

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 13, Issue 8

July/August 2004

Special points of interest:

- Pray for those mission efforts around the globe, especially in places where windows of opportunity are being thrown open to us.
- Remember to let us know if you would prefer to receive ES over the Internet by using the contact information on the back page.
- Continue to keep our armed forces in your prayers.

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From Ted's Pen

The past month has been one of great emotional strain. My mother still clings to life as I write these words although the doctor told us a few weeks ago that death was imminent and would occur in two days to one week. Although she is a very strong person and has survived some very close brushes with death, this time it seems that she will not survive again.

Mom is more than 92 years of age and has been very strong and a great fighter for life. Probably by the time you read these words she will be gone, but it will only be after she has exhausted all of herself in fighting for life.

We have continued our work during this time and visited Mom

in the hospital at every opportunity that we have had. We arrived home from Romania on July 6 and went to see her on July 8 and had a very enjoyable visit. We visited her again on July 16-17 and July 23, but she was not aware of our being there at those times.

We enjoyed a wonderful meeting with the church in Michigan City, Indiana June 13-16. We always enjoy having the opportunity to be with these brethren who have been supporters and encouragers to us for more than 45 years.

Our first work with a local congregation was with the Michigan City congregation and through all of these years they have remained very dear to us. They



are presently looking for a preacher to help in the work and if you know of someone who is interested, please ask them to call Stanley Davis at 219-879-6761.

Our work in Romania was very enjoyable and profitable. We went with Marty, Ron Boatwright, and Patrick Fay. The three of them worked in Slatina where attempts are being made to establish the Lord's church.

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Marty's Thoughts

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...for consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged."

Hebrews 12:1-3

These words by the Hebrew writer comforted me a great deal during our recent work in Slatina. I am thankful for the opportunity that I had to return to Romania this past month.

It was an honor to have Brothers Ron Boatwright and Patrick Fay join me in a week-long campaign in Slatina. Ron is an elder at our home congregation, Robinson and Center in Conway, and Pat

and I work together as deacons. They did a great job in preparing for the work that we had planned and I appreciate their dedication and commitment.

The church in Slatina is young and is in real need of our prayers. It began meeting about 18 months ago and has struggled to grow in number. Studies were slower than they typically are in other places. However, we were able

to study with and baptize a girl whose mother is a recent convert. There are now seven souls who are Christians in Slatina and for that we praise God.

Nightly services were held and a number of visitors from the community joined us for those meetings. We are thankful for the support that was given to

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From Ted's Pen (Continued)

Our work was based in Pitesti. We were happy to take the Christians from Pitesti to support their evening services and provide transportation for the brethren from Craiova to come as well. We went two nights and we had 46 from Pitesti and 36 from Craiova the first night and 44 from Pitesti and 35 from Craiova the second night.

Barbara and I worked in the Summer Bible School in Pitesti and in two of the new congregations, Schitu Golesti and Corbeni. We had a wonderful Summer Bible School. The Romanian Christians did all of the teaching and what a marvelous job they did! Attendance averaged 78 per day.

On Friday evening we had a closing program and the building was filled to capacity with parents and other family members and friends of the children. What a great program they presented! I cannot say enough about Nicoleta, Paula, Cosmin, Florica, Ana Maria, Sorina, Dragos, Iulia, Marius, and all of those who helped them to teach the classes as well as those who prepared and served lunch to the children. It was just delightful to watch them work and to see the joy on the faces of the children. We also conducted several one-to-one Bible studies and there was a total of eight

baptisms. Two of them were from Schitu Golesti, one from Slatina, two were from Craiova, and three were from Pitesti.

On Sunday June 27 I preached nearly all day. I spoke at Pitesti twice on Sunday morning, ate a very quick lunch, and was picked up in a taxi to go to Schitu Golesti and Corbin to preach. I was accompanied by Andy, Alina, Cosmin, Iulia, and Marius. Andy, Cosmin, and Marius took care of the singing, prayers, Lord's supper, and I did the teaching. In Schitu Golesti we had 17 present, including a brother who had been baptized into Christ on the Saturday before. They meet each week in a very nice room in the home of a lady there who is not a Christian, but allows the church to meet there and she assembles with them. Hopefully, she will be a Christian soon.

Following services there we traveled to Corbeni and again the Romanian brethren took care of everything except the teaching and I did that again. We had 20 present for the services there and they too have a nice place to meet for worship. I got back home that evening about 7:00 and was ready for bed although it had been an exhilarating and humbling experience to meet with the Christians in those places.



