

# Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 16, Issue 7

July 2007

*Please pray for the July campaign in Cluj in the following ways:*

- Ask God to help us find those who seek the gospel
- Pray that the teachers will have the wisdom to present the gospel in the most effective way possible
- Pray that this campaign will encourage the small church in Cluj and inspire them to greater things

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## From Ted's Pen

I want to write some things this month concerning **mission work** that I have been thinking about for a long time. So, I am going to give a brief report on the work that we did in June and our schedule for the month of July and the rest of my remarks will concern mission work.

It was a real pleasure for Barbara and me to be with the church in Marbury, Alabama for a gospel meeting on June 3-6. Our long time friends, Tom and Pat Forrest, worship with the church there and we were especially blessed to get to spend some time with them. We stayed in a hotel in Clanton, Alabama which is very close by. On the way down we had the privilege of visiting shortly with our friends, Brother and Sister David Bryant,

in Ardmore, Alabama. We have known the Bryants for more than 45 years. David will have heart surgery on July 5 and we pray for successful surgery and a full and speedy recovery.

It was a special blessing to be with the West Liberty church of Christ in Montezuma, Iowa for the 150th anniversary of their beginning. Really, the church began about 10 years earlier, but they have been meeting in the same building for 150 years. I have preached there in many gospel meetings through the years and we love the brethren there so very much. I hope that they will be able to celebrate 200 years of meeting, but I will not get to be there unless the Lord sends me back! We closed the work for the month of June with



the church at Cotter, Arkansas. What a fine congregation. Brother Ron Davenport has been preaching at Cotter for many, many years and continues to do a great work. His father, veteran gospel preacher Doyle Davenport, worships with the church at Cotter and it was a joy to be with him and his good wife, Faye. God bless you all and thank you for your continued support.

-Ted



## Marty's Thoughts

the room become very emotional and you realize that something has gone terribly wrong. One of the doctors recognizes your concern and explains to you that the plane carrying the donor organ and part of the team scheduled to operate on you has crashed. There were no survivors. For you personally, there will be no life-saving procedure today.

You were so close.

Some of you know that this event actually occurred recently in the United States. The patient was a man in the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. The plane crashed into Lake Michigan after departing a Milwaukee, Wisconsin airport. I simply cannot comprehend all of the emotions that were involved in that situation.

I have a good friend whose 18-year-old son died in a car accident in 2003. His son was the same age as my Brittany. One of the few things that brings consolation to the family is the fact that seven people received life due to their son's willingness to be an organ donor. It is an incredibly honorable thing to do.

But, remember—I asked you to put yourself in the place of that patient in Michigan. Think about how it must have felt to know that the thing that could save your life was SO CLOSE! Now it was lost! You went into that operating room believing that when you left, your life would begin anew. You face an uncertain future.

(Continued on Page 3)

As you wait for the procedure to begin a nurse rushes into the room and whispers something to the waiting doctors. The staff in

## Some Thoughts About Mission Work

By Ted Knight

There is absolutely no doubt that the Lord's church should be involved in mission work. It is obvious that this is what the Lord intended for His people to do when He charged His disciples to go and preach the gospel to every creature in Mark 16:15. So, it isn't a matter of choice with Christians today. We **MUST** be involved in mission work. I confess before I even begin this article that I am not an expert on the subject of mission work. I have not majored at any of "our" schools in mission work and have no degree in Missiology. I have not read all of the books that are available on the subject and there are many very good ones available. In fact, this is a subject about which scores of books have been written, lectureships and seminars have been conducted, video and audio lessons have been produced, and many other avenues have been explored to teach us and motivate us to be involved in mission work.

Debates continue regarding the most effective approach to mission work. Is it better to have missionaries to reside in a certain field on a long term basis? Is it more effective to send teams on short-term mission trips? Should we buy or build buildings in foreign countries or build the church and let the brethren provide their own meeting places? Is it best to have one congregation in a city of hundreds of thousands or should we have several smaller congregations placed throughout the city? These are some of the questions that we have been struggling with for decades and continue to discuss on a regular basis even now.

