

# Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 14  
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June and July 2005

## Special points of interest:

- Remember Ted in your prayers as he works in Romania on June 20 through July 5
- Remember Marty and Kyndall in your prayers as they work in Piedras Negras, Mexico on June 4 through 12
- Dates for the 2006 Lectureships are set for April 7-9 and, as usual, they will be held at Mars Hill.

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## From Ted's Pen

"Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, Praise the name of the Lord! Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is to be praised."

Our Father is so good and we rejoice that we have the opportunity to serve Him every day. He is worthy of our praise and adoration.

The month of May has been a time of great blessing for us. We were blessed to be in the states of Iowa, California, Kentucky, and Missouri, so we have traveled a lot. As you will see, we have a very heavy schedule for the next ten weeks as well.



I read a letter to the local paper recently in which a gentleman was chastising Christians for sharing their views on current events—specifically, the events surrounding the succession of leadership within the Catholic church. He was condemning our brother for pointing out, in an earlier letter to the same paper, the error involved in that selection process. One thing in particular caught my eye.

We are always happy when we can be with the church in Oskaloosa, Iowa. And, we are excited about some plans that the church in Oskaloosa is making with the West Liberty church in Montezuma which is about twenty miles away from Oskaloosa. Neither congregation is financially able to have a full time preacher to work with them. So, the two congregations are working on plans to share a preacher who will work with both congregations.

The church in Oskaloosa has a preacher's house and the preacher and his family will live there. I do not know how everything is being worked out between the two congregations, but they have secured a preacher who will move to that area on



June 1 and begin working with them. The brethren in these two congregations have had a wonderful relationship for many years. Several of them have been friends since childhood days. Therefore, I am hoping and praying that this will be a program that will be of great benefit to both congregations.

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## Marty's Thoughts

This fellow attempted to make his point that the letter was mean-spirited by paraphrasing our Savior as quoted in John 13:35.

*"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

However, instead of recognizing that he was quoting scripture, he attributed that quote to "a line I heard in a movie one time." Therein lies a big problem.

This comment sheds a great deal of light on the state of our culture—both societal and, at times, within the church. First, there is tremendous ignorance of the Word. Secondly, our sensitivity over political correctness has made it increasingly difficult to tell where anyone stands on an issue

today. Simply put, we've been trained to be apologetic. I fear that we have become more concerned with not offending the lost than we are with teaching them the saving gospel of Christ.

I realize—more than most—the need to be sensitive in our approach. In Ephesians 5:15, Paul told us to "walk carefully, not as fools, but as wise." As we deal with others we should always measure our words and our approach so that we make the most of the opportunities that we are given to teach others. We must do this with the realization that we cannot please everyone. The gospel is "living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword."

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## From Ted's Pen (Continued)

Fremont: <http://www.fremontchurchofchrist.org>

Bellefonte: <http://www.bellefontecoc.org>

It was a real pleasure to work with the church in Fremont, California for a meeting in May. While we were there we got to take a very brief trip to San Francisco and San Jose and we enjoyed that. The preacher at Fremont is Brother Roger Gean who is just completing his first year with the congregation. I have worked with Roger in the past during meetings in Indiana and Michigan and he requested that the elders in Fremont invite me to come and preach in a meeting there. We enjoyed meeting these brethren so very much.

It amazes me that in almost every congregation where we work, there is someone there with ties to Arkansas. We met people from Hasty, Fort Smith, Lamar, Greenwood, Booneville, and another place or two in Arkansas. This was the first gospel meeting that they had conducted in several years and we hope that it will not be the last. You can get a glimpse of the work at Fremont by checking out their web site listed at the top of this page.

While in Fremont we almost got caught in a gun battle between the police and a man who had holed up in a hotel room with a woman who the police thought was being held hostage. He held the officers at bay for over nine hours before they got tear gas into his room and he surrendered. We came in from the nightly service to the hotel and when we got out of the car people began yelling at us to hurry and get inside. About halfway to the entrance the gun fire began and we moved QUICKLY! For about two seconds I think that I could have outrun Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns! But, it all ended well for us.

