

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 13, Issue 1

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Special points of interest:

- Be praying for the nearly 12,000 souls within the Romanian districts of Arges, Dolj, Olt, and Valcea who are currently enrolled in the World Wide Bible Correspondence Course.
- Mark your calendars for the 5th Annual ES Lectureship which will be on April 2-4, 2004 at the Mars Hill church of Christ near Vilonia, Arkansas

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From Ted's Pen

With this issue of ES we come to the beginning of a new year. We have already entered into our 13th year of full-time evangelism and mission work and we are humbled greatly by the fact that we have been privileged to serve the Lord in this capacity. Barbara and I feel blessed far beyond anything that we have ever dreamed of or expected.

We have been blessed by a loving Father in heaven who has provided for us and guided us through His word every step of the way. We have been inspired and motivated by a devoted family of children and grandchildren who have unselfishly urged us to go on with our work at times when we could have been with them and in some cases needed to be with them. Marty and

Kathy both have written articles for this publication and many of you have expressed your appreciation for them. Marty is devoting much time and effort to the work having made one trip to Romania in 2003 and will go at least twice in 2004. He does all of the computer work in preparing our report each month and helps me in preparing many other materials on the computer because I don't know how to work with the thing!

I can't tell you how many things Kathy takes care of for us while we are away from home and knowing that everything is in good hands with her oversight is a pleasant thing for us. We have been supported financially by many congregations and individuals whom we have known



through the years and who believe in the work that we do. We have been encouraged by the prayers of brethren throughout the land and we are keenly aware that without those prayers we could not have done the work that we have done. We have been uplifted by the kindness and love of friends and brethren who have written, called, and told us in person of their appreciation for our efforts.

(Continued on Page 2)



Marty's Thoughts

As I watched one of these news reports, several things struck me about 2003 and it's events.

THE POWER OF MONEY—or perhaps the *lack* of same. One event illustrated the fickle nature of the almighty dollar most. Imagine Saddam Hussein sitting in a filthy hole in the ground with no less than three-quarters of a million dollars in his lap! What irony!

All that money could not help one of the world's most wanted fugitives. For what it was worth to him, it could have just as easily been a shredded Sears catalog! Remember Paul's word to Timothy—"the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" and "we brought nothing into this world and we can carry nothing out."

HOPE REALIZED—In a world where the disappearance of children is common, a young lady in Utah was returned to her family after 14 months of captivity. We all were probably guilty of making the assumption that Elizabeth Smart's life had been taken. But, her family held out hope that she would be found.

How many of us know someone who needs to be taught the gospel, but *we've* given up on *them*. Never, ever give up hope! As Paul told the Philippian church—we "can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." On a light note, it was also a great year of hope for those of us who claim to be Chicago Cubs fans!

(Continued on Page 3)

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

The Elders and all the Christians of the Levy congregation in North Little Rock, Arkansas have supported and encouraged us every step of the way.

For almost ten years we have been privileged to work in Romania with Harvey and Pat Starling and scores of brethren from many places as we strive to establish and build the Lord's church in that country of 27,000,000 souls. We have been inspired to watch the development of the Christians in Romania who when they came to study with us had never heard of the Lord's church and the message of saving grace which we have in Christ Jesus. Praise God for His goodness and mercy!

We begin this New Year with excitement and anticipation. We believe that good plans have been made for the year and that with God's help a lot of good will be done to His honor and glory.

We earnestly request your continued prayers, support, and encouragement as we make our way through whatever the year will bring. We have spent the last few weeks reporting on the work

of 2003 to our supporting congregations and doing some much needed evangelistic work here at home. We have visited and studied with several here at home. I often think about how we travel to so many places far away from home to help spread the gospel of Christ, while there are many who live right in our own community who have not obeyed the Lord and many of them know that they should do so.

So, we have spent time with some of them and with some people who we wanted to encourage as they strive with difficulties of their own. We spent Christmas Day with my mother who will soon be 92 years of age and has recently been quite sick, but seems to be improving. We have more of this kind of work to do in the next two or three weeks.

To say "Thank You" seems too inadequate, but it is the best that we can do. We appreciate every effort that you have made to support and encourage us along the way. Please keep it up! May God bless us all with a wonderful year of fruitful work in His kingdom.

Challenges for the New Year by Ted Knight

I have been thinking about some of the challenges that we meet as Christians as we begin this New Year. Conditions in our world are constantly changing and many of those changes are not for the better. We face serious problems of terrorism, crime, poverty, disease, and all kinds of sin in our society. We face some serious problems in the church of our Lord as well. Here are some challenges we face and hopefully we will deal with them scripturally in the future.