One of the greatest challenges that we need to face is arriving at a proper definition of mission work. I believe that there are some warped views among us regarding the definition of mission work. For instance, in our work there are some who seem to think that if we are not working in a foreign country, then we are not doing mission work. On the other side of the coin, there are those who

believe that we should do all of our work in the U.S. and not be involved in foreign efforts. Which view is correct and which is the scriptural one?

Another of the problems that we must deal with is the standard by which we determine the success or failure of our efforts in mission endeavors. "We have to get the most 'bang for the buck' someone says. By that they mean, I assume, that success is determined solely by the number of baptisms which result from our labors. I wonder who is going to measure the bang and what measure will be used to do so? I remember reading in Acts 8 about a man traveling out in the desert and preaching to one man who was baptized into Christ. I have often wondered about how many people were taught or influenced by that one man to become Christians? I could tell you about dozens of instances where I have seen efforts made to teach just one person and then that person has influenced many, many, others to obey the Lord. Let me give you some examples.

There is Iulia Vasile, a young lady from Bucharest, Romania who came to study ENGLISH with U.S. teachers shortly after the door of opportunity was opened to go to that country. She wanted to learn ENGLISH! But, as she studied she became more and more interested in what she was reading in the Bible than just the English language. Now, Iulia has directed the efforts of teaching thousands of people in the World Wide Bible Correspondence Course. Additionally, she has taught or translated to many people in one-on-one studies and many are Christians because of her efforts. That's quite a BANG in my book!

Consider Sorina Dumitru. She was a little stringy haired girl who came and just hung around the Americans when we first began to go to Pitesti, Romania. She came to the children's classes and worship services through the years following. Today she is a translator for

the hearing impaired Christians, teaches a children's Bible class, speaks at the Ladies classes, translates for U.S. teachers, and teaches one-on-one Bible studies.

Think about Andi Loghin. He was another youngster who just came and hung around with us. He translated for us, became a Christian and continued to grow in the Lord. Today, he preaches the gospel, teaches one-on-one studies, leads singing, serves in all the public ways in worship services, goes to the villages every Sunday and preaches, and has married a wonderful Christian girl.

I could go on and on. There are scores of people who were taught one-at-a-time and now they are Christians and teachers themselves, helping souls come to the Lord. How much "bang for the buck" are we getting? You tell me. It seems to me that after all the study, writing, debating, and struggling has been done, there has been little improvement in developing means of reaching the world with the gospel of Christ. In fact, we have fewer missionaries on the field today than we had many years ago. The question is, "WHY"? I don't have all the answers, but I have some suggestions.

First, let us use every scriptural and expedient means possible to get the message of salvation to the world. Brethren, we need to make some noise and by that I mean that we need to have a voice that can and will be heard around the world. The denominational world is peddling their false doctrines to the world in a Rolls Royce and we are trying to take the gospel to the world on a pogo stick! If others can have PRIME TIME TELEVISION PROGRAMS ON MAJOR NATIONAL NETWORKS, WHY CAN'T WE? If Barbara Walters can have a two-hour primetime special on the subject, "HEAVEN: WHERE IS IT AND HOW DO WE GET THERE?", and after interviewing some of the world's leading theologians they didn't answer either question, why can't we have one and tell the world the truth about heaven and how to

get there? Someone says, "We have some problems with this." Yes, and I know what some of those problems are. "Where is the money coming from?" "Who is going to plan and take the leadership of such a program as this?" Well, I think that if we get our hearts right and take seriously the Lord's charge to take the gospel to the world, we can work out these problems and get on with the task.

Second, let's stop wrangling over which method is the best and most effective and use every scriptural method that we can think of and get to work. A method that may be effective in one area may not be effective in another area, but that doesn't mean that the method is flawed. What one particular person or group may use to teach the lost may not be as effectively used by others, but that doesn't mean that the method is useless.

