

# Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 13, Issue 5

May 2004

## Special points of interest:

- Be praying for the 14,000-plus souls within Romanian who are enrolled in Bible study courses.
- Mark your calendars for the 6th Annual Evangelistically Speaking Lectureships which will be on April 8-10, 2005 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

**"Preserve me, O God: for in Thee do I put my trust." - Psalms 16:1**

We live in a world that is so unstable and, at times, frightening. It is wonderful that we have One in Whom we can put our trust and not be afraid. In times of terror, poverty, disease, temptation, corruption of moral values, and death, God will preserve His children if we put our trust completely in Him. We can truthfully say, "I shall not be afraid."

I have always been told that as one gets older, times goes more quickly. I know that is true because we hardly get one issue of ES in the mail and it is time to prepare another one. So, here comes our report for May.



Have you ever noticed just how fickle we are? I don't always agree with those who propose that the world is worse off than it was 50 years ago. I subscribe to the theory that the more things change, the more they stay the same. As long as people are a part of the world, it will always be a messed up place.

Still, there are some things that have changed over the past two

First, let me share some of the activities of the month of April. In my judgment, we had the most successful Evangelistically Speaking Lectureship that we have ever had on April 2-4 at Mars Hill. We had some lessons presented that we should have had to pay for. The attendance and participation were good and the speakers did an outstanding job in presenting their lessons.

Our thanks go to Jerry Riley and Thomas Martin, the elders at Mars Hill, and to David Riley, who preaches there, for the great effort that they put forth to make the fifth installment of the lectureship the very best. The elders announced that next year's lectureship will be conducted on April 8-10, 2005. You



would be wise to put this on your calendar now and plan to be there.

On Tuesday, April 6 I led the singing and assisted in the funeral of Sister Patsy Harrel who lived at Greenbrier. The Harrel family has been close to us for many years and our sympathy is extended to Brother Bo Harrel and his family.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Marty's Thoughts

generations. I believe that many of these changes are driven by technology.

Technology provides us with instant information—available in any number of formats at our beckon call. *The result of all this data is that our society has a collective attention span that is miniscule!*

This has manifested itself in many ways, but in the past several weeks I've noticed two in particular.

First, and certainly the least important of the two that I will address, is the declining interest in the game of baseball. I've had a 35-year love affair with baseball. I work with a guy who just hates baseball. He says that it's boring and slow. As I told him last week,

"If sports were music, then baseball is Mozart and football (his choice) is that stuff you hear thumping and blaring from the car full of teenaged boys at a stoplight." I believe they call it hip-hop or something like that.

You see, most people today can't enjoy three leisurely hours of the greatest game ever invented because it's paced too slow and isn't "loud" enough. Maybe those commercials were right—we need to add a moat containing alligators in the outfield!

The second, and by far most alarming trend that I see, is the lack of interest, mainly in attendance, when the word of God is preached.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## From Ted's Pen (Continued)

We were privileged to be with the church at Bay, Arkansas on Sunday, April 11 to give them a report on our work and to preach. That also gave us a chance to see my mother. Mother was doing quite well and we celebrated her 92nd birthday which was on April 12. However, on her birthday she began to feel ill and was put in the hospital on Wednesday, April 14 with severe bronchitis, bladder infection, slight pneumonia, and congestive heart failure.

Upon her release from the hospital she was placed in a nursing and rehabilitation center in Lake City, Arkansas. It broke our hearts to put her there. I have learned that sometimes there are needs which require special people to provide the care that is needed. We have tried for several years to supply the needs that Mom has, but we simply had no choice left at this time. I hope that you will please pray that my Mom will have peace and comfort in her new residence.

The church of Christ at Caney, near Yellville, Arkansas had scheduled a gospel meeting for back in March and we had to postpone it due to Barbara's illness. So, we had the meeting April 18-21 and we enjoyed it so very much. I believe that the at-

tendance was adversely affected by having to postpone it and I regretted that so very much, but we had a good meeting anyway. On April 25 we were with the church at Mammoth Spring, Arkansas.

Brother Ted Clarke has been the preacher at Mammoth Spring for 13 years, but is making a chance effective June 30. He will become a full-time instructor with the Bible Institute Of Missouri in Springfield. Brother Ted will do a great work in the school and I am confident that the students will receive a better education because he is there. He is in need of support to help in this work and is also available for fill-in preaching and a few gospel meetings. You may contact him at: Ted Clarke, P.O. Box 855, Mammoth Spring, AR 72554, by e-mail at [tjslclarke@wpcs.net](mailto:tjslclarke@wpcs.net), or by phone at 870-625-2585.

We are so grateful for the opportunities to work in the kingdom and for the gracious and loving brethren who support and encourage us along the way. We believe that good is being done and that God is being honored and that is all that we could ever ask for. We beg for your prayers as we continue to teach as many as we can of the salvation that is in Christ Jesus.

- Ted

### Ted's Schedule

May 1-6  
Indianapolis, Indiana

May 16  
Austin, Arkansas

May 23  
Morley, Missouri

May 30  
Charleston, Mississippi

June 24-July 5  
Mission Trip—Pitesti, Romania

### Marty's Schedule

June 24-July 5  
Mission Trip—Slatina, Romania

Upcoming  
Schedule

Try This Helpful Study Website:

**GOD'S YELLOW PAGES**

<http://web2.airmail.net/dpelc/yellow/>

## Is The Gospel Really For All?

by Ted Knight

There is a song which I learned as a youngster which is entitled, "The Gospel Is For All." I believe that it expresses a great truth and is in harmony with the teaching of God's word. However, I have learned through the years that not everyone shares that same attitude about the gospel being for all people throughout the world.

