

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 14, Issue 8

August 2005

Special points of interest:

- Pray for the lost souls in difficult places such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and China.
- Remember those Christians who are serving their country in military service.
- Dates for the 2006 Lectureships are set for April 7-9 and, as usual, they will be held at Mars Hill.

Inside this issue:

Gifts of Honor and Memorial 4

From Ted's Pen

It seems like it has been such a long, long time since our last issue was published. We compiled one for the combined months of June and July because I knew that it would not be possible for us to publish one issue for each month with the schedule that we had.

So, I am happy that even though we are in a real rush right now with Marty's schedule and mine, we are going to get the August issue in the mail. We appreciate your understanding of the time-related problems that we have sometimes which makes it impossible to get our report out as we would like to do.

Our work in June began with a meeting with the Midway church of Christ in Jasper, Alabama. We enjoyed great meeting with those brethren with several re-

sponding to the invitation of Christ and a wonderful time of fellowship with some great brothers and sisters in Christ. Brothers Kerry Richardson and Joey Sparks work with the congregation and a splendid work is being done.

They had all of the equipment and did all of the work to enable me to use a PowerPoint presentation with each lesson and I enjoyed it. It is a 21st century version of the old "rag sermons" (charts) that I have used for more than 40 years. We enjoyed being with the Broadway congregation in Yellville, Arkansas in June also. We had been there before and it was good to be with them again. They are in the process of finding a preacher to live there and work with them. The rest of the month



was spent in Romania and I will give a report on that work separately. I arrived home from Romania late in the evening on July 4. On July 8 I conducted the funeral service for Sister Pauline Williams, a good friend and sister in Christ who passed away on July 6.

We left early on Saturday morning July 9 to attend the celebration for Brother and Sister Joe

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**Tom Burnett—Todd Beamer
Mark Bingham—Jeremy Glick
Lou Nacke**

What do these five names have in common? What drew these men together? Five men from totally different backgrounds and little in common, but with a single destiny. Some of you are way ahead of me and recognize these names as five of the heroes of United flight 93—9/11/2001.

Marty's Thoughts

Along with the other passengers on that Boeing 757, they gathered randomly at an airport in New Jersey on that bright morning. I'm fairly certain that when they arrived at the Newark airport they had no idea that in hours—even minutes—they would be brought together by one of history's most defining moments.

They are generally recognized as the men who, during the waning moments of that flight, stormed the cockpit inhabited by crazed terrorists. Who knows how many lives and which of our nation's cherished landmarks were saved by their collective bravery?

In Matthew 10, we're told of another set of men—this one numbering twelve who found themselves in similar circumstances.

We can only imagine their earliest days together, but stop and consider them for a moment. They had little in common. Their backgrounds were very different. Like the men on that airplane, they probably had no idea that they were being called to greatness.

Eventually, our Savior gave eleven of those twelve the most profound responsibility of all time—to take the saving gospel to **the entire world!**

Aren't you grateful to them for accepting that challenge that Jesus gave them? I certainly am! I am thankful that they overcame their differences and achieved the seemingly impossible.

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From Ted's Pen (Continued)

Spaulding in honor of Joe's 70 years in preaching and their being married for 60 years.

I don't know of a couple more deeply loved and more highly esteemed anywhere than Joe and Donna Spaulding. They continue to be a blessing to many people. It was an honor to be one of the speakers on this occasion. Joe preaches for the Colony congregation and also serves as one of the elders there. We thank God for them and for their love and friendship for many years.

We left there to participate in the 16th Annual Northwest Arkansas Lectureship at Bellefonte near Harrison, Arkansas. The theme for this years study was "The Fruit Of The Spirit" and some great lessons were presented. In the evening sessions Brother Bill Stewart from Bear Valley Biblical Institute spoke on the theme of Marriage and Family. We enjoyed being with the brethren from Bellefonte and several other congregations for the lectures.

