

# Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 16, Issue 4

April 2007

## Update your prayer list:

- Please keep the brethren in Cluj and Moreni in your prayers on a regular basis.
- 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.

## Inside this issue:

Schedule for Ted	2
Schedule for Marty	3
Leadership	3
Gifts of Honor and Memorial	4

## From Ted's Pen

If someone offered you a sum of money for every person you taught about Jesus Christ, how much effort would you put forth in trying to teach the lost? What is a soul worth? Jesus taught that one soul is worth more than the whole world. The wise man in Proverbs 11:30 said, "He that winneth souls is wise."

I think of the price that Paul and others paid in their attempts to bring the message of Christ to the world. No one is going to offer you money to go and teach the lost, but the rewards for leading souls to Jesus are far greater than an monetary payment. We encourage you to be wise and win souls!

We had to make some adjustments in our schedule during the

month of March due to Barbara's health problems, but everything worked out very well and we kept every appointment which was scheduled. On March 4 I preached at Hattieville, Arkansas and at the Downtown congregation in Morrilton, Arkansas. These were close to home and Barbara was permitted to go with me each time although she could talk very little. It was such a pleasure to be with the brethren in both places and to enjoy the encouragement that they have been through the years.

On March 11 we finally made it to Marietta, Oklahoma where we had been scheduled earlier, but the brethren were very gracious in allowing us to change the dates twice. We left on Thursday March 8 and just en-



joyed a short but relaxing drive to Greenville, Texas for the night, then on to Dallas on Friday morning where we spent the night and had a great visit with Sam and Ardella Roberson, who are long time friends. On Saturday we went on to Marietta and that evening had a wonderful meeting and meal with the elders and their wives and the preacher and his wife.

(Continued on Page 2)



I was a gym rat. There was a time when I would do just about anything to be able to spend time at the gym, all alone, shooting a basketball. When I couldn't get to the gym I would shoot free throws out behind the house. I loved the game of basketball. Somewhere along the way I found March Madness. Most of you know of which I speak—the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament held each March. When I

## Marty's Thoughts

got old enough, I made a few road trips to watch games in person, including the 1982 Final Four where I saw an 18-year old Michael Jordan sink a shot to beat Georgetown for the title.

But, with age some things are replaced and my passion for basketball and March Madness has waned. I will, on occasion, watch a game, but usually while I'm doing something else more productive.

There is, however, one aspect of sports that I still find fascinating. Isn't it interesting how one coach can seem to motivate his players to greatness while others cannot?

I recently watched an interview with one of the most highly-successful coaches in college basketball, Mike Krzyzewski of Duke.

His team struggled this season and, for the first time in years, he coached a team without experienced upperclassmen. His team has missed those influential, older players who, in the past, have passed on what he called "our culture." He went on to explain that this year this task—passing on the foundation of success—fell entirely upon the shoulders of the coaching staff.

"Our culture." They know what it takes to be successful and have intentionally built a process where older players instill that knowledge in their younger peers. Let me ask you this question: **Does your church home have a "culture" of success in evangelism?**

(Continued on Page 3)

## From Ted's Pen (Continued)

On Sunday we had another great time with them at lunch at the home of John and Mary Kay Thompson. One of the elders there is Brother Gary Labeth and we have known he and his wife Annie for 34 years. Gary served as one of the deacons for the Hillcrest church of Christ in Oklahoma City when I preached there. We certainly enjoyed our time with the good brethren at Marietta.

We were privileged to be with the Caney church of Christ near Yellville, Arkansas for a meeting March 18-21. Of course the church meets in one of the most beautiful areas of the United States, the Buffalo National River area. But, it was the church itself that made the week most gratifying. Brother Jeff Crawford has been preaching there for many years, brethren from other congregations supported the meeting, the singing was superb, and the fellowship wonderful.

The church at Higden, Arkansas has been a strong supporter and encourager of our work for all the years that we have been involved in this ministry. Brother Carroll Sites is the preacher there and we had made plans for me to preach at Higden on March 25 while Brother Sites was in the Ukraine preaching the gospel.

It was a great pleasure to be with these good brethren. Many years ago when Brother Joe Spaulding was the preacher and Lewis Ealy and Joe served as elders, we got better acquainted with the brethren at Higden. Brother Ed Inman

had preached there earlier and was a dear friend of ours as well. It has been a joy to have such a good relationship with these fine brethren for many, many, years.

Our work in Romania continues to move forward. We get very good reports from the small group of brethren meeting in Moreni every week and they are such an inspiration to us because of their faithfulness in serving the Lord. We look forward to our next opportunity to work with them. The church in Cluj continues to meet faithfully every Lord's day and every Thursday evening. Two of the men present the study during the Bible class hour and the sermon in the worship hour. We are making plans for my next trip there in May and looking forward to making plans for a campaign in July.

We continue to do as much as we can to help with the children whom we have been involved with for a few years. There are many, many, more children there who need food, medicine, clothes, and all the other necessities of life. We are making plans to help with the same kind of work in Moreni and Cluj as we have the time and opportunities to establish those efforts. The congregations in the districts of Arges and Dolj continue to make progress. Harvey and Pat Starling are both there and other brethren have been there this month teaching one-on-one Bible studies. Please continue your prayers for the people of Romania and for those who are teaching them the gospel of Christ.

I have often wondered about the effectiveness of sermons. I have preached many times when I thought that the sermon was not helpful to anyone in the audience. I strive to present lessons that will cause those who are lost to consider their condition and turn to the Lord, encourage any unfaithful brother or sister to come home and serve the Lord, and cause the faith of the Christians to grow. This is a challenging thing to do and I often feel that I fail on all counts.

