

Evangelistically Speaking

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November 2006

Update your prayer list:

- Please remember the brethren in Moreni and Cluj as they stand for the Lord.
- Pray for laborers who are willing to work the harvest in the U.S. and Romania.
- Pray that churches with resources will feel the call to send workers into the field.

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From Ted's Pen

There are a couple of songs that I often sing that come to my mind right now. One of them is entitled, "God Has Smiled on Me" and the other is "God is So Good". I am certainly aware that God has smiled on me and that His goodness to me is unsurpassed. "Why?" you may ask.

There are so many reasons that I can't count them, but right now I am thinking of CASSI MICHELLE HARLESS. I will not say much because it is a bit difficult for the proud grandfather and the prouder great-grandfather to be writing in the same publication about the birth of a precious little girl. I have discovered this - it seems to me that God has a

very, very, large barrel of love and when one becomes a parent He takes out a big scoop of it and pours it all over those parents. Then, when one becomes a grandparent, He takes out two big scoops and pours it all over the grandparents. And over the last two-and-a-half months I have learned that when one becomes a great-grandparent, God just picks up the barrel and pours it all over those great-grandparents. Now, I will let Marty tell you "the rest of the story."

Our work in October has been wonderful indeed. We began the month with me preaching in our home congregation, the Levy church of Christ in North Little Rock, Arkansas. It had



been about five years since I had preached at Levy and it was a joy to be with them. It was 40 years ago - September 4, 1966 - that I was introduced to the Levy congregation as the full-time preacher. Although we have not been "employed" at Levy all those years since that time, we have maintained a very close and cherished

(Continued on Page 2)



No, that is not me in the picture above. I was nowhere near that handsome at 12 hours old! I've used this quote several times over the years, so it may not be new to some of you:

"Making the decision to have a child is momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body."

- Elizabeth Stone

Marty's Thoughts

As children grow older and spin out of their parents' universe into one of their own making, you realize how poignant that statement can be! The two young ladies that God chose to give me as a father certainly walk around with my heart. And just when I thought that feeling could not become any greater, God gave me another young lady who will hold a piece of my heart in her hand!

Cassi Michelle Harless arrived early in the morning on Sunday, October 15. A healthy young lady, she weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces, was 21 inches long, and has the most adorable head of red hair you've ever seen. Of course, she also made grandparents of Lisa and I. I couldn't begin to describe how proud we are of her, her parents—our daughter,

Brittany and son-in-law, Daniel—and Cassi's aunt, Kyndall. Like you, I occasionally run across those challenges in life that cause me doubt. Whenever those challenges come, one of the most powerful tools I have to manage my feelings is to stop and think about how much God has blessed me through my family.

Along with Lisa, Kyndall, four very proud great-grandparents, and Daniel's family, I want to take this opportunity to formally congratulate Brittany and Daniel on the birth of a beautiful baby girl. May God bless your family!

Last, but not least, thanks to all of you who have been so kind to our family. I appreciate your indulgence in letting a proud Poppy brag about a grandchild!

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

relationship and have been one of their ministers for almost 23 years. I thank God for the elders, ministers, and all of our brethren at Levy for the great good that is being accomplished through their efforts for the cause of Christ. On October 29 they will have their annual Harvest Sunday that includes a special contribution, every dime of which will be used to spread the gospel in mission endeavors. Last year that contribution was about \$125,000. Watch them kick the door down this year and exceed that figure generously!

Thank you, Levy, for loving our family and encouraging and supporting us as we do our best to teach as many as we can while we have the time.

We were surely blessed to be with the church at Charleston, Mississippi for a gospel meeting on October 5-8. We stayed in the home of Carroll and Myra Morris who are life long friends from Bay, Arkansas. The church at Charleston is growing and there is a great spirit of unity and peace as they strive to build up the kingdom of God.

Don and Katie Wood have moved to Charleston and Don is preaching the gospel and they are serving the people of that community. We were in a flower and gift shop one afternoon and since we were dressed for services that evening, the lady asked us why we were so dressed up on Tuesday afternoon. We told her that we were having a meeting and would be going to services at the church of Christ. She replied, "I sure love the new preacher there" and then proceeded to call several other names of Christians whom she highly regarded. I love that! We are thankful for the Charleston church of Christ.

It was a pleasure to be with the church of Christ in Gainesville, Missouri on October 15-18 for a gospel meeting. I preached in a meeting at Gainesville for the first time in 1969 and have been blessed to be there several other times. Brother and Sister Don Rackley graciously allowed us to stay in their home and one could never find more warm and gracious hosts than they were. Each evening a large group of us had supper together before services and that supper in addition to eating at the Rackley's made this meeting about a 12-pounder for me! Barbara spoke at the Ladies Bible class on Wednesday and according to reports that I heard, the ladies enjoyed the class very, very, much. Brother Halbert Smith has been the preacher at Gainesville for 13 years and is doing a good work.

We left on October 20 to go to a hotel near the airport in Little Rock for the night in preparation for leaving early the next morning for Casa Grande, Arizona and a meeting with the church there. The meeting continued through Friday, October 27. We were warmly greeted as guests in the home of Brother and Sister Vance Garrett and what a real treat that was. We have stayed with the Garrett's before in our association with the church at Casa Grande.

