

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 13, Issue 9

September 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

On Sunday morning, July 25, at approximately seven o'clock, my mother slipped peacefully from this life into eternal rest. She had left us really on July 13 about noon. She had rested the night before, had her breakfast that morning and joked with my brother and sister who were there with her. Then about noon, without any warning, just passed into unconsciousness and never recovered.

We are all thankful that, according to the doctors, her last days on this earth were painless and that her passing into that place of rest was peaceful. Marty will be writing some things about her in his

article, but let me just say that I had the best mother in the world and I miss her more than I could have ever imagined. She was a great Christian lady and her influence will live on for many years to come.

I always ended my conversations with her on the telephone or when I visited her by saying, "I will see you in a few days." At the committal service I ended it the same way and I am grateful that I can say with confidence, "Mom, I will see you in a few days."

Our work in August has been profitable and enjoyable. The first week of the month we were with the church in Black Oak, Arkansas where I have



preached in many meetings through the years. We always enjoy our time there and it has been a joy to see the church there grow spiritually through the years.

There was a time when the church at Black Oak had a new preacher about every time we went there, but Brother Tim Bassing has been

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Marty's Thoughts A Tribute

We gathered on July 28, 2004 to honor the life and memory of that fine girl. Dessie Martin Knight was born on April 12, 1912 to W. B. (Barlow) Martin and Laura Weaver Martin. She was a small baby, born to a mother who had lost two other children in the previous three years. Few people gave her much of a chance to survive in a time when infant mortality was so high. As many would learn over the years, it was a mistake to underestimate the strength, heart, and stamina of Dessie. She possessed an incredible will to live.

Sadly, her mother was in the early stages of tuberculosis at her birth and would leave Dessie after only two short years.

Her father was a farmer and gospel preacher for the last twenty years of his life. His death in 1922 left young Dessie orphaned at age ten. Her older brother, Ernest, and his young wife, Ruby, took her into their home and raised her to adulthood. Ernest followed in his father's footsteps as a preacher and sacrificed a great deal to ensure that his baby sister was brought up in the church. His family remains close to ours to this day and we owe a great debt to Ernest and Ruby. In the mid-1920's they moved to the town of Bay in northeast Arkansas where Ruby Martin's uncle, E.D. Smith, and his wife Mollie lived.

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From Ted's Pen (Continued)

preaching there now for several years and also serves as one of the elders in the congregation.

The church is very mission minded. They not only support good works in the mission fields, but they are personally involved in mission efforts. Several of them including the preacher and some of the elders have worked in Guyana and other places and speak enthusiastically of the work being done in those areas. While we were there an announcement was made that three school age children in the area needed assistance with clothes, school supplies, and other necessities for the beginning of school. That evening several hundred dollars was given by individuals and the next night a classroom was nearly filled with the things that those children would need for the entire school year. That is genuine Christianity in action! Thanks Black Oak for letting us be with you.

On August 15 we were with the church at Hoxie, Arkansas. This is another congregation that we have worked with many times through the years and that we love very much. They

have been supporting and encouraging us for all of the 13 years that we have been involved in this ministry. Brother Darrell Douglas is the preacher at Hoxie. Brother Douglas told me that Hoxie is also a congregation with a lot of interest in spreading the gospel in mission fields. He and several others have been on mission trips and they are interested in going to other places. We thank God for the church at Hoxie.

On August 22 we were blessed to be with the church at Center Ridge, Arkansas. We are thankful that here is another congregation where several of the local Christians have been involved in going to other countries to help teach the gospel of Christ. Brother Don Adkins is the preacher at Center Ridge and also serves as one of the elders. We are thankful for their support and encouragement of our work as well.

Our September schedule calls for us to be with the congregations at Heber Springs, Arkansas; Farmerville, Louisiana; and Harding Street in Morrilton, Arkansas. We look forward to working with these good brethren.

A Note of Special Thanks

The Knight family wishes to express our deepest appreciation to our many, many, friends and brothers and sisters in Christ for the love which has been shown to our family since the death of our mother and grandmother.

Your prayers have meant so much to us. The cards, flowers, and telephone calls have been a great source of comfort and strength. The many contributions in memory of

our loved one have made us humble and thankful for your fellowship. They will be used to help spread the gospel of Christ, a work that was dear to the heart of Dessie Knight for her 76 years as a child of God. May God bless all of you is our prayer.

Ted and Barbara

Marty, Lisa, and family

Dave, Kathy, and family

The Work in Romania

We continue to be thankful for the spread of the gospel in Romania. There is so much work to do that it is frustrating at times to me. There are so many places where the gospel needs to be introduced and so many people who need to be taught, yet it is difficult to reach every one of them. Through the efforts of many of the Romanian Christians the word is being taught all over Romania through Bible Correspondence Courses.

They work long hours to get the lessons graded and returned, Bibles and other teaching materials mailed, and new students integrated into the program every week. We know that there have been 55 baptisms since Marty baptized the first student in August 2003 at Craiova.

There are now nine congregations including the one in the district of Olt at Slatina where services are being conducted every Lord's day and some during the week. 7,300 Bibles have been distributed over the past few months and requests for Bibles continue to come in constantly.

Brother Hollis Maynard and some other brethren recently conducted a special school for the Christians who are deaf. Seventeen attended this school and two were baptized into Christ.

Brothers Harvey Starling, Dale McAnulty, and Ion Fratostiteanu will be teaching in the Romanian

Bible Training school August 29 through September 15. This school will consist of sixty hours of extensive Bible study and students will come from every congregation in the area.

Our work with the children in the kindergarten continues to produce much good for the 35 children who live there. Some of the local Christians keep in close contact with the children and see that their needs are taken care of and they keep us informed of the work that they do.

We are so thankful for the loyal support of so many of you who make it possible for us to present the gospel to so many people here in the U.S. as well as in Romania.

We are working very hard. I feel guilty when we are not busy even though I know that there must be some time off for rest. I sometimes become frustrated because I am preaching the gospel here at home to people who have heard it hundreds of times and I live in a world where there are billions who have never heard the gospel one time.

We will continue to just do the best that we can to reach as many as possible while there is time. Your support and prayers make this possible and we thank God for you. Please continue to help us and especially pray for us. We love you.

Marty's Thoughts *(Continued)*

It was in 1928 that the two defining events of Dessie's life took place. In September she married Herbert Henry Knight, to whom she would be married for over 65 years. The following month she put on Christ in baptism and began her 76-year Christian pilgrimage.

She and Herbert made their home in or near Bay for the remainder of their lives. They became parents for the first time in late 1929 and eventually raised eight children—six sons and two daughters.

In 1955, my oldest cousin, Pat, made them grandparents for the first time. Over the next twenty-five years that total would grow to twenty-four grandchildren. Between 1956 and the end of 1963 they averaged a new grandchild every seven months!

As the family continued to grow Dessie was blessed with thirty great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. Most of them were present to honor her memory.

As I think back on the life of my grandmother, there are two things that stand out. She really possessed two reasons for living—to care for her family and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the lost.

Her family was her life. As Herbert spent years working on the Frisco Railroad, farming, and working as a carpenter, she cared for the houseful of children that could generously be described as active. She was "Mama" for seventy-five years and "Granny" for forty-nine. A fact that must seem unimaginable in today's world of small families, she had children at home for forty-eight years.

But, her love and generosity extended far beyond her immediate family. For many years, she cared for her mother-in-law as she lived in their already-crowded home. In 1964, Herbert and Dessie moved from the farm into Bay to

live with and care for Mollie Smith. Over the next ten years my cousins and I witnessed firsthand the spirit of Christian service as Dessie cared for Aunt Mollie as if she were our own.

The second great passion of Dessie's life was her desire to serve her Lord and teach the gospel. Several years ago I gave her a book the intent of which was to give her the chance to write down memories of her childhood. To be honest, I had forgotten about the book until Dad brought it to me a few days ago.

As I thumbed through the pages filled with her handwriting, it occurred to me how the vast majority of the inscriptions were about her spiritual life—things her father had taught her about God, others who had influenced her life spiritually, even the date when she received her first Bible. Heeding the words of God in Deuteronomy 4:5-10, she was careful to pass this love of God on to her children and grandchildren.

Three of her sons became gospel preachers and together spent over a century in full-time evangelism. Both sons and grandsons have served as elders and deacons. Others have inherited Herbert's love of song and serve as fine song directors.

One of my most cherished possessions is a "Big Book of Bible Stories" compiled by Marian Schoolland. On the inside cover is this inscription dated January 22, 1965, "To Martin Andrew with all our love—Granny and Papaw." It is so appropriate that, to my knowledge, the oldest thing that I have that my Granny gave to me is something intended to help me grow in the knowledge of the Lord.

There are many things that I will miss about my grandmother. I am also grateful that she passed along many of those same traits that will be missed. She had one of the quickest wits of anyone I have ever known. Her sense of humor never left in spite of the challenges of old age and poor health. Each time Dad visited her he would come home with a story that would bring a smile.

I will miss the keen mind that gave her incredible recall of events and dates. I am thankful that I spent quite a bit of time with her asking questions about her family.

I am thankful that she passed along a love of writing. For someone with little formal education, she had an uncanny ability to communicate through writing.

I am thankful that she taught us all to stand for that which is right. Just as some of her descendants, she was quick to share a thought with you and there was usually little doubt about where she stood on a subject. I am thankful that she taught us to stand up for what we believe in and made sure that belief was grounded in the word of God.

While it's hard to say goodbye in this life, it is comforting to know that she is now with those parents who never got to see that "fine girl" grow into this incredible woman. She is at home with her Herbert. And she is at home with her Lord. I hope they're ready to listen, because Dessie has a lot to tell them!

(The following is a reprint of an article written by Marty originally published in May 1998)

April 12, 1912

Consider, for a moment, two events that occurred on April 12, 1912. These two events were a world apart. In the small community of Enola, Arkansas a child was born while on the same date in Edinburgh, Scotland, the largest ship ever built, the R.M.S. Titanic, set sail on her maiden voyage. One was born in majesty and most of the world knew of her grandeur. The other was the youngest daughter of a humble farmer and preacher and his loving wife. It was said of one, "She's unsinkable!" Yet, two days later her rent hull lie on the bottom of the cold North Atlantic. The young child, being born of an ailing mother with tuberculosis, beat the odds and grew to adulthood becoming the matriarch of a family of eight children and over 50 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The grand ship represented the progress of mankind. It was said of her, "God, Himself, could not sink this ship!" She sailed in defiance of God and nature. The young girl was reared to respect God and His will for mankind. She became a Christian in her late teens and, alongside her faithful, Christian husband of 65 years, reared a family of God-fearing Christians. I am proud to be numbered in that family. I'm proud to call Dessie Knight my friend, my grandmother, and my role-model as a Christian.

She didn't enter this world with fanfare and notoriety as the Titanic did, but she's outlasted the old ship by 86 years! And I dare say that she's done a great deal more for this world than the Titanic ever did or will. Please join me and my family in congratulating my grandmother on her 86th birthday and thanking her for the wonderful example that her life is to us.

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GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR

In Memory of

DESSIE KNIGHT

By

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Hardy and Greta Mitchell	Howard and Inelda Nelson
Laban and Lorene Brown	Stanley and Sammye Gordon
W.A. and Peggy Mitchell	David and Pat Bryant
John "Bo" Harrel	Juanita Stell

In Memory of

BOB AND VERA SIMS

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Gary and Christy Cupp

In Memory of

VINA HARLAN

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In Memory of

BILLIE TROLLINGER

By

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In Memory of

LOREN MIDDLETON

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