

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 14, Issue 10

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Special points of interest:

- Remember Ted and Marty as they travel to and work in Romania during October
- Pray for those who have lost material possessions or loved ones in the Gulf Coast catastrophes
- 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.

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From Ted's Pen

I suppose that every reader has had feelings similar to the one that I have right now. There are so many things that I want to say, yet I really don't know what to say. At least I don't know where to begin. There can be so many changes in life in one month's time. Since we published the September issue, Hurricane Katrina has battered a large portion of our country. All of us have been affected in some way by these horrible events.

I will begin by simply saying, "THANK YOU" to literally thousands of people who have manifested the spirit of Jesus Christ in response to the call for aid for our brothers and sisters in Christ as well as others who have lost everything that they had in these hurricanes. The love and compassion which has

been shown has been overwhelming. God's people are wonderful and I am so proud to be a part of His Family. I don't know what to say except, "May God bless every one of you for your generous outpouring of love and support for those who needed your help." We are so thankful to be a small part of the lives of many wonderful people.

My youngest sister and her family live in Ocean Springs, Mississippi and were too ill to evacuate when Hurricane Katrina struck. On August 29 I asked the elders at Levy if they would be willing to receive assistance from our brethren and get it to those who needed help so very much and they very graciously agreed to do so. I immediately sent an e-mail to our financial supporters and others who are on my e-mail



address list and almost instantly replies began pouring in with commitments of aid for the victims. I kept in contact with my sister and her husband, Laura and Jewel Below, as long as we could until the hurricane destroyed all communications. As soon as possible we were communicating after the storm with Laura and Jewel and the elders of two congregations in the vicinity of Ocean Springs, Mississippi and

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Before writing my article each month I typically go back and review my column from the previous edition. It's ironic that I mentioned last month the need for a bit of a break during the month of September. So much for that!

When I compare my situation with those who live on the Gulf Coast, I realize that I'm not really all that tired after all!

Marty's Thoughts

As Dad mentioned in his column, we spent a substantial bit of time during September doing our small part in helping meet the needs of others.

In addition to the fundraising efforts, it was my blessing to visit Ocean Springs, Mississippi on September 23. Accompanied by three other men—Alvin Bradford, Michael Ledbetter, and Don Riddle—I made a whirlwind trip with a 26-foot rental truck filled with cleaning supplies and personal items. We delivered the load to the Vancleave congregation just north of Ocean Springs. They are serving the community as a distribution center for supplies and were very appreciative of our efforts, along with those of many others.

A congregation in Appleton, Wisconsin provided the funds for most of the supplies, along with donations from the city of Conway. Our home church, Robinson and Center, covered the travel expenses.

One of the elders from the Washington Avenue church in Ocean Springs spent the evening escorting us around town. Our first order of business was to locate an elderly lady who was a relative of an R&C member. She had been displaced by the storm and her family had been very concerned for her well-being. I am thankful that we were able to get her in touch with her family!

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From Ted's Pen (Continued)

they told of the devastation that had been done. I called Brother Garry Neal at Levy and gave him telephone numbers to reach the elders of those two congregations and plans began to be made immediately to get aid to the people in that area. Brother Neal marshaled the forces at Levy and many people worked hard in receiving and preparing aid for delivery. I thank God for our family at Levy!

I know that well over \$100,000 in cash has been sent to aid those victims and I have no way of knowing how many thousands of dollars in food, water, and other supplies have been delivered to Levy and then on to the affected areas. Marty has devoted a great deal of time and effort to helping in this effort and he will report on the trip that he and others made to deliver assistance to the people in Mississippi.

The response of Christians throughout the country to this reminds me of the following story. Read it and think about the nature of Christians:

PARABLE OF THE SPOON

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I would like to know what heaven and hell are like."

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water.

The famished people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They were holding spoons with very long handles and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful, but because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back to their mouths. The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, "You have seen hell."

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was a large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, "I don't understand." "It is simple" said the Lord, "it requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other."

I thank God daily that we as Christians have learned to feed each other in times of distress and because of that we do not starve nor let others starve. You, our brethren, have been generous, caring, and compassionate, and you have made us so proud to call you our "Family." Please continue to pray for the millions who have been devastated and especially for our brothers and sisters who have lost so much.

It was a joy to be with the Pine Street congregation of the Lord's church in Heber Springs, Arkansas on September 4. Marty and I both spoke. I gave the report on our work to these brethren who have been supporting us for a long time and then Marty preached during the worship hour. It was a wonderful day and these brethren are a great encouragement to us in our work. Brother Lance Mays is the very effective preacher and the church is doing exceptionally well and we thank God for them.

We were blessed to work with the church at Romance, Arkansas in a meeting September 11-14. This was our first time to be with them although we have known some of the brethren there for many years. The attendance was very good and we pray that good was done in this effort. On September 25 Marty preached at the Harding Street congregation in Morrilton, Arkansas and I gave the report on our work. We are always happy to get to be with our brethren at Harding Street.

Youth Outreach University 2006
January 13-16
Campus of the University of Central Arkansas
Conway, Arkansas

We had planned to take a break for the last two weeks of September as we reported in the last issue. However, due to some health problems which Barbara had, it was necessary for us to stay at home and she made several trips to the doctor each week. So, on September 18 we had our entire family at our house for Sunday dinner and what a great time it was! It was a wonderful day and we are so thankful that we could have that time together. We all worshipped together and then came to our house for the afternoon.

On Sunday and Monday evening of that week we attended a gospel meeting at the Oak Grove congregation in North Little Rock, Arkansas where brother W. Kay Moser was preaching and it was a delightful experience to hear him preach the gospel. On Tuesday night I went to Springfield, Arkansas and heard my good friend of almost 40 years, Brother Carroll Sites, preach a great sermon in a gospel meeting there. So, we had a very good week here at home.

