

Evangelistically Speaking

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April 2006

Mark your calendars:

- The Seventh Annual ES Lectureships are set for April 7-9 and will again be held at Mars Hill's building near Vilonia, Arkansas.
- Please remember Marty and Robert Swain as they travel to and work in Romania on May 4-16. Ted and Barbara will also be in Romania for about three weeks beginning May 11.

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From Ted's Pen

The month of March has been one of extremely mixed emotions. God has blessed our work and we have enjoyed immensely the efforts that were made to preach the gospel of Christ. However, while there are great blessings associated with our work in the kingdom, there are, at times, liabilities that are hard to deal with. I am reminded that Job tells us that we should not expect to receive only the good things in life, but to also be prepared to deal with the difficulties that often come our way.

On March 17 I signed the papers to sell our parents house. My brothers and sisters had given me power of attorney to dispose of the property and on that day I signed the papers to give ownership to someone

else. I had helped my father build that house by holding up the sheet rock while he nailed it to the ceiling and all the other small things that I knew how to do in assisting him. I have been well-acquainted with that spot of land since my birth - even before Dad built the house on it. But, it was in the best interest of all of us to sell it. It was hard to do.

On March 27, while I was away from home preaching in a meeting, I received phone calls asking me to speak at two funeral services for very dear friends of ours. Brother James McNew, Sr. and Brother Cal Trollinger, both of the Levy congregation, passed away on the same day. Both has asked me to speak at their memorial service and I had promised that I would do so



if it were possible. However, it was not possible for me to do it. Cal's wife, Sister Billie Trollinger, passed away several years ago and I could not speak at her service either. Our hearts ache when we can't be where we are needed in every case, but we just can't be in two places at once. Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to the families of these good brothers in Christ.

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Marty's Thoughts

any way other than the fine reputation that they have within the church.

However, I've marveled at the way Dan and Diane Winkler have carried themselves with strength and dignity in the face of a horrible tragedy. Speaking at the graveside of his child, Brother Winkler said, "Our family is not the first to go through something like this. King David lost two sons at the hands of others. God Himself knows what this is like."

That statement says a lot about Brother Winkler's priorities - still teaching at a time such as that.

I contrast that with the circus-like atmosphere that I just watched on CNN. Nancy Grace, the host of a nightly program, seems obsessed with this particular case.

I sit in front of this computer on March 30 making every effort to control my emotions and my reaction to what I've seen during media coverage of the brutal murder of Matthew Winkler, a preacher from Tennessee.

Over the past several days I've witnessed two extremes. On one hand I've seen the essence of what it means for a Christian to handle adversity. I can't say that I know the Winkler family in

She has devoted nearly an hour each night this week to covering this event. I've never watched the show before tonight. I've "surfed by" on occasion and it always impressed me as tabloid journalism, covering the most outrageous topic available.

Unless you saw it, you won't believe what's been spewed forth on this program this week. Totally disregarding the wishes of the accused, Mary Winkler's, defense team not to have specifics of the crime scene discussed publicly, she has twice this week interviewed the medical examiner who performed the autopsy on Brother Winkler. Tonight she used a dummy to graphically describe the site of the fatal wound. Sad.

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From Ted's Pen (Continued)

Now, I will get to the positive aspects of our work during the month. It was my pleasure to preach at the church in Hattiesville, Arkansas on Sunday, March 5. Brother Ivy Davenport, who had preached there for many years, passed away several months ago and Brother Jay Crowe is now preaching for them. He is doing a splendid job and the congregation is excited about their future.

On March 7 I hosted the area wide fellowship as we began the 24th year of this good work. We had a great crowd of 126 people who gathered to enjoy some great singing, food, and fellowship together.

We left on March 10 to work with the church in Fall River, Massachusetts. We were joined by 13 Harding University students who worked every day in the various housing projects inviting students to come to Vacation Bible School and nightly services. We had a great work there. Brother and Sister Mike Mullen have worked with the church there for many years. Brother and Sister Ron Burnett have joined them in the work there and will be a tremendous asset to the work.

The Southern New England School Of Biblical Studies meets in the building of the Fall River church and they are doing a wonderful job of training men and women to serve the Lord in the New England area. We were just thrilled to get to be with this great church for these few days. We returned home on Thursday, went to Jonesboro on Friday for the sale of the house, and left on Saturday to work in a meeting with the Caney of Christ near Yellville, Arkansas. We always are humbled and thankful that we can work with these good brethren in the preaching of the gospel. Brother Jeff Crawford has been preaching there for many years and the church is doing well.