Not every one of us can have a "Ship Of Life" like Partners in Progress has. Not every one of us can have a "In Search of The Lord's Way" television program. Not every one of us can go to a foreign country to live or even go on a short-term mission trip. However, each of us can do the best that we can to teach as many as we can wherever we are or wherever we go. Each of us can be a supporter and encourager of every scriptural effort to reach the world for Christ. For heaven's sake brethren, let's stop being judgmental and critical of the methods employed by others and just get busy doing the best that we can to encourage, motivate, and inspire others to get involved in taking the gospel to the world. Remember this please -

It is the mission of the church to evangelize every person who isn't a Christian and to equip every Christians to evangelize.

The best plan for doing mission work is the plan that works best.

In the words of the old Nike commercial - "JUST DO IT!"

## Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

In Luke 16:19-31 we have account of Jesus' story of Lazarus and the rich man. Most, if not all, of those who read this article will be familiar with this story. There is a powerful lesson as the rich man looks on from Hades and asks to go back and warn his brothers.

Brother Dan Lightfoot of Russellville, Arkansas recently gave a lesson on this text. He made a statement that I believe to be true. It went like this, "If every Christian could spend just five minutes in hell, they would truly understand the necessity of telling others the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Those of us who are Christians face a decision. We have, in our control, the ability to take the one thing that can save souls—the good news of Jesus—to others.

Those who have not heard the true gospel of Christ surround us. They are in our neighborhoods, our cities, our countries, and our world. Like the man lying on that table, they are **SO CLOSE!**

What's our answer? Will we leave them knowing that help was so close, but never came? Or will we make a commitment to do everything we can to get the life-saving message to them while there is still time to do so?

I solicit your prayers on behalf of the campaign team that will leave on July 18 for Cluj, Romania. The Robinson and Center church in Conway, Arkansas is sponsoring this trip. A total of eight teachers from the U.S. and Romania will participate and they are:

*Dan David—Cluj, Romania*  
*Marty Knight—Vilonia, AR*  
*Kyndall Knight—Vilonia, AR*  
*Paul McLendon—Conway, AR*  
*Debbie Moreland—Conway, AR*  
*Derek Phillips—Greenbrier, AR*  
*Robert Swain—Winona, MS*  
*Raoul Szatmari—Cluj, Romania*

Significant advertising and publicity is being done in hopes that we can reach those who need to hear the gospel.

I humbly ask you to pray for several things. First, ask God to help us find good soil—those with a desire to hear the gospel. Second, pray that we will have the wisdom to know how to best teach them. Third, pray that this will be an event that strengthens and encourages the church in Cluj. Fourth, pray for smooth travel and good health for all.

In closing, pray that God's will be done in all things! We love you all very much and appreciate your prayers and support!

- Marty



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

**SUMMER CAMPAIGN**  
**July 18-31 — Cluj, Romania**

**U.S. TEACHERS**

**Marty Knight, Kyndall Knight, Paul McLendon,  
 Robert Swain, Debbie Moreland and  
 Derek Phillips**

**ROMANIAN TEACHERS**

**Raoul Szatmari and Dan David**

**Ted's  
 Schedule**

**July 1**

*Morley, Missouri*

**July 6-8**

*Northwest Arkansas Lectureships, Bellefonte, Arkansas*

**July 11**

*Levy Summer Series, North Little Rock, Arkansas*

**July 15-18**

*Mt. Judea, Arkansas*

**July 26-August 1**

*Michigan City, Indiana*

**Marty's  
 Schedule**

**July 18-31**

*City Campaign*

*Cluj Romania*

**November 1-12**

*Teaching Teams*

*Cluj and Moreni, Romania*

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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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Visit our website at  
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***GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR***

In Memory of  
**DOROTHY HENDERSON**  
Kenny, Karen, Hollye, and Hannah Henderson  
Marty and Lisa Knight

In Memory of  
**KATHLEEN HOOTEN**  
Van and Bennie Middleton

In Memory of  
**AUBREY FARRELL**  
J.J. and Anna Mae Pace

In Memory of  
**HERBERT AND DESSIE KNIGHT**  
Steve and Kim Knight

In Honor of  
**PHYLLIS NELSON**  
Brother and Sister Afton Flowers

In Honor of  
**MY PREACHING FAMILY**  
*Starlings and Knights*  
Steve and Kim Knight