Barbara has been experiencing some severe pain in her lower right side and abdomen for some time and has been going to the doctors for consultation and treatment. We were very concerned since she has had so many cancer problems. All of the tests have shown NO CANCER! But, the doctors have finally concluded

that she is having problems with adhesions from previous surgeries and she will probably have to have another surgery for that. She is not going to Romania as scheduled for the month of October. The doctor said that there was no way that he would attempt to make such a trip and he advised her not to. So, she will stay at home.

Brother Paul Morphis from Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas and I will leave on October 6 to work in Craiova, Coiroiasi, and a couple of other places in Romania. I would not go by myself again, but Brother Paul and I have worked together in Romania for the past 11 years and it will be great having him with me. We look forward to a good work and we certainly plead for your prayers for our safety and for a fruitful work.

There are so many other things that I would like to say in this issue, but I know that Marty has a lot to say as well. So, let me conclude by simply saying, "We love you all very much and we are thankful to God for you." Your prayers, encouragement, and support through the years have been so very humbling to us. We thank God for the wonderful life that we have had and YOU have contributed so very much to that. May God bless you every one."

- Ted

Ted's Schedule

October 6-24
Romania

Marty's Schedule

October 13-24
Romania

Upcoming Schedule
and Key Dates

Marty's Thoughts *(Continued)*

Afterward, we were able to see some of the most heavily damaged areas within Ocean Springs. As I told several people after we returned home, the only thing that I witnessed that is more powerful than nature is the spirit of the Lord's people.

Brethren at both congregations were in high spirits—although they were physically spent. Their attitude will inspire me for a very long time!

We heard a number of amazing stories. One lady survived the storm after standing in neck-deep water for over seven hours. Her

husband took refuge in the attic of their home, but she stayed below to make sure that their pet dog stayed on a couch that was floating in their living room!

The most heart-rendering stories had to do with rebuilding costs. One sister whose home was gutted by the storm surge was given a check from her insurance company for \$146. That was the portion of the damage that the insurance company credited to wind damage. All other damage was supposedly due to the flood. Many brethren are faced with making mortgage payments on a home that is devastated. The

HURRICANE RELIEF INFORMATION

<http://www.oceanspringschurchofchrist.org>

website listed on this page will give you some points of reference for these types of stories.

It was also a genuine pleasure to preach at two familiar congregations near home. On September 4 we were with the delightful family at the Pine Street church in Heber Springs. We were treated to dinner afterwards by one of Lisa's many relatives in that area. Thanks, Nona!

On September 25 I was able to preach at the Harding Street congregation for the first time. It

was a delight to meet many for the first time and to renew some long-time friendships.

On October 14 I will join Dad and Paul Morphis as they work in Romania. This will be my first trip back there since February and I'm looking forward to seeing many of my brethren in Craiova.

God bless you all for the things that you do for the Way!

- Marty

Cries From The Dying

With breaking heart, I recently listened to the tapes of 911 calls received in Biloxi, Mississippi during the onslaught of Hurricane Katrina. I heard a lady say, "The water is nearly to my neck and I am going to drown." The dispatcher replied, "Try to get up to your attic. There is no one who can help you at this time." I heard young children crying in the background as their father talked to the dispatcher while their mother told them, "Don't cry, daddy is going to take care of us." The dispatcher again said, "Try to get to your attic, there is no help available." Finally, all the phone lines went dead and the calls stopped. The cries for help could no longer be heard.

The people had been warned that if they stayed, there would come a time when no one could respond to their needs and they would be entirely on their own. Now, that time had arrived and they were crying desperately for help that was not available. I am sure that some of them perished in the tremendous surges of water that came with the hurricane.

As I heard those things I recalled another time when men were crying out for help. In my mind, I traveled back to the day of Pentecost when Peter was preaching the first gospel sermon, recorded for us in Acts 2. The Bible says that the listeners were cut to the heart and they cried out and said, "What shall we do?" They were keenly aware of the great danger they were in and they wanted to be saved. This time the dispatcher, Peter, was able to give them good news. He told them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. And ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (2:38)

I thought of Saul of Tarsus in Acts 9:3-6 when he cried out and asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" He, too, realized that he was in grave danger and sought desper-

ately for salvation. Ananias was sent to teach him what to do and he gratefully complied with the terms of salvation which the dispatcher of the gospel gave to him.

What can we do to cause men and women to be so aware of their lost condition that they will cry out for help? What can we say to cause people to look squarely into their own life and seek salvation from something far more deadly than a hurricane or a tornado? When will **WE** see the urgency of doing all that we can to rescue the perishing? When will we really focus on what God has commanded us to do instead of focusing on providing for our own pleasures? When will we be as concerned about preaching the gospel to the lost as we are about taking food to the hungry?

My friends, we are surrounded by people who are **dying** both physically and spiritually. There are more than **six and one half billion people** in our world today and just a small fraction of them have even had a chance to hear the gospel! **We must see their lost condition and at least offer them a chance to obtain salvation through Jesus!**

I remember another scene that is heart-wrenching to say the least. I read of it in Matthew 7:21-23. Again, the people are crying for deliverance. They remind Jesus of all the good works that they did and the reasons why they should be saved. However, the Lord will say, "I never knew you: depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness." Once again the lines of communication are severed and their cries no longer heard and they perish forever in hell.

Dear Loving Father, help us to hear the cry of the damned and do everything in our power to deliver the message of saving grace to them through the preaching of the gospel. In Jesus name, Amen.

- Ted Knight

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