Sometime ago I learned that one person who is very precious to me, said to another person who is precious to me, "Ted runs off to Romania saving souls while there are souls all over the place here that need saving." My friend is right on both counts - Ted does indeed run off to Romania to try to save souls.

Of course, I know that God does the soul saving and Barbara, Marty, myself, and many others just do the teaching. We are simply messengers. And, it is true that there are souls all over the place here in the United States that need saving. I fully recognize that and for 45 years Barbara and I have dedicated our time and efforts to teach as many as possible and we will continue to do that as long as we live.

I know what was intended by that remark and I have heard it or one like it several times before. So, I want you to consider some things with me.

First, where in the world is the scripture that even hints that the people in the United States have the right to hear the gospel first? I have heard folks say, "When we have reached the people in this country, then we can go to the rest of the world." But, where did that idea come from? Cer-

tainly not the Bible! My friends, there isn't one shred of evidence anywhere in the word of God that indicates that Americans have dibs on the gospel and deserve the privilege of hearing it before anyone else. In Mark 16:15, Jesus commanded us, "Go ye into the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Matthew recorded these words of Jesus, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." If the early disciples had possessed the spirit of some brethren today, the gospel would have never been preached to us in the first place.

But, they believed the Lord and did what He told them to do and the gospel was preached to the whole world according to Colossians 1:23! Thank God that their vision and commitment to doing the Lord's will superceded any selfish ambition that they might have had. Beloved, we need to more seriously study what our precious Lord has charged us to do.

Secondly, I preached the gospel for 36 years before I stepped one foot out of the United States. I still spend about 70% of my time preaching here at home. You know, I would have to live to be over 100 years of age and preach full-time in foreign countries the rest of my life in order to have preached as much outside the United States as I have preached within them. I doubt that I will make it!

My brethren, I pray that God will bless me with many more opportunities to do all that I can, to reach as many as I can, for as long as I can because this one thing I know - THE GOSPEL REALLY IS FOR ALL!

## Marty's Thoughts *(Continued)*

This was very evident to me during the Evangelistically Speaking Lectureships held in April. For anyone interested in spreading the gospel and teaching the lost, there were some genuinely inspirational lessons. I must add that I found this year's program to be especially practical in application.

Dad and I are so grateful to those who spoke and words fail me in expressing our appreciation for the Mars Hill congregation.

The only regret that I have regarding the series is that there were not more in attendance. We appreciate and love each one who attended and supported the program. I'm sure that those in attendance benefited from having been there.

Before you assume that I am being a bit thin-skinned about this lectureship because we are so closely involved, let me say that this is a wide-spread problem.

It is a common thing for today's preachers and elders to be concerned about worship services being "stimulating" enough. Congregations face enormous challenges because there are so many differing opinions about worship style.

Now, don't get me wrong—I appreciate a good sermon and song service as much as anyone. I also know of congregations who won't sing a song written after the Roosevelt administration—the first Roosevelt! And I won't even approach the topic of which version a preacher should use!

Seriously, brethren, have we become so fickle and jaded that we can't embrace the opportunity to hear the word of God taught? Have we become so busy and distracted that we can't carve out three or four hours to consider what the word of God has to tell us about evangelism? Are we more concerned with the preacher's style than we are the scriptural content of his message?

Speaking as someone with way too many irons in the fire, maybe it is time we slowed down and took more time for reflection and meditation upon God's word.

Consider this: the next time you hear an announcement, see a flyer on the bulletin board, or read of some event in the bulletin, ask yourself this question, "Should I make this event a priority in my life?"

- Marty

## God's Work In Romania

The reports of the work being done in Romania are great. We are now working with nine congregations in the cities and villages around Pitesti and Craiova.

New congregations could probably be started every week if we had the manpower and the funds.

The gospel is being taught in every district of Romania. In February 2003 a piece of mail was sent into every home within three districts encouraging people to enroll in World Wide Bible Study correspondence courses. More than 14,000 have enrolled!

Thousands continue to study and new requests continue to come in. Although the mailing was done only in these three districts, the word has spread and requests for teaching have come from all forty districts in the nation.

On Sunday, April 18 there was a total attendance in eight of the congregations of 222. Harvey Starling and Ion Fratostiteanu preached for 14 hours each! No, not really because they had to travel from place to place, but they had to work 14 hours to get to all the congregations for the services. Many have been baptized into Christ.

Thousands of Bibles have been given to people to study the courses. Thousands more are desperately needed! The price of printing and delivering the Bibles has increased to \$4 for each Bible but that is still a very good deal.

We rejoice and thank God that His word is being taught and that there are millions of receptive hearts among the 25,000,000 people who live in Romania.

You are helping us to reach these precious souls and we pray that you will continue to help us. We need funds for Bibles, help for the children that we have been caring for, correspondence courses and other study materials, help for those who are in need of medicine and food, and so many other needs.

If you can help us with whatever amount, we would be very happy to hear from you. Should you choose to designate your contribution as a gift of memorial or honor, feel free to detach and use the form provided below.

Most of all, please pray for our work in Romania and elsewhere throughout the world.

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***GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR***

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Van and Bennie Middleton  
Marty and Lisa Knight

In Memory of  
**ROSE ANN BECK**

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In Memory of  
**PATSY HARREL**

By  
Bo Harrel  
Herb and Dorothy Tatum  
Dennis and Shelby Cooper  
Ted and Barbara Knight