

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 16 Issue 10

October 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

*"Rejoice in the Lord always.
Again I will say, rejoice."
Philippians 4:6*

This is one of my favorite passages of scriptures in the Bible and one of the most challenging. It is challenging because it is not always easy to rejoice. When there is heartache, suffering, and sorrow among family members and precious friends, or there is discouragement and disappointment from other sources, it is difficult to rejoice.

However, I believe that I have as much and maybe MORE reason to rejoice than anyone that I know and I try hard to remember that and to practice what this scripture tells me to do. Let me urge you to examine your life

and see if there is not more than ample reason to rejoice in the Lord.

Here are some of the reasons that we rejoice. The first week of the month of September we got to be with the church at Hoxie, Arkansas to begin a great month of service to the Lord. The church at Hoxie always had a building filled, great singing, and a fine spirit of love and unity.

Brother Darrell Douglas who has been the preacher at Hoxie for a long time was unable to attend because he had just had surgery. We are thankful for the love and support of this fine congregation for many years. On September 10 I hosted the monthly area-wide preachers Bible study at the Liberty church building near



Conway. We had excellent attendance and three good brethren talked about some great opportunities that we have to spread the gospel to the lost and encourage and edify the brethren. I will mention one of those efforts in more detail in another part of this issue.

We left on September 14 to go to Fall River, Massachusetts. Most of you are aware that we

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I want to share some very exciting news with you this month! Over the past 12 months, we've spent a considerable amount of time in prayer and discussion regarding the work of the church in Cluj, Romania. As we have done so, one recurring issue comes to mind and that is the need for resource. As much as we would like to be able to do so, it is not feasible for us to be in Cluj for extended periods of time.

Marty's Thoughts

Based on our experience in working with Romanian congregations, we came to the conclusion that a Romanian brother was needed in Cluj—someone willing to move there and minister to the needs of the church.

Since 2003, we have been closely associated with a young man from Craiova named Claudiu Murtaza. Our brother Claudiu possesses an outstanding set of skills that make him the perfect fit for the type of work that is needed. In the past, he has translated for us (both verbally and in publishing), made arrangements for our in-country travel, and generally taken care of the logistics of our work. He has been a partner with us in the work of the Lord. This is exactly the type of individual who is needed in Cluj at this time.

Claidiu cares deeply about his fellow man. He has a desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ when them. And he possesses a deep and genuine sense of accountability when it comes to doing God's work.

We are thrilled to announce that Claudiu has agreed to move to Cluj on November 1 and begin working with the congregation in that city! He is eager to begin this work and I am deeply grateful to him for his commitment.

In the coming days we will be in contact with some of you regarding support for Claudiu. We are asking our U.S. brethren to help us provide funds to cover his living expense.

(Continued on Page 3)

have been interested in the work of the church at Fall River and other congregations in that area for many years. The Hillcrest congregation in Oklahoma City

sent me to New England for the first time in November 1973 and we have made many, many, trips to that section of the country since that time. The church at Fall River is doing a great work. There have been several baptisms in the past few weeks including one man who was baptized on Sunday, September 16. I was amused when they announced that some of the baptismal garments were missing and needed to be brought back.

Some congregations might not miss the baptismal garments for several months because they don't use them very much, but Fall River does. I am sure that some good

sister had taken some of them to wash them following their use and had not gotten them back yet. It was a joy to be with the brethren there and we pray that much good will continue there.

I preached at Greenbrier on Sunday, September 23 at both morning and evening services and enjoyed being with the good brethren there very much. We closed the month of September with the church at Charleston, Mississippi and, as always, we were more blessed by our association that they were blessed by us. Brother Don Wood and his wife, Katie, are just doing a really fine work with the church there and we are so proud of them.

We had a little time at home in September and it was good to be there and help in a couple of situa-

tions which were very difficult. Brother Elton Blake, a long-time elder in the church at Greenbrier, was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor and had surgery on Friday, September 14. It was a very, very, difficult time for him and his family and we were so happy that we could be with them to offer whatever strength we could give. Brother Blake remains very sick and has some very difficult times ahead and we ask you to pray for him and his family.

Brother Don Pharis is a gospel preacher whom I have known for about 45 years. He now lives in Little Rock and has begun a work that is vitally needed in my judgment. Don calls the program, "LIFE LINES". He is organizing a large group of volunteers in the Little Rock area

to minister to the patients and families of people from all over the state and, in some cases, the world who come to Little Rock for medical treatment. Some people come there and have to stay for extended periods of time and it is very difficult for their friends and even in some cases, family members to be with them. Don believes that there are Christians in Little Rock who will take care of these folks and he is working to get something organized and done. He would love to come to your congregation and tell you about this work. You may contact him at 501-803-0201. You may also contact him through the Central church of Christ in Little Rock.

As always, we love you and God bless!

