

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 16 Issue 11

November 2007

*Please join us in prayer
for the following items:*

- Pray that God will send forth workers to help in the harvest
- Praise God for His bountiful blessings in this day and age
- Ask God to bless those in the mission field with strength, good health, wisdom, and opportunity
- May we give all honor and glory to God the Father

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From Ted's Pen

The first week of October was a real joy because we got to be with the Lorance Drive congregation in Little Rock, Arkansas for a gospel meeting. I have spoken there several times in the past and have always enjoyed our association with these good brethren.

Brother Carroll Sites preached there for, I believe, 21 years and now Brother A.J. Arnold serves as the preacher. He and his wife are loved and appreciated by the church. It was good to see many brethren from area congregations whom we have known in the past as well.

The second week of October we were blessed to be with the church at Gravel Hill near Dover, Arkansas. These brethren

have been helping with our support since 1992 and we have enjoyed their fellowship so very, very, much. Brother Bill Roderick serves as their preacher and as one of the elders, but several men in the congregation also preach at Gravel Hill and surrounding congregations. We love the fine congregation at Gravel Hill very much.

One young lady was baptized into Christ on Sunday and I realized that I know her parents and knew her grandparents, her great grandparents, and her great-great-grandmother. I suppose that means that I am older than dirt!

I left on Thursday afternoon for Cluj, Romania and it is from there that I am now writing



these words. I was deeply saddened at having to leave on this trip when I needed to be home so very much to speak at the funeral service of my friend and brother, Elton Blake. I did make some comments by means of videotape, but I wanted to be with his family during this time.

My trip here to Romania was as smooth as it could be with all flights on time at every connection.

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Marty's Thoughts

In last month's edition, I told you of the plans for a Romanian brother, Claudiu Murtaza, to move to Cluj, Romania. As we have worked with the Cluj church over the past 12 months it has become increasingly aware that a full-time resource was needed to help us prepare for the work to be done by short-term teams.



I am thrilled to tell you that Claudiu (pictured below left) did complete that move on October 22! He is eager to begin his efforts with the Cluj church and they have welcomed him with open arms. It is a joy to have watched this young man grow in Christ over the past 5 years and I look forward to a long association with him as we labor together for the Lord.

As most of you are aware, I was scheduled to leave for a trip to Cluj, Romania on October 31. My next trip to Romania will be my 16th trip there since 1997.

I have been very blessed to have a job with Acxiom Corporation that affords me the opportunity to do this work without having to raise support for my family. One of the

risks of holding a secular job is the chance that responsibilities with my employer will conflict with a scheduled trip to Romania. That has never happened—until now. Acxiom is enduring some very difficult times from a financial standpoint and I am in the midst of some critical business planning and project work.

So, the trip that I had planned for the first two weeks of November has been postponed a few weeks until mid-January.

This decision was made with a great deal of prayer and consideration and is especially frustrating in light of the positive things that are developing in Cluj. But, it could not be avoided.

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From Ted's Pen (Continued)

However, as I tried to confirm my flight back home I discovered a big mess similar to the one that Marty and his team encountered this past August! The Romanian airlines had no record of my flight home. I was afraid that I might have to find a way to walk home, but the problems were finally resolved by purchasing a second ticket for one leg of my flight.

Brother Claudiu Murtaza has arrived here to begin his work with the Cluj church. We have had many discussions and are doing a lot of planning concerning the future of the church here in Cluj.

The brethren in Cluj are excited to have him here and, of course, we are also thrilled by his coming. He is a good man who will work hard

with the people of this city to try to bring the gospel of Christ to them.

It was a thrill on Sunday, October 21 to baptize Ana Maria Parvu into Christ. I had studied with Ana for almost two years over the internet and she was able to come to Cluj from Spain the night before and was baptized into Christ. I have told many of you about her and asked you to pray for her. Now, we ask you to continue to pray for her growth and development in Christ.

I have some time open for meetings in 2008 and as the time approaches if you would be interested in having us for a meeting I would be happy to hear from you. If you know of a mission area

somewhere and think that we could be of assistance to the brethren in that place, please put us in touch with them and we will be happy to try to work out a suitable time to be with them. Monetary support is not an issue with us in those cases. We appreciate every opportunity to be of service in the Lord's work.

For many years we have received special assistance from many individuals and congregations at the end of the year. We are always grateful to be remembered in your special giving at year's end.

This year we would be especially thankful because of the need for support for our new full-time

Romanian preacher in Cluj.

As we reported earlier, we are going to need about \$800 per month for the expenses related to his work and advertising, postage for correspondence courses, Bibles, and other things. If you can help us with a one-time contribution or a monthly gift, either would be wonderful. So, as the old year ends and a new one begins, we hope that you will remember our work again as you have opportunity.

We have so much to do and we ask that you please continue to pray for our work. We are thankful for your prayers in the past. May God bless every one of you is our prayer.