I preached and gave a report on our work to the congregation at Eglantine near Shirley, Arkansas on May 15th. These good brethren have helped and encouraged us in our work for almost 14 years. Brother Walter "Dub"

Clarke is their preacher and he and his wife are doing a good work there.

We completed the month of May at Morley, Missouri. We love the church at Morley for all that they have meant to us through the years. Brother Bill Bradley is the preacher at Morley and he has a very strong interest in evangelism.

This issue of our report will be for the combined months of June and July because of the schedule we have for the next two months. I could not get this report out without Marty's assistance and he is going to be completely snowed under as are Barbara and I.

### DEBATE

There will be a religious discussion between Bruce Reeves of Conway, Arkansas and Gene Cook, Jr. of San Diego, California on June 20-21 and 23-24 in Conway. The essentiality of baptism for the purpose of receiving the forgiveness of sins will be the subject of the debate. It will take place at the Reynolds Auditorium on the campus of University of Central Arkansas beginning each night at 7:00. If you have the opportunity to come it would be good to hear these good men discuss this vital biblical topic. For more information you can contact Bruce Reeves at 501-329-5620 or at 217 Hwy. 65N, Conway, Arkansas 72032.

### LECTURESHIP

The Northwest Arkansas Lectureship will be conducted at the Bellefonte congregation near Harrison on July 10-13. This good lectureship has been conducted for many years and is always one of the highlights of our year. I will be speaking on Sunday, July 10 and then conducting the open forum each afternoon. For more information you can contact Bellefonte church of Christ, 4464 Highway 65 South, Harrison, Arkansas 72601, or by phone at 870-743-1212.

They also have a web site listed above on this page. Brother Ray Crawford is the preacher and the director of the lectureship.

### ROMANIA

I will be going to Romania for the annual Summer Bible School for children. This is a wonderful program each year and I look forward to being with them again. All of the classes are taught by dedicated and capable Romanian Christians. We will average about 80 students each day because that is all that we can handle and do a good job of teaching. While I am there I will also visit the children in the kindergarten and check on any needs that we can help meet. There is a lot of good work being done in the area with a building being remodeled in Craiova, some remodeling being done in the building at Pitesti, and the World Wide Bible Study correspondence course program thriving in teaching the gospel to the lost. Marty, Barbara, and I

will be returning for a longer period of work in October. Please pray for the work which we are connected with and indeed all of Romania.

Brethren, we thank God for every one of you - for your love, prayers, encouragement, and support. We are halfway through our 14th year of full time evangelism and mission work. We have been blessed to work in many, many states with wonderful Christians and congregations of the Lord's church. Many of these places would not have had a meeting without the assistance and support that congregations and individuals have provided for us to go. You will never meet most of the people that you have helped us to work with, but let us assure you that they are grateful and so are we. Please continue to pray for us and support us to do this vital work. May God bless you every one.

- Ted

## Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

The Hebrew writer goes on to point out that the gospel is a "discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

The saving truth of the gospel will not appeal to everyone. Some will accept it. Some will ignore it. Some will pervert it. And some will reject it outright.

Where does this leave the Christian? Quite simply, it leaves us with the awesome responsibility of teaching it. Regardless of how the gospel is received, it is our job to present it to those who have not heard and obeyed it.

I've tried to come up with words that adequately express the situation in which we find ourselves, but I find none more powerful or more accurate than those of the apostle Peter in 1 Peter 3:14-17:

*"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor troubled. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."*

Jesus issued what we have come to call the Great Commission because without it—and without us—there is no hope for those who have not come to a knowledge of the gospel. May we never forget that fact!

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## Marty's Thoughts *(Continued)*

I look forward to the chance to do just that in early June. I will be leading a team of six teachers to Piedras Negras, Mexico and we have a full week of activity planned. We will be working alongside the local brethren to conduct personal Bible studies.

This campaign was put together on very short notice and planning has been a genuine team effort. As I have mentioned before, this work will be done in conjunction with an ongoing aid effort. In addition to the daily Bible studies, we will be conducting a number of special classes designed to help the local congregation in Piedras Negras prepare for the selection of elders and deacons this fall.

