

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 17 Issue 12

December 2008

*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, health, wisdom, and opportunity
- Pray for the church plant team in Vilonia and ask that God will bless their efforts according to His will

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From Ted's Pen

I had a birthday last week. I am amazed at how things work. I walked last week a little farther than I do most of the time. When I got home I was about tuckered out as we used to say. I asked Barbara, "Why can't I walk as far as I once did without getting more tired?" She said, "You're getting old!" What in the tar does getting old have to do with it? I eat right, exercise, and do what Brother Dr. Smith tells me to do, so why can't I just keep doing the things that I have always done? "You're getting old," she said again.

Well, I don't like it and I don't want you asking me how old I am. You would probably drop your support and have me placed in a home somewhere. I would



This past year my beloved Chicago Cubs had an outstanding run through the summer baseball season. They finished with the best record in the National League, achieving things that had not been accomplished by past Cubs teams in 75 to 100 years.

Then the season finished in disappointment with three straight playoff losses to the Los Angeles Dodgers. It wasn't exactly the ending that I had envisioned.

have to tell you the truth and I don't want to, or lie to you and God doesn't want me to do that, so just don't ask! Happy Birthday to me anyway!

Now let's get to the report of our work. I will give you a report on Barbara's health first. She had surgery on October 29 for the second time since June 17. Dr. Juan Roman from UAMS in Little Rock did the surgery, although he has retired from doing surgery. When he saw what had been done to My Lady in June he just said, "I will do it." When he came out of surgery he told me, "I did it the old fashioned way and she will be fine." Sometimes new things are great, but sometimes the "old way" is still the best way.

Those of us who are Cubs fans are accustomed to such heartbreak at season's end. But, true to form, we Chicago fans will get through the winter with the knowledge that the 2009 season will start soon and with it comes the hope that our team will win!

For a true baseball fan, the winter is reserved for a time when we look forward to sunshine, green grass, and fun at the old ballpark. Opening day will be here on April 1 and with it comes renewal!

There is something exciting about a renewed commitment. It represents a fresh start. The focus is on the future. The old feelings are gone, whether they are disappointment, anger, hurt, or despair.

I'm reminded of a situation that we find in 2 Kings 21-23. Judah had been ruled by two consecu-



He repeated to Barbara when she was awake that he did it the old fashioned way and that he fully expected her to be fine. On November 18 she went for a check up and he said that she progressing just like he wanted her to and that her pathology report was very good. He has given her permission to increase her activities, including riding some with me to my appointments.

tive kings who forgot God. They had no desire to follow His will for Judah. Manasseh and Amon did evil. But, they were followed by Josiah, who is described in 2 Kings 22:2 as "doing right in the sight of the Lord."

In the 18th year of Josiah's reign he made arrangements to have the temple restored. You see, his predecessors had violated the temple by raising altars to false Gods therein. During the restoration of the temple, Hilkiah the High Priest reports that he has found the Book of the Law in the temple. What a thrill that must have been to discover such a lost treasure!

What follows are some great examples of renewal - lessons that we can apply to our lives when we experience a renewed commitment.

(Continued on Page 3)

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

We thank God for Dr. Roman and his staff and for our Fathers' care for her.

You are familiar with the story of Ana Maria Parvu who grew up in Romania and later moved to Spain. She and I have studied for almost three years now by means of Microsoft Messenger and e-mail and she was baptized into Christ on October 21, 2007. She lives in Almuncar, Spain and is the only Christian within many miles of her home. I am very happy to tell you that Jose Garcia was baptized into Christ on November 12.

Ana has been studying the Bible with him for some time and he told her several times that he wanted to be a Christian, so his desire was fulfilled on November 12. Now, there are two Christians there and Ana is studying with others, one of whom is close to becoming a Christian also. I ask you to please continue to pray for Ana, Jose, and Ana's students, that they might always be faithful and a wonderful congregation will result from their teaching.

We have been working very hard on plans for the church in Cluj, Romania for 2009. Our first priority is identifying new ways of presenting the old message of salvation by grace through faith to the entire city.

In all of Romania and probably other parts of the world as well,

we are learning that new approaches are needed as circumstances change. The message will never change!! But, if we can discover methods that will help us to deliver that unchanging message of hope more effectively, then that is what we want to do.

Marty and I have worked on this end of the line and our brother Claudiu has made some very good suggestions from there. He and Robert Swain have been together for two weeks in Cluj and they have been discussing various things that might help in the work. We are diligently seeking every scriptural avenue that we can think of to spread the word to all of Cluj and the surrounding areas.

The times of economic stress are not only affecting America, but are really having an adverse impact in Romania as well. We have been working in Romania for 14 years and I was shocked at the living conditions of so many of them when I went the first time. Although one could get the impression that everything is well when you go to Romania now, when you get involved with the people you will find that all is NOT well. Many of them cannot afford the medicine, food, and other necessities that they need, so we help as much as possible.

We have three elderly Christians who need help with their medicine every month. Claudiu says that at

least one of them would simply be in serious distress if we could not help him. This has led to such a struggle to provide for their needs that the interest and search for the truth spiritually has declined sharply. The Christmas season is approaching and the needs are even more critical.

I don't say this to beg for money, but simply to inform you of the need for us to press harder and harder to find ways to get the gospel to them. Please pray for us as we seek for those better ways and pray for Claudiu and Anca as they continue to teach and lead in the work there. Pray for the Christians to be faithful and loyal even in adverse times, and pray for the citizens of the whole country to seek after the Lord.

In the last half of November we have been privileged to be with congregations at Cave City, Arkansas; Southside at Batesville, Arkansas; and Black Oak, Arkansas to report on our efforts to spread the gospel. Our calendar for December is full and we are thankful that God is using us to preach the gospel to the lost, encourage the unfaithful to come back home, and the faithful to press on serving the Lord.

We have decided that we will not attend the Romanian/Albanian workshop in Virginia in January due to the press of our schedule

and we just thought that it might not be best for Barbara to travel that much. We regret not being able to attend.

I mentioned that I did not want to beg for money. However, the work that we do requires money. I just don't know how else to say it. So, I am asking those of you who have made one time contributions for our work in the past as the year comes to a close, to do so again if it is possible. We are also praying that all of our supporters will continue to help as you have for so many years. May God bless you as you consider our needs for the work.

We have been working for some time now on our 2009 schedule and we are excited that we have a lot of work to do. I will be going to Romania at least twice and, if needed, I will go another time. We have a lot of work to do here in the U.S., as well. However, I do have some time available for gospel meetings and would be happy to work with you if you have a need that we can help with. Or, if you know of some mission area somewhere that may need help we would be happy to consider that. We just pray that 2009 will be a great year of serving the Lord.

- Ted

Schedule

Ted and Barbara

DECEMBER 7

Gravel Hill, Arkansas (AM)
Plumerville, Arkansas (PM)

DECEMBER 14

Jerusalem, Arkansas (AM)
Overcup, Morrilton, Arkansas (PM)

DECEMBER 21

Bellefonte, Arkansas

DECEMBER 28

Valley View, Arkansas (AM)

2009

Romania ♦ Albania Missions Conference

*"The Grace That Is Reaching
More and More People"*

JANUARY 11-13, 2008

North Stafford Church of Christ
Stafford, Virginia

<http://www.romaniaalbaniaconference.com>

Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

Grab your Bible and follow along with me as we observe these very valuable lessons.