- Ted

How To Keep The Local Church Alive by Ted Knight

One of the great challenges facing the local congregation of the church today is to keep the church alive and focused on the proper goals. I have seen several congregations that are being challenged because of declining membership and contributions. The older people are passing on to their eternal reward and the younger folk are going away to college or work and not returning to the community.

So, what was once a vibrant, active, lively congregation has become one that is trying to stay alive or has just developed and accepted an attitude of "keeping house for the Lord."

What can be done to keep the church alive in a community where there seems to be little prospect for growth? Is there any hope for survival of the church in this situation? Or should we just accept what we believe to be the obvious, slow, death and just wait for it to come?

There are many things which I believe contribute to the life of the local congregation.

- A close relationship among the members socially helps to maintain life.
- Insisting upon sound biblical teaching is important to the life of the church.
- Gospel meetings and Vacation Bible Schools help to breathe new life.
- Supporting foreign missions.
- Helping the needy are helpful to the growth of the church.

Brethren, I believe that the ONE absolutely essential ingredient in maintaining life in the local church is EVANGELISM! As long as there are people in the community who are not Christians, we have a mission field in front of us. Yes, I know the arguments.

"We have tried to reach them before and it didn't work."

"We have been meeting here all these years and they have never shown an interest in coming."

"We don't know how to do personal work and teach others."

We must be interested in the eternal destiny of every soul in our community. If we just let them live right under our nose for years and never make an attempt to teach them and influence them to live for Jesus, we are failing not only the Lord, but our friends and neighbors as well.

I grew up in a small community and have seen people band together to save a sick man's cotton crop because he could not take care of it himself. I have seen people caring for other people in times of sickness and death because they cared. These are important things and people who show their concern in these ways are to be commended.

But, what about those who are without God and without hope? Some of them are members of our family and others are close friends. Can we approach them

with an interest in their spiritual welfare without being abusive and insulting to them? Can we let them know that we care about where they spend eternity? Of course, we can and we should!

No, not every one of them will respond the way that we would like for them to, but WE MUST MAKE THE EFFORT TO TRY TO HELP! Some will listen if our approach is in love and genuine concern. If just one person studies the scripture and obeys the Lord, that good fruit is worth every effort that was made to produce it.

EVANGELISM is the lifeblood of the church. The blood in our veins keeps us alive and EVANGELISM in our hearts keeps the church alive.

Please brethren, give evangelism a try. God has promised that if we sow the seed, HE will attend to the harvest. Let's give Him a chance to do that by doing our part in sowing the seed.

Marty's Thoughts *(Continued)*

Most of the Knight family was able to enjoy Sunday, October 28 with our extended church family at the Levy congregation in North Little Rock. Dad was in Bucharest preparing for his return home.

For years, Levy has set aside the last Lord's Day in October as their Harvest Sunday, a day celebrating and focusing upon their support of mission efforts around the world. A financial goal is established—this year's was \$180,000—and a special contribution is taken. It also provides those of us who are

beneficiaries of that support a chance to be present and express our gratitude. We heard two fine lessons from brothers laboring in the mission fields of Africa.

If you aren't already doing so, I would encourage your congregation to have an event such as this one each year. Not only does it help you stay connected with the missionaries whom you support, it will also be a great encouragement to them. Let us know if you would like more information. God bless you all!

Ted's Schedule

NOVEMBER 4
Harrison and Willow—Conway, Arkansas

NOVEMBER 11
Colony—Bee Branch, Arkansas

NOVEMBER 13
Central Arkansas Area-Wide Fellowship
Plumerville, Arkansas

NOVEMBER 18
Cave City, Arkansas
Southside—Batesville, Arkansas

NOVEMBER 25
Black Oak, Arkansas

Marty's Schedule

JANUARY 11-13
Romania-Albania Missions Conference
Levy—North Little Rock, Arkansas

JANUARY 18-28
Cluj, Romania

2008 Romania ♦ Albania Missions Conference

"Standing Watch for the Lord"

JANUARY 11-13, 2008

Levy Church of Christ
North Little Rock, Arkansas

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

"I Will Stand My Watch"

TED KNIGHT—Friday, January 11

"Standing Steadfast for the Truth"

DAVID RILEY—Saturday, January 12

"Standing in the Gap—Preparing the Next Generation"

MARTY KNIGHT—Saturday, January 12

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

World English Institute—Bob Towell, Tom Langley

Bible Academy of Romania—Larry Little

Mission Opportunities for Women—Ellen Walker

International Bible Institute of Albania—Steve Stamatis

Being Effective as a Sending Congregation—Phil Jackson

Sharing the Gospel Through the Printed Word—Robert Swain

MISSION REPORTS

A panel comprised of missionaries from each respective country will provide reports. Dick Ady will facilitate the group from Albania and Tom Langley will facilitate the Romanian panel.

www.romaniaalbaniaconference.com

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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
ELTON BLAKE
Ted and Barbara Knight
Marty and Lisa Knight
David and Kathy Hall

In Honor of
GUS ZERNIAL
Steve and Kim Knight

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