We left on Saturday, March 25 to go to Springdale, Arkansas for

a meeting with the church at Johnson. We had never been there before and thought that we knew only one couple there. Brother and Sister Keith Montgomery worship there and we have known both of them and their families for many years. It was great to be with them. However, we learned that there were many other people there that we had known in the past, some of them for more than 40 years. It was such a joy to be with them.

Brother Robert Curry has been preaching at Johnson for seven years and the church is doing very well there. So, while we were sad about some of the events of the month, we were thrilled with other things and thank God for the opportunities to do what we can to spread the borders of the kingdom.

The month of April is full also. We will be with the church at Mammoth Spring, Arkansas on Sunday, April 2. I will host a Bible study for preachers in central Arkansas on Monday, April 3. We will have our area wide fellowship on Tuesday, April 4.

Then on April 7-9 we will be hosting the Evangelistically Speaking Lectureship at the Mars Hill church building between Vilonia and Beebe just off of Highway 64 to the south. That same Saturday, April 8, Barbara will be speaking at a Ladies Day program at Dover, Arkansas. On April 16 we plan to be at home with our family to celebrate our granddaughter Kyndall's 16th birthday! On April 22-23 we will be with the church at Morley, Missouri. Our plans for April 30 are not completely finalized at this time but we THINK that we know where we will be.

ROMANIA

The work of the church in the districts of Arges and Dolj continues to make very good progress. One of the real highlights of the work now is that there are about a dozen very capable men who are doing the preaching in the eight congregations in these two districts. There are so many

wonderful Christians in the areas where we have worked for so many years and we thank God for them. We can hardly wait to get there in May and see all of them and teach others who are still lost in sin. We continue to ask for your prayers for these wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ in Romania.

I want to thank so many of you who have let us know that you have been praying for my oldest brother, Charles Knight. He had heart surgery the first week of March and we all thought that he would just do great and be home

and back to normal shortly thereafter. However, there were complications and he remains in Baptist hospital in Little Rock. Although he is improving he remains very ill. He's a good man and I ask you to continue to pray for him.

Brethren, we continue to thank God for all of you who make it possible for us to sow the Seed of the kingdom. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we continue our work. May God bless you!

- Ted

Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

I watched as she traded silly remarks with those who were on the program—joking about the proper pronunciation of their respective names. A total sense of disrespect for the hurting families involved.

Tragically, the saddest comments have been reserved for the church. I did not see the show aired Monday, March 27, but the transcript is available on our ES website.

In response to obvious questions that she had regarding the church of Christ, she asked a number of denominational representatives to join her, including Tom Rukala, a Baptist preacher who had this to say about the Bride of Christ:

"Well, the church of Christ is a relatively new church. It was started about 150 years ago by Alexander Campbell. And it's, unfortunately, a very legalistic sect, and they tend to use methods of intimidation and pressure tactics. They claim that they are the only ones going to heaven and all other people are condemned to hell."

I'm not sure how Mr. Rukala became an authority on the church, but if you find out, let me know.

The most telling aspect of this exchange was Grace's response, "Uh-oh, I'm in trouble. But, I already knew that." Followed by laughter.

I must confess that I worked myself up quite a bit as I read this transcript. The church was later referred to as a "narrow sect" and a "borderline cult." We were described as espousing tactics that are "not only un-Biblical, but unethical." OK—deep breath. Calm down a bit and think about what our Savior had to say on this topic.

In Matthew 10:16-23, He warns us that we will be persecuted for standing for what is right. For those of us who are proud to wear the name Christian, that includes being the butt of Nancy Grace's jokes. Or, as Dad calls her, "Nancy No-Grace."

Many years ago I remember hearing my Grandpa Knight say, "Don't ever try to out-puke a buzzard." (Note: my wife will die when she sees that I put that in print.) So, don't worry about the Nancy Grace show.

What should we worry about?

We should be concerned about the fact that we live in a society with so little knowledge of God's word that awful terms are used to describe the church for which our Lord died.

I know one thing about Nancy Grace: she has absolutely no concept of the true gospel of Jesus Christ. We need to be desperately concerned about her and billions more like her.

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A Salute To Those Who Serve

During my formative years, I did not have a strong military presence in my life. Dad was never in the military and neither of my grandfathers ever served in that fashion. This had nothing to do with a statement of any kind, it just worked out that way.

Two of Dad's brothers served in Korea before I was born and I was always aware of that. So, I was left with three influences in my life that related to the military. Two of them were uncles on my mother's side of the family—my Uncle Edward, Mom's oldest brother, and her brother-in-law, Jim. Both served in Vietnam and made that war a very personal thing for us.