We face the challenge to more intensely respect the authority of God and His word. We must not compromise God's truth even when it seems to involve a "minor" issue, because there is no "minor" issue when we consider what God says. We must stop inventing things to do simply because we "like and enjoy" them. There has never been a time when we needed to return to an attitude that says, "Where the Bible speaks we will speak, and where the Bible is silent we will remain silent." Brethren, I am greatly alarmed at the lack of knowledge of His word and lack of respect for God's authority. We must go back to the Bible!

We face the challenge of full and complete dedication to fulfilling the mission of the Lord's church. We need to be properly focused on what we are here to do! Why does the church exist? What is its purpose in this 21st century? Every Christian must be focused on meeting the challenge of fulfilling God's plan and purpose for the church and not our own.

We face the challenge of developing a greater appreciation for the grace and mercy of God. We need to recognize our own limitations and know that God's

mercy and grace will get us through the trials and difficulties of life. It is only because of His mercy and grace that we can be saved through faith in Him and obedience to His word. That knowledge will give us peace even in the midst of our tears.

We face the challenge of building and maintaining peace among God's people. We must stop the splitting and splintering of the church! We are brethren! No, I am not suggesting one word of compromise in order to have peace. But, we can have peace and unity if we will accept His word as our final and complete authority.

We face the challenge to achieve full participation of every Christian in winning souls. Nothing is so effective in soul winning than the consecrated efforts of Christians who will lovingly share the gospel with others. No congregation is doing the Lord's work if there is not a program of soul winning in that congregation. We must get to the urgent task of taking the gospel to our communities and do so with great commitment.

We face the challenge of building our homes according to God's pattern. The word of God provides the great source of instruction in building successful and beautiful homes. Adhering to the plan revealed in it will stop the divorces, child neglect and abuse, and many other problems associated with the home.

There are certainly many other challenges that could be added to this list. I ask your serious and prayerful consideration and study of these matters as we embark upon a New Years journey in 2004.



CHRISTIAN RESOURCE CENTER

MARTY KNIGHT, PMP
PMI Project Management Professional
Independent Consultant, Birkman International

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Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

THE BREVITY OF LIFE—In a two month period during 2003, two families to whom we are close lost teenaged children to car accidents. Being the father of two teenaged daughters, it was heart-wrenching to watch these families deal with such tragedies.

It is so easy to make assumptions about life without remembering the words of James—life is a “vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.”

THE WEAKNESS OF MAN'S WISDOM—In February of this past year, the space shuttle Columbia exploded as it re-entered the earth's atmosphere. Over the following weeks, it was determined that the disaster was caused by a piece of *foam* that struck the leading edge of the wing during takeoff.

With all the technology available to NASA engineers they were helpless to repair the problem and bring those men and women safely back to earth. As Paul told the church at Corinth—“*the foolishness of God is wiser than men.*”

DOCTRINES OF MEN AND ACCEPTANCE OF SIN—In August the Episcopal Church confirmed the appointment of an openly homosexual man into the office of bishop.

This is one more step in our society's acceptance of behavior contradictory to the word of God. Paul admonished the elders of the Ephesian church to be on the lookout for those who would lead the church astray with these words—“*from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*”

REDEEM THE TIME—With all of these things happening in our world, it is more sobering than ever to consider our role as messengers of the gospel. As Paul told the Ephesians—“*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*”

May we all resolve to make the absolute most of 2004 as we strive to live for the Master and reach the lost!

Resource Center Launched

We are proud to announce the February 2004 launch of the **Christian Resource Center**.

During 2003, Marty spent a substantial amount of time planning and preparing for the Spiritual Project Management program. While he was afforded the opportunity to present this program to brethren from three different congregations, it was individual consultations using the Birkman Method® that were most requested.

The Christian Resource Center will offer a number of defined programs in addition to Spiritual Project Management. Most of these programs will use the Birkman Method® extensively.

It is our prayer that the design of these programs will help churches and elders better understand the content and objectives of this work. The CRC website, sched-

uled to be up on February 1, will provide additional information. Program offerings, in addition to the SPM Seminars, include:

Leadership Team-Building Workshops

Communication Effectiveness Training

Conflict Resolution Techniques and Consultation

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

Spiritual Gifts Inventory for Youth

Scheduling for these programs is flexible with retreat options available. Contact Marty, using the information on page 4, for details or visit the website after February 1, 2004.

CHRISTIAN RESOURCE CENTER

<http://www.christian-resource-center.com>

Coming February 1, 2004

You are encouraged to attend the

Fifth Annual Evangelistically Speaking Lectureships

“Building an Evangelistic Church”

APRIL 2-4, 2004

Mars Hill Church of Christ
Vilonia, Arkansas

SPEAKERS

Bill Green—Richard Kirkland—Mike Knappier

Marty Knight—Ted Knight—Alex Mills

Neale Pryor—David Riley

Upcoming Schedule

Ted's Schedule

January

Reports to Local Congregations

February 3-25

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 29-February 9

Romania Mission Trip

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