Brother Ray Kesler and his family work with the church there and it is good to see a congregation with a great spirit of love for one another and a fervent desire to spread the gospel to their community.

You will notice that with all of the traveling involved in those meetings, we were not at home very much at all during the month of October. While we were at home I assisted the family of Sister Tina Noeller in

the funeral service for her on October 13. We enjoyed being with many of our brethren here at home at the Area Wide Fellowship on October 3. We spent some time with Barbara's brother, Noel Baldrige, in the Heart Hospital in Little Rock and Barbara met with the doctor of one of her sisters in Mountain Home, Arkansas to try to find some treatment for her sister. And, for those of you who didn't know, the Arkansas Razorbacks whipped the #2 Auburn Tigers in a football game on October 7!

So, we had a very busy but wonderful month and we pray that God will bless our efforts with whatever fruit He knows is best.

Our schedule for the month of November leaves us a little closer to home. The schedule is posted on page 3. In addition to the scheduled work for November, we also have on tap a trip to Memphis, Tennessee on Tuesday, November 21 for a concert by a country music legend, Don Williams, who

also happens to be a faithful Christian. Don is on a farewell tour and Memphis will be the final concert that he plans to perform. Marty and Lisa got us tickets to go to this concert for Father's Day and my birthday which comes on November 23, Thanksgiving Day. I am really looking forward to this evening of great music and fun in addition to spending some good time with Marty and Lisa.

May God bless you brethren for your interest in spreading the gospel of Christ to the people in the U.S. (where we recently exceeded 300,000,000 in population) and in other parts of the world. We are working diligently to do as much as we can and we are deeply grateful to those of you who help is through your financial support, prayers, and encouragement. Your loyalty and love motivates us to march forward with commitment to teach as many as possible. We love you very much and thank you for all that you mean to us.

- Ted

The mediocre teacher tells.
The good teacher explains.
The superior teacher demonstrates.
The great teacher inspires.

-- William Arthur Ward

News and Notes

A number of you—both as individuals and congregations—have responded to Marty's requests for assistance in retiring the remaining deficit from the summer campaigns to Romania. That deficit stands at \$2,900 and your help is till needed and would be appreci-

ated. Also note that the contribution form on Page 3 has been changed to include a place for you to indicate to whom the contribution is intended.

Remember to drop us a line with address changes whenever appropriate.

Count Your Chances

by Marty Knight

I read a story recently about a man who was struggling with setting priorities in his life and balancing his responsibilities. In order to help him manage, he sat down and calculated that, based on normal life expectancy, he had some 1,000 Saturdays remaining in his life.

He then set out to buy 1,000 marbles which he then placed in a jar and kept in his office. Every Saturday he would take out one marble, throw it away and ask himself if he had spent that one Saturday in the best possible way. I love the story and the message that goes along with it.

I want you to consider this for just a moment. How many of the people who are closest to you have not yet obeyed the gospel? I am talking about the co-workers, friends, neighbors, and perhaps even family members that you see frequently.

Now, for the sake of example, I want you to single out one of those people and consider this: the number of opportunities that you have to discuss salvation with that person are limited.

I'm thinking of one individual right now. He and I are about the same age and we see each other about twice a month on average. If that

pattern were to continue for the remainder of our lives and we lived to life expectancy, then I have 840 more chances to see him and interact with him. My jar needs to contain 840 marbles. And each time that I visit with my friend who is not a Christian, I need to remove a marble and ask myself, "Did you make the most of this chance?"

The most frightening aspect of this topic is this: we have no guarantees in life. We can make all the plans in the world based on the fact that we think we have time, but we may not have that time. That's a sobering thought.

The letters written by the apostle Paul in the New Testament are filled with examples of where the old teacher made plans that went unfulfilled. We all do that—it's human nature to do so. Paul also warned the brethren in Ephesus to "redeem the time."

The next time that you see that special person in your life who needs the gospel, think about that marble and how you plan to "spend" it. There should be a sense of urgency in our actions and, if not, then at least a increased sense of awareness that time is a limited resource. Count your chances!

Schedule for Ted

November 5-8
Marshfield, Missouri

November 12
Cave City, Arkansas and Southside, Batesville, Arkansas

November 17-19
Austin, Arkansas

November 26
Colony, Bee Branch, Arkansas

News from Romania

We are thankful that some of you sent some money to help with the family of Sister Ana Marin. You may recall from a previous edition that Ana's father took his own life a few weeks ago. Those funds have been sent to assist the family during this difficult time.



We also continue to be in contact with the Christians in Moreni and the attendance there is encouraging.

In the next few days we will be meeting with our brother and sister, Dan and Jan Davis, who have spent the past ten years working with the church in Cluj. The Davis' have just returned to the States and so the church in Cluj will be in a state of transition for the coming weeks and months. We will begin our work with the church there in January,

2007. We solicit your earnest prayers on behalf of the church in Cluj as they grow through this period of transition. This is the first time in the existence of the church in Cluj that they have been without a missionary presence from the U.S. Pray that God will help them to see the blessings

that lie within in this opportunity for growth!

We remain very excited about the prospects for the work in both cities—Cluj and Moreni.

Plans are being made for teaching and benevolence teams to go to both places in 2007 to strengthen the church, teach the lost, and provide assistance to those in need. Keep in mind that there will be opportunities for you to be a part of these works! We certainly hope that you will

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