I am profoundly grateful for the team: Robert Swain, Jack Shock, Paul McLendon, Debbie Moreland, and Camellia Jackson. As an

interesting aside, three members of the team (Debbie, Camellia, and Jack) are siblings and the great-grandchildren of Robert F. Anthony. In his office, Dad has a copy of his grandfather's license to serve as a preacher dated April 1910, filed here in Faulkner County, Arkansas, and signed by elders in the church at Enola—including Bro. Robert Anthony! I can't help but think that those two old warriors are pleased that their descendants are still carrying the torch forward into the 21st century.

Our younger daughter, Kyndall, will also be in Mexico helping with the aid work. Please keep us in your prayers. You'll never know how grateful we are for your generosity, prayers, and contributions. We love you!

- Marty

### **Ted's Schedule**

June 3-9  
Jasper, Alabama

June 19  
Yellville, Arkansas

June 20-July 5  
Pitesti and Craiova, Romania

July 9  
Joe Spaulding 70th Anniversary  
Celebration (Preaching)

July 10-13  
NW Arkansas Lectureship—  
Bellefonte, Arkansas

July 17-20  
Mt. Judea, Arkansas

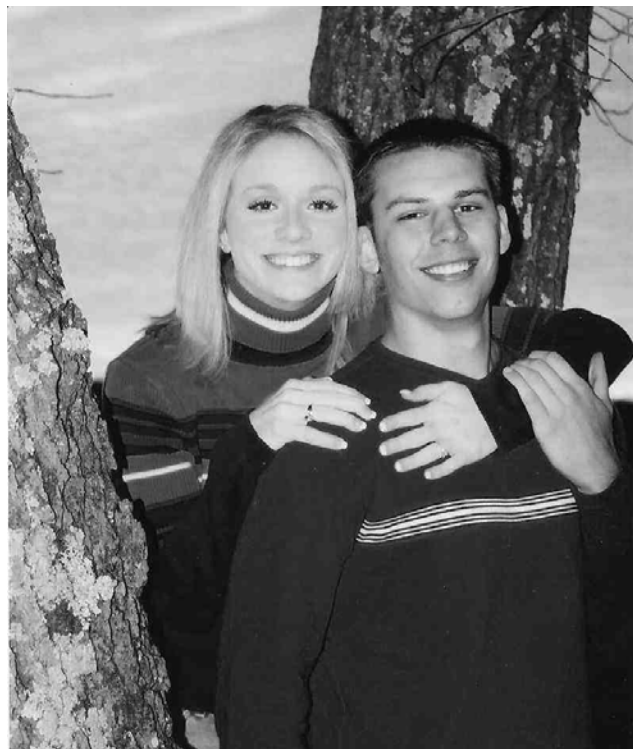
July 29-August 5  
Michigan City, Indiana

### **Marty's Schedule**

June 4-12  
Mission Evangelism Campaign  
Piedras Negras, Mexico

Upcoming Schedule  
and Key Dates

## Knight-Harless Nuptials Set For July



Brittany Michelle Knight is the bride-elect of Daniel Mark Harless.

Brittany is the daughter of Marty and Lisa Knight of Vilonia, Arkansas. Daniel is the son of Mark and Angela Harless of Ashdown, Arkansas and Mark and Debbie Propps of Mineral Springs, Arkansas.

Brittany is a granddaughter of Ted and Barbara Knight of Conway, Arkansas and Alvin and Freda Bradford or Shirley, Arkansas.

She was a 2004 honor graduate of Vilonia High School and is attending Arkansas Tech University in Russellville where she is majoring in early childhood education and was a member of the Golden Suns cross country team.

Daniel is a grandson of Victor and Vera Harless of Ashdown; the late John and Shirley Hinds; Evelyn Stuart of Nashville, Arkansas and the late Joe Propps; and Shirl and Nancy McCoy of Ashdown.

He was the valedictorian of the 2001 class of Mineral Springs High School. In 2005 he graduated summa cum laude from Arkansas Tech with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He is employed by Automated Solutions of Knoxville, Arkansas.

You are invited to share in the ceremony uniting them in marriage at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 16 at the Robinson and Center church of Christ in Conway, Arkansas. A reception will be held in their honor following the ceremony.

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A Ministry Directed by the Elders of the  
Levy Church of Christ

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***GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR***

In Memory of  
**MARION FUTRELL**  
By  
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Nelson