A third influence was Brother Cal Trollinger. We first met Cal and his wife, Billie, in the mid-1960's at the Levy congregation. After Cal retired, they moved to Conway and we left for Oklahoma City. Just a few short years later we moved to Conway, right across the highway from the Trollinger family, and that relationship picked up right where we left off. I spent many days on the golf course with Cal and a few at the fishin' hole with Billie.

Uncle Jim died in a car accident in 1973 along with two of his children. That hot summer day was my first experience with a military funeral. It was, without a doubt, one of the saddest days of my life and the military aspect of the service heightened that fact. I was deeply moved. I vividly recall when Edward returned home from Vietnam. We

lost him just a couple years ago. I saw a man recently who reminded me of him and it brought a smile to my face. I've always wondered how a man so gentle and soft-spoken survived in the military for so long.

Now, the last of those three men is gone. I just returned from Cal's funeral. It was also conducted with military honors. My daughter noticed her big old Dad trying so hard to control his sobs as "Taps" was played.

Cal was my closest link to the Greatest Generation. He served in three wars—in the Pacific during World War II; in Korea; and also in Vietnam. If you spotted Cal walking down the street, it is likely that you would suspect he was military. The proud way that he carried himself; his "buttoned up" persona; and that always fresh crew-cut.

I've often said that one of the greatest benefits of being a preacher's child was the "extra sets of grandparents" that came with the role. Cal and Billie were a part of that group.

I've worn out several sets of golf clubs over the years, but only one putter. Cal sold me a set of clubs in 1978, not meaning to include that putter. He told me years later that he meant to take it out and keep it himself. I'm glad that he didn't because I cherish the club and still use it. If I had just one more chance to speak to Cal, I would thank him for many things. And one of the most important of those things would be his service to country.

I've since gained a brother-in-law who served his country for 20 years in the U.S. Army. A friend of my children is now serving in Iraq. So, that respect for military service lives on. I'm grateful to men such as Edward Earls, Jim Tipton, David Hall and his sons, and Brandon Huff.

I'm deeply grateful to Cal for his standing in harm's way, not only during my childhood, but when my parents were children as well. I'm a very blessed man because of his actions and they will never be forgotten.

- Marty Knight

Schedule for Ted

April 2
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

April 7-9
Evangelistically Speaking Lectureships
Vilonia, Arkansas

April 8
Ladies Day—Barbara
Dover, Arkansas

April 22-23
Morley, Missouri

Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

We should also be concerned about the fact that we live in a world where humanism is becoming more the norm every day. One of the so-called religious experts who appeared on the Grace program this week, Deepak Chopra, had this to say, "The line (between evil and good) is not so sharp."

Oh, yes it is! Wouldn't it be convenient if we lived in a world with no true absolutes? Each of us could just trust our own judgment and expect the same of others. Brethren, our society is moving headlong in that direction! May we hold fast to the truth in spite of the ridicule that may come our way!

We should also be concerned about the fact that we're so alarmed when someone subjects us to ridicule. Let me clarify what I mean by that statement.

My friend and Romanian brother, Claudiu Murtaza, often says that if we aren't being persecuted, we better make sure that we aren't hiding. We're to be a "sanctified people" who are set apart from

the world. That means different. And it also means that we better be ready for ridicule and persecution!

Ask yourself this question: if we are doing all that we can to set ourselves apart from the world and intentionally be different, wouldn't we see more occasions where people were ridiculing us and calling us names? Finally:

Be grateful we are called the sons of God! (*Galatians 3:26*)

Rejoice when the world says all kinds of evil against us! (*Matthew 5:11-12*)

Be thankful that we have an Advocate with the Father who understands our pain and our sorrow. (*1 John 2:1; Hebrews 4:15*)

Pray. Pray for the Winkler family. Pray for the church of Christ. Pray for Nancy Grace and others who so desperately need a Savior and don't even realize it. Pray that we will have the chance to teach them while we still can.

- Marty

Schedule for Marty

March 29
Operation Outreach Presentation
Church of Christ Student Union
University of Central Arkansas, Conway

April 7-9
Evangelistically Speaking Lectureships
Vilonia, Arkansas

May 4-16
Operation Outreach Campaign
Craiova and Moreni, Romania

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GIFTS OF MEMORIAL

In Memory of
CAL TROLLINGER
By
Ted and Barbara Knight
Marty and Lisa Knight

In Memory of
JAMES McNEW SR.
By
Ted and Barbara Knight
Marty and Lisa Knight

In Memory of
INICE McINTIRE
By
Mary and Toma Walker