

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 14, Issue 9

September 2005

Special points of interest:

- Mark your calendars for Youth Outreach University to be held in Conway, Arkansas on January 13-16, 2006
- 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 ES Lectureships are set for April 7-9 and, as is the custom, they will be held at the Mars Hill congregation in Vilonia, Arkansas.

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From Ted's Pen

Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ and dear friends. We are thankful for the opportunity to send our report on the work for the month of August and some of the plans for our work in the weeks and months ahead. You make this work possible with your financial support and we are grateful to you.

We are also mindful of your prayers for us as so many of you tell us that you are praying for us as we travel and as we do our best to teach the gospel to as many as possible. Those prayers have helped us through some very difficult times and have made it possible for us to move forward when at times we have become very tired. Thank you so much for all that you do to encourage our work.

The first week of August found us in Michigan City, Indiana where we had a gospel meeting, arriving there on July 30 and beginning the meeting on July 31. The church at Michigan City has been a blessing to us since Barbara and I first began work as a minister and wife there 46 years ago. I cannot tell you how much we love those brethren and how encouraging they have been to us through all of these years.

Brother Fred Davis and his family moved there to begin working fulltime with the congregation on August 7. They were excited about the Davis family moving there to help with the work and I believe that Brother Davis and his family are excited about being there. Brother Stanley Davis has worked with the church there through the years as the



preacher and as an elder. He and his wife, Sister Jean, continue to do a wonderful work with them. Stanley and Jean are both approaching 90 years of age, but they continue to visit people, send letters and cards of encouragement, and set a great example for all of us to follow. Brother Jim Alred has probably been in the congregation longer than anyone there. I know that he has been there and has served as

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A verse that means more and more to me as time goes by is the admonition of the Savior to His disciples in Mark 6:31:

"Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile."

The disciples had just shared with Jesus their recent experiences. They had been, literally, too busy to even eat. Jesus recognized this and encouraged

Marty's Thoughts

them to rest. In His wisdom, Jesus knew that for all the work that they had previously done, even more was ahead of them. In just a short time a great multitude of about 5,000 would gather and be fed, first spiritually and then physically, by Jesus. On occasion I read this passage to remind myself of the important place that rest plays in preparing for work that lies ahead of us.

As I had anticipated, the past 3 months have been very taxing for our family. With the June mission trip to Piedras Negras, Mexico, Brittany's wedding in July, and a brief but productive trip to the Dallas area for the Global Missions Conference, we were beginning to tire out. Then during the month of August, I spent three

weeks conducting corporate training for Acxiom in both Little Rock and Chicago. So, as I write this we are doing the best we can to "come aside by ourselves to rest awhile."

During the months of August and September I will be investing the majority of my time in outlining my plans relative to short-term mission work over the next three years. Once these plans are complete, I will begin contacting many of the congregations with whom we have worked in the past and asking for time to share these plans with you. My excitement grows each day when I consider the opportunities that God has placed before us in this day and time.

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From Ted's Pen (Continued)

the treasurer for the congregation for nearly 50 years. We are so thankful for the opportunity to preach the gospel in Michigan City again.

We left Michigan City on Wednesday evening after services and drove to Effingham, Illinois arriving at exactly midnight. We got up early the next morning and drove on home arriving about 4:30 that afternoon. We spent Friday trying to catch up on mail, answering phone calls, washing clothes, and such before leaving on Saturday to begin a meeting at Ravenden, Arkansas on Sunday, August 7. What a wonderful experience that meeting was for us! Brother A. J. Stracener lives at Hoxie, Arkansas and preaches for the congregation at Ravenden.

I did not know what to expect there as we had never attended services with the congregation. What a wonderful surprise it was to find an enthusiastic body of people who are doing a great work for the Master. They had 98 present on Sunday morning and 108 on Sunday night. The attendance was just great during the entire meeting. Brother Danny Walker from Strawberry, Arkansas led the singing and did a marvelous job. Since the Stracener's have been working with the church there have been 23 baptisms and there are some others who are attending services. I believe they will obey the gospel very soon. One of my first cousins who lives nearby came to every service but one and Barbara's sister and her husband who live nearby came two nights. Visitors came from several area congregations. We are thankful that we got to be with the church at Ravenden.

We left Ravenden on Wednesday evening and drove home and spent Thursday catching up with correspondence and then began a meeting on Friday night with the church at Swifton, Arkansas. Another mountain-top experience for us! We moved to Swifton in June 1963 to work with the

church and the time spent there still represents some of the happiest days of our life together. Although there are many, many, brethren who were there in 1963 who have already gone on to their rest, there are still many who were there then and we enjoyed a great reunion with them. The singing at Swifton is still superb! After a wonderful potluck meal on Sunday we sang for almost two hours and then I spoke briefly for the last service of the meeting

Brother Todd Rabalais and his family work with the church at Swifton and are doing a fine work. Brother Hurshel Holt was appointed to serve as an elder at Swifton more than 40 years ago and continues to serve the church in that capacity. Brother Robert Templeton, who was just a little boy when we lived there, also serves as one of the elders. Brothers Gene Layton and James Adams also serve as elders. I do not have the words to express our feelings about the church at Swifton and how much they have meant to us through the years and they still do.