June 30—Marty baptizes Camelia Voicu at Pitesti



SLATINA TEACHING TEAM
(L-R) Marty, Luminita Somicu, George Iarca, Ron Boatwright, Patrick Fay, and Rafael Carlig

On Thursday night we went again to Schitu Golesti to attend their mid-week Bible study. We were asked to come one hour early for one-to-one study with a man and his wife followed by their regular Bible study period. We were thrilled to meet with these brethren again and made arrangements to baptize the man and his wife on Friday when they could come to Pitesti.

The World Wide Bible Correspondence Course is responsible for the opportunities to establish the church in these and other places. You would be happy to see the hard work being done by the teachers. I know that one night they worked until 1:30 a.m. and when I got to the building the next morning some of them were already there to begin work again. Bible studies are being mailed all over Romania and requests for further studies continue.

Over 7,300 Bibles have been distributed in the past few months to those who have requested them for study. Please continue to pray for all of these students and their teachers and please help us to provide Bibles for them to study.

We were thankful for the opportunity to work again with Ray Crawford and the brethren of the Bellefonte congregation near Harrison, Arkansas in the 15th Annual Northwest Arkansas Lec-

tureship on July 11-14. Then we enjoyed being with the church at Mt. Judea, Arkansas in a gospel meeting on July 18-21.

We had left a week open to rest and enjoy our wedding anniversary the last few days of July, but due to Mom's health situation we decided to spend as much time with her as possible and skip any celebration at this time.

Brethren, we feel that just saying, "Thank You" is surely inadequate to express the thoughts of our hearts for your continued love, prayers, confidence, and support. We are working very hard and we pray that we are worthy of your support and confidence. There is much work to be done in the world and time is slipping away.

Ted's Schedule

August 1-4
Black Oak, Arkansas

August 15
Hoxie, Arkansas

August 22
Center Ridge, Arkansas

Please continue to pray for us and help us to do as much as we can to spread the gospel to as many as possible. May God bless you.

- Ted

Marty's Thoughts *(Continued)*

these efforts by the churches in both Pitesti and Craiova. They each brought busloads of people to the services on Sunday and Monday evening and it edified their brethren in Slatina greatly.

On Thursday, Ron traveled to Craiova, roughly an hours drive, and studied with several people who are deaf. Sister Rodica Baluta translates for the deaf in Craiova and she requested that we come and discuss the plan of salvation with these good people. As a result of previous teaching and the guidance that Ron provided, two of them became Christians.

I mentioned the young lady that was baptized in Slatina. Cami is a sweet girl of 17 who needs the prayers of her brethren. She was diagnosed with leukemia last winter and is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments. Being a survivor of childhood cancer myself, not to mention the father of two teenaged daughters, it touched my heart to see a young lady in these circumstances. I ask that you keep Cami and her mother, Georgheta, in your prayers in the coming days.

The work in Slatina needs your prayers as well. Slatina is a city of

about 85,000 souls located almost halfway between Craiova and Pitesti. We have driven through this city many times on our way to work in Craiova. Dad would often comment that a church needed to be established there.

Brother Harry Middleton of Nashville, Tennessee took the initiative to lead the first campaigns in Slatina and we are grateful to him for doing so.

Interestingly enough, a denominational preacher attended one service during the campaign and I had the opportunity to visit with him at length. He commented that their work in Slatina had been very slow in growth as well. We know that it will be a difficult work, but like the Hebrew writer, we are determined not grow weary or discouraged.

My efforts in coming weeks will center upon planning and preparation for 2005. I will have details of these plans available in our next edition.

Many of you have inquired about participating in one of the campaigns to Romania. Several have even made attempts to go, but have run into scheduling conflicts. In an effort to avoid that problem, I have committed myself to pro-



Young people performing a skit during the closing night of the Summer Bible School at Pitesti on July 2

viding you with dates as early as possible. I can tell you that I will be leading two campaign teams to Romania during 2005 and, possibly, one smaller teaching team.

I am also planning one-day workshops focused upon preparation for the work. These will be very valuable for those who are new to mission work and those who have never worked in the Romanian culture.

I am more excited than ever about the opportunities that lie before us. As I've often stated in this publication, God has opened doors to us around the world that we could only dream about a

generation ago. The church has tremendous potential in eastern Europe, but we need workers. If you are interested in participating in this work and would like additional information about such, please contact me at anytime using the information on page 4.

I would be remiss if I failed to thank each of you who are so generous in your support of our work. You truly do partner with us in these works and your generosity makes them possible. As Dad mentioned in his column, we pray that our contributions are worthy of yours. We love you all very much!

- Marty



July 2—Ted baptizes a man from the village of Bradu with whom he had been studying for nearly a decade



July 2—Between baptisms Ted took the opportunity to lead singing from the baptismal font—a first for him!

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GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR

In Memory of
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By
David Decelle

In Memory of
TERRY GALLAHAR
By
Gary and Christy Cupp