Recently a man came to me and with tears in his eyes said, "The sermon last night helped me. It really did help me." No, he had not made a public response because he didn't need to do that. But, he was bearing a load in his own heart and he felt that the load was lifted some by the study that we had shared.

God's word can and does do that. I am going to keep on preaching even though there may be those times when I feel that there just aren't any positive results. God has promised that if I will preach the word, He will take care of the harvest so I am going to keep preaching. I was thinking the other day, "I think that it would be great to preach a good gospel sermon, have the chance to tell my family how much I love them, and then depart for my mansion someday."

Thanks to those of you who make it possible for me to preach the word to as many as possible. May God bless you for your interest in the lost people of the world and your love for the truth which sets them free. May we have many more years of serving the Lord together.

- Ted

### 8th Annual Evangelistically Speaking Lectureships

Mars Hill Church of Christ  
Vilonia, Arkansas

FRIDAY—APRIL 20, 2007

SINGING—7:00 P.M.

"Challenging the Saved to Teach the Unsaved"

CARROLL SITES—7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY—APRIL 21, 2007

SINGING—9:30 A.M.

"Equipping the Saved to Teach the Unsaved"

DAN LIGHTFOOT—10:00 A.M.

"Leaders Leading the Saved to Teach the Unsaved"

SID WOMACK—11:00 A.M.

"Leading the Unsaved to Want to be Saved"

BOB TURNER—11:50 A.M.

SINGING—7:00 P.M.

"Teaching the Saved to Stay Saved"

BILL GREEN—7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY—APRIL 22, 2007

"Giving God the Glory When the Unsaved are Saved"

ROBERT SWAIN—9:45 A.M.

"Preaching to Save the Unsaved"

DAVID RILEY—10:30 A.M.

"Rejoicing When the Unsaved are Saved"

TED KNIGHT—6:00 P.M.

Lunch provided on Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

For directions and details visit:

<http://www.evangelisticallyspeaking.net>

### Ted's Schedule

**March 31**  
Ladies Day (Barbara)  
Nettleton, Arkansas

**April 1-4**  
Gospel Meeting  
Nettleton, Arkansas

**April 8**  
Formosa, Arkansas

**April 10**  
Central Arkansas Fellowship  
Plumerville, Arkansas

**April 13-15**  
Gospel Meeting  
Erie, Kansas

**April 20-22**  
Evangelistically Speaking  
Lectureships  
Mars Hill—Vilonia, Arkansas

**April 29**  
Valley View  
Jonesboro, Arkansas

## Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

Most churches of Christ today are unhappy with the rate of growth. In many cases, there isn't a rate of growth, but a rate of decline in the number of conversions and the retention of faithful members.

The second key question that I will ask is this: **If your home church doesn't have a "culture" of evangelism, what are you doing to change that fact?**

We could list many specific things that can be done to reach out to others. Many of us can remember days past when we did some of those specific things to reach out to the community, but somewhere along the way we stopped doing them. Our culture changed.

I found one other statement made by Coach K to be fascinating. He said that the work done by the coaches this year has been "a lot of fun and very rewarding." Instead of being discouraged over the fact that those experienced

upperclassmen were missing, they stepped in to replace them and relished the opportunity! They found the challenge exciting!

If those of us within the Lord's church want to stop the rate of decline and look forward to the day that we can again track our growth rate, then there must be a "culture" change. There must be a return to the basics. We must stop mournfully looking back at a period of growth in the 1950's and 1960's and feeling helpless. **Wake up!** Do something!

May we all do our part to change the "culture" within churches of Christ and return to our first century roots as evangelists! Identify those who know evangelism and empower them to begin instilling that passion—that motivation—in their less-experienced peers. Like Duke's coach, we might just find that it is a "lot of fun and very rewarding" to do so!

### Marty's Schedule

- April 28 and May 5**  
Operation Outreach Orientation  
Levy—North Little Rock, Arkansas
- July 19-31**  
City-Wide Campaign, Cluj Romania  
Cluj, Romania
- November 1-12**  
Teaching Teams  
Cluj and Moreni, Romania



**Operation Outreach**  
A Ministry of Levy Mission Evangelism

Interested in participating in a short-term mission campaign during 2007?  
Just want to know more about Operation Outreach?  
Then this session is for YOU!

## ORIENTATION SESSIONS

**Saturday, April 28**  
**Saturday, May 5**

*Levy church of Christ*  
*North Little Rock, Arkansas*  
9:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m.

## CAMPAIGN DATES

**July 19-31**  
*Cluj, Romania*  
**November 1-12**  
*Cluj and Moreni, Romania*

Register for one (only one) of the orientation dates listed above. Registration is available on the Operation Outreach website or by calling Marty Knight at 501.796.4124.

[www.operation-outreach.com](http://www.operation-outreach.com)

### LEVY MISSION EVANGELISM GIFTS OF HONOR / MEMORIAL

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**YES!** I want to help spread the news of Jesus Christ through this work.

- Contribution intended for Ted
- Contribution intended for Marty

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**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Ted**—ted.knight@sbcglobal.net  
P.O. Box 1297  
Conway, AR 72033  
Phone: 501.327.6116

**Marty**—martyknight@alltel.net  
70 Weaver Circle  
Vilonia, AR 72173  
Day Phone: 501.269.0450  
Evening Phone: 501.796.4124

***GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR***

In Memory of  
**JAMES KNIGHT**  
*73rd Birthday—March 17*  
Steve and Kim Knight

In Memory of  
**CHARLES STROUD SR.**  
Lea Stroud

In Memory of  
**NORMAN AND MARGARET CROUCH**  
Lea Stroud

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