It was a privilege to be with the church at Charleston, Mississippi on Sunday, August 21. We love the good brethren there and it was a pleasure to spend some time with our life-long friends, Carroll and Myra Morris, who are members of the church at Charleston. Brother Don Wood and his wife, Katie, are working with the church and we are expecting to see good things happen with the church there.

We were privileged to be with the church at Hoxie, Arkansas on Sunday, August 28 to close out the month of August. The brethren at Hoxie have supported us

in our work for many years and we are thankful that we got to spend some time with them.

There were several responses to the Lord's invitation during the month in these meetings and we thank God for the harvest which He brings. Some of those who came were people who had not served the Lord faithfully for many years and there was great joy expressed when they responded.

We have learned some things during the month of August which we already knew, but they have really sunk into my head this time I think. We cannot leave after services at night any more and drive until midnight and then stop for the night or even come on home and arrive that late. I am just going to have to do a better job of scheduling so that we will not have to do that. We have had to spend the last few days of this month in the doctors office and trying to rest up after a grueling time of travel and work.

I have had three appointments and Barbara has had four, plus each of us going to the dentist for regular appointments. It seems that as I get older I would get smarter regarding how much our body can take, but I guess that I have been a little hard headed. However, I am going to do better from now on with the schedule and make time for us to get adequate rest between meetings. I really hate to admit we need to slow down because my mind says that I am still 30 years old, but the old body says that it ain't so!

Brethren, it sure would be good if

you know that your address is going to change, if you would send us a change of address before your paper is returned to us. It costs us between 70 cents and \$1.00 for each paper that is returned. We would appreciate your making a mental note of this and helping us to save some expense each month.

ROMANIA

It is with great sadness on our part to inform you of the death of Brother Pavel who lived in Schitu Golesti, Romania. I have spoken of Brother Pavel to many of you when I give my reports to you. He was contacted through the Worldwide Bible School mail-out and contacted the church in Pitesti soon after that. Brother Pavel had studied the Bible for many years. I noticed one time that his Bible was almost worn out and asked him how long he had been studying his Bible. He told me that he had that one for 10 years, but that he had worn out another one before that. When he came to Pitesti he already knew what he needed to do to obey the Lord but had been unable to find anyone to baptize him into Christ. Shortly after that he became a Christian and several months later he baptized his wife into Christ. He was a very strong influence in beginning the church in Schitu Golesti and did a great deal of teaching there as well as at Corbeni.

A few weeks ago he became ill and he passed away on August 17. The brethren from Corbeni and Pitesti took care of his funeral with Brother Petre from Corbeni doing the speaking. Brother Pavel was a wonderful Christian gentleman and I believe with all of my heart that he is now at rest in the place the Lord has provided for those who die in Christ. His death makes me so very thankful

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Youth Evangelism University 2006

January 13-16
Conway, Arkansas

Details Coming Soon!

CHURCH OF CHRIST WEBSITES:

<http://www.church-of-christ.org>

<http://cconline.faithsite.com/>

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

for WWBS and those who work so diligently to get the gospel out to those who want to study. Many of the Christians at Pitesti give a lot of time and effort to grading and mailing the courses, answering questions, and making contact with those who want further study. The congregations in the districts of Arges and Dolj are growing and we are thankful for every effort that is made to build a beautiful church to the glory of God in Romania. Please continue to pray for them.

We are also thankful to report that Sorina Dumitru who has been so very sick and had surgery and then complications from the surgery, is now at home and getting better each day. She would appreciate a continued interest in

your prayers as well.

If everything goes as we have planned, we will take off TWO Sundays in succession for the first time in almost 14 years. We plan to have all of our family at our house for Sunday dinner on September 18. We also plan to take off September 25. We may do some traveling around a little, but we may just stay at home, depending upon how we feel. With the price of gasoline we may just walk wherever we go!! Isn't it awful? Anyway, we are looking forward to a few days off.

May God bless every one of you and we ask that you pray for us always as we strive to present God's eternal truth to as many as we possibly can.

- Ted

Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

It is my firm belief that the opportunities that God has set in front of us are matched by the resources at our disposal. With all of the things we have available to us—technology, quick and convenient travel, printed materials and curriculum—we simply must be about the Father's business of sharing the gospel. It is, indeed, a sobering thought that

there are *billions* of people who have never had the chance to know Christ. And many of us are surrounded by those who have repeatedly heard and *rejected* the gospel. I look forward to sharing my plans with you in coming issues! God bless each of you and thanks for your support!

- Marty

Ted's Schedule

September 4
Heber Springs, Arkansas

September 6
Host—Central Arkansas
Christian Fellowship

September 11-14
Romance, Arkansas

September 12
Host—Areawide Preachers
Meeting

Marty's Schedule

Marty is available for preaching appointments on Sundays beginning September 25

Upcoming Schedule
and Key Dates

REMINDERS

Please send address changes to
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GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR

In Memory of

PAT WATSON

By

Marty and Lisa Knight

In Honor of

**JAKE ANTHONY
SAM JANSKI
DANIEL TIPPS
BRANDON HUFF
TOMMY EPPERSON**

Thanks for Serving our Country!

By

Marty and Lisa Knight