65 just south of Harrison, Arkan-

sas. The lectures will be held July 11-14. The theme for the lectures this year is, "Back to Basics" and that is a timely theme indeed. Please mark these dates and plan to be there for a great time of study and fellowship.

MAGAZINE RECOMMENDED

Our good friend, Robert Swain, has recently joined the staff of the *Voice of Truth International*. We highly recommend this quarterly publication. It is a book-type magazine containing several categories of sound, well-written articles by respected brethren. It is currently published in 19 editions with 18 editions distributed free of charge to mission fields around the world. Subscriptions are \$12 per year for individuals and congregations who contribute at least \$25 per month receive 35 copies of each issue. Subscriptions should be sent to World Evangelism, P.O. Box 72, Winona, MS, 38967. You can reach Robert by e-mail at this address: swain@worldangelism.org.



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Upcoming Schedule

Ted's Schedule

March 26-28
Oskaloosa, Iowa

April 2-4
Evangelistically Speaking Lectureships
Vilonia, Arkansas

April 11
Bay, Arkansas

April 25
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

Marty's Schedule

April 2-4
Evangelistically Speaking Lectureships
Vilonia, Arkansas

May 27-June 8
Mission Trip—Craiova and Slatina,
Romania

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GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR

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MIKE MONTGOMERY
By
Ted and Barbara Knight
Rex and Norma Brazell
Marty and Lisa Knight

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JAMES KNOTTS
By
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In Memory of
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