- Ted

The Church's "Interstate Problem" by Marty Knight

I've recently spent a lot of time on Interstate 40 between home and Nashville, Tennessee. I have come to know just about every billboard and landmark along that highway. As I was driving this past Saturday, it occurred to me that while I am familiar with the highway, I have not spent any time at all in the cities along that route.

Except for routine stops at the Starbucks in Memphis and Jackson, I've passed right through without noticing a single thing. If it wasn't along the interstate, then I didn't care! I'm reminded of a quote by John Steinbeck, commenting on the construction of super-highways:

"When we get these thruways across the whole country, as we will and must, it will be possible to drive from New York to California without seeing a single thing."

And this quote by Charles Kuralt:

"The interstate highway system is a wonderful thing. It makes it possible to go from coast to coast without seeing anything or meeting anybody. If the United States interests you, stay off the interstates."

I couldn't agree more! You see, I have been entirely focused on "getting to Nashville." Our culture in the U.S. has evolved into one focused upon one thing at a time—getting to our destination. I really believe this is one of the things that makes it hard for my generation (mid-lifers) to relate to those who came before us.

As my parents travel in their work across the U.S. they will, on occasion, get off the interstate and drive some of the old "U.S. Highway" system. Some of you know what I'm talking about—the old highways that had character. You could visit locally-owned motels, grocery stores, and cafes along the way. These roads usually went right through the center of the interesting little small towns.

I have fond memories of traveling along some of those roads in Arkansas. I even grew up on one of them! My wife's grandfather operated a "Mom and Pop" general mercantile along Highway 65 near Choctaw, Arkansas for many years. It was one of the more interesting stops in north-central Arkansas and many remember it fondly.

But, those days are over. Now we travel along these parallel strips of concrete and asphalt and all we see of the small towns are the names of a few of them on large green exit signs.

What a shame! Think of all the interesting things that we now miss along the way. We race by at 70 mph and really don't see anything at all. We blow past any chance for interaction.

So, what does this have to do with the church? It is my belief that this mentality has permeated our culture so deeply that it is affecting the manner in which we interact with others, including our spiritual relationships with others.

Many—dare we say most?—of the congregations in existence today are struggling with problems the root of which can be traced back to relationships. The breakneck pace at which we, figuratively, travel through worship services and Bible class does not allow us to slow down and build relationships. We are a "drive-through" society.

As a result, many churches have given up on deep relationship-building and have come to the conclusion that we must follow the same techniques employed by McDonalds. We should place a set of arches on a 75-foot high pole somewhere near the closest exit, hope that someone will see the familiar sign, drive through for a quick fix, and be on their way.

Is that really what God has in mind? In all honesty, that attitude reminds me of the parable delivered by Jesus in Luke 10! Isn't it interesting that Luke's account of this parable is followed by the story of Jesus telling Martha to slow down, stop worrying about the things of life, and enjoy the time we have with one another.

May we all slow down and take the time to focus on building relationships! May we all slow down long enough to be a part of someone else's life and allow them to be a part of ours! May we, as a church, resist the temptation to adapt the Lord's body to our culture at the expense of a fundamental principle on which the Body was built!

- Marty

Marty's Thoughts *(Continued)*

I'm pleased to announce that we will be hosting the 2008 Romania-Albania Missions Conference this coming January.

This U.S.-based event has been hosted annually by congregations who have supported the efforts of missionaries and teams in the countries of Albania and Romania. Our sending congregation, Levy, will be the host in 2008 and I have accepted the lead for planning the event. The conference dates are January 11-13 and information is available on the website (see ad to the right). The program begins on Friday evening with dinner and a keynote address delivered by Ted. A variety of programs on Saturday will include the following:

Break-out sessions—designed to inform you about programs of work in both countries and help you learn more about opportunities to serve people in Romania and Albania.

Missionary reports—a panel comprised of missionaries will report on the efforts taking place in both countries.

Additional keynotes—delivered by David Riley and I.

If you have a love for missions and/or you just want to know more about the work of the church in these countries, make plans to join us for this event!

- Marty

Ted's Schedule

OCTOBER 7-10
Lorance Drive—Little Rock, Arkansas

OCTOBER 14-17
Gravel Hill, Arkansas

OCTOBER 19-30
Cluj, Romania

Marty's Schedule

NOVEMBER 1-12
Cluj, Romania

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

LEVY MISSION EVANGELISM GIFTS OF HONOR / MEMORIAL

Please make my contribution:

In Memory of

In Honor of

Given by

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

- Contribution intended for Ted
- Contribution intended for Marty

RETURN TO: Levy Mission Evangelism, P.O. Box 1297, Conway, AR 72033

YOUR NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

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

Others coming soon!

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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A Ministry Directed by the Elders of
the Levy Church of Christ

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GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR

In Honor of
JIM DOYLE
Steve and Kim Knight

In Honor of
WALLACE AND NELL RIFFLE
Ted and Barbara Knight

In Memory of
IRIS McKAY
Mother of Nell Lee
Ted and Barbara Knight

In Memory of
WILLIAM HODGES
"Dr. Bill"
Marty Knight

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