We came home on July 15, unpacked, and attended the wedding rehearsal and dinner followed on Saturday, July 16 by the wedding of our granddaughter, Brittany, and her sidekick Daniel Harless. We were all packed up again and as soon as the wedding was over we left for a meeting with the church at Mt. Judea, Arkansas which began on July 17 and continued through the following Wednesday.

We had a wonderful meeting with the brethren from Mt. Judea and had great attendance from the brethren at Bellefonte and Northside in Harrison, as well as Ben's Branch, Bass, and a few other area congregations. We came home from Mt. Judea on Wednesday night July 20th and had two funeral services to follow.

Earl D. Hall, the father of our son-in-law David Hall, passed away the Monday before and his service was on the July 21. Sister Edna Landers, a long-time member of the Levy congregation in

North Little Rock, passed away and her services were on Friday, July 22. Her husband, Brother Mel Landers, served as one of the elders at Levy for many years and both of them were very dear to our family.

On Sunday, July 24 we were thrilled to be with the Valley View church of Christ at Jonesboro, Arkansas. This congregation started on June 6, 2004 with 147 present. It is a congregation which was planted by the Nettleton congregation in Jonesboro. Brother David Gibson began working with them the very first day they met. These brethren have a wonderful spirit! It is just difficult for me to put into words how I feel about the work of the Valley View church.

On Sunday, July 10 they had 433 present and on the Sunday that we were with them they had 362. They have two worship services on Sunday morning at 7:45 and 10:00 with Bible classes at 9:00. It is necessary to have the two services because their present meeting place is not sufficient to provide seating for everyone in one service.

They have purchased land and have a target date of December 2006 to be in a new building. I believe that they need to be careful to build it big enough because they are going to continue to grow. Two families placed membership with them on July 24. They have recently appointed seven elders to shepherd the flock and will soon be appointing deacons to serve in special ways to meet the needs of the church and community.

I don't know when I have been as excited about a work in the U.S. as I have this one. It strengthens my belief that instead of merging we should be multiplying!! If you happen to be in Jonesboro on a weekend or a Wednesday night, visit the brethren at Valley View. They are located at Southwest Drive (US Highway 49) and Kellar Road. It was my privilege to speak at Levy in North Little

Rock on Wednesday, July 27 during their summer series of lectures. We always are happy to get to be at home at Levy.

Our August schedule is very full. July 31 through August 3 we will be with the church in Michigan City, Indiana. We come home on Thursday, August 4 and leave on Saturday, August 6 for a meeting with the church at Ravenden, Arkansas. On Thursday August 11 we will come home and then leave on Friday, August 12 for Swifton, Arkansas and a gospel meeting August 12-14. During the remainder of the month we will be in Charleston, Mississippi and Hoxie, Arkansas.

ROMANIA REPORT

The June trip to Romania marked the first time that I have made the entire trip by myself. I didn't like it and don't intend to do it again! Barbara and I observed our 47th anniversary on July 24 and, if I remember correctly, the preacher told us that only death should separate us following that ceremony. Well, I hope that is the only way that I will ever be away from her again for that long and for that distance. However, we had a wonderful Summer Bible School for the children in Pitesti, Romania.

The average daily attendance was 80. All of the classes were taught by Romanian teachers who had worked very hard in preparing to teach the children. Three ladies worked hard every day to provide lunch for the children. Several others assisted the teachers in whatever ways they were needed. At the closing program on Friday night we had a packed house and it was great to see

them all. While I was there we were able to send two of the local Christians to purchase medicine and other needed supplies for the 35 children in the kindergarten. I did not get to visit the children on this trip because they were all asleep when I went to the kindergarten and I did not have time to go back a second time.

The work in Romania continues to make good progress. Permanent meeting places are being secured in some places which will enable the congregations to grow and have more stability. It is a joy to see the progress which is being made. Harvey and Pat Starling are there nearly all the time and several other brethren go from time to time to help teach the word. We are thankful for the help of every one of them. We will plan to be in Romania again during October.

Brothers and Sisters, please accept our deepest gratitude for your prayers, encouragement, and your support! We simply could not do this work without you. As you are well aware, expenses such as travel and lodging have increased dramatically in our work here in the U.S. and prices have soared in Romania where the value of the dollar has decreased. It is imperative that we continue to have your help in order to do this important work. Marty, Barbara, and I work VERY HARD! There is so much to do and time is flying by. Please accept our thanks for all that you do to help present the gospel to as many as we can possibly reach. May God bless you!

- Ted

Recommended Website:

Missions Resource Network

<http://www.mrnet.org>

Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

I'm grateful for the opportunity that the months of June and July provided for me to make a simple and humble contribution to the same effort. During the first week of June, I had the good fortune of working alongside eight other brethren in an evangelistic effort in Piedras Negras, Mexico.

For some nine years congregations from Conway, Arkansas and Stockdale, Texas have worked together with brethren in that border city to build small homes for those in need. In recent years, the church at Enola, Arkansas has joined the work.

As an extension of that work, six of us conducted Bible studies with the assistance of three sisters from Stockdale who served as translators. The studies were scheduled by brethren from the 10 Kilometer church of Christ in Piedras Negras. Brother Hector Olquin preaches for this church and his brother, Elias, works tirelessly to spread the Word. Elias coordinated many of the studies that were done during the week.

About 30 studies were done during the week and we are so thankful that two responded to put on Christ in baptism. There

was also one response for prayers following worship on Sunday evening. It was my genuine pleasure to preach for the 10K church that evening.

I am thankful to Brothers Robert Swain, Paul McLendon, and Jack Shock as well as Sisters Debbie Moreland and Camellia Jackson for their effort and dedication.

At the request of the brethren in Piedras Negras, I had coordinated leadership development classes on both Monday and Tuesday evenings. Paul and Jack presented lessons on the role of elders in the local church and I discussed the work of deacons. Following these sessions I facilitated an open forum that included myself and three elders from Robinson and Center—Paul, Mark Copeland, and Buddy Hankins. Classes for the ladies were conducted by Debbie and Camellia and these were focused on the roles of elders' and deacons' wives.

The brethren at 10 Kilometer are planning to appoint their initial set of elders this fall and we pray that these classes were helpful to them during this process. Please pray for them as they complete the selection process.

The brethren in Piedras Negras have asked us to return in coming years—although we will likely conduct the evangelistic efforts at a different time than the construction work. We are grateful to them for the invitation and pray that God will bless our efforts together.

July 16 was a day filled with more emotion than I can ever recall experiencing in such a short time. It was my distinct honor to officiate at the ceremony uniting our oldest daughter, Brittany, in marriage to Daniel Harless. Daniel's father, Mark, was gracious enough to help with the ceremony so that I also had the opportunity to walk my "Pete" down the aisle as well as officiate.

We are so thankful that Brittany and Daniel have found one another and formed a Christian home in which their marriage will thrive. So many of you have offered encouragement to them and for that we are truly thankful. They have made their home in Conway and are worshipping at Robinson and Center.

Following the wedding, we took a few days away and traveled to Dallas, Texas where I attended

the Global Missions Conference and Lisa and Kyndall enjoyed some much-needed downtime.

The Global Missions Conference was an outstanding event hosted by Missions Resource Network of Dallas, Texas. The Arlington Convention Center was the venue. I have attended many large professional conferences and I must say that our brotherhood should be proud of the world-class event that was held. Some of the finest "mission minds" in the church were present to share their experience, expertise, and wisdom.

Simply put, I can't wait until next year's GMC! Not only was this event focused upon those conducting mission work, but a number of presentations were designed for the sending churches and their leadership. I would strongly encourage elders and deacons from mission-minded churches to mark their calendars for this event in 2006. I will pass along details as they are made available.

As always, your gracious support humbles me and I am thankful for your partnership in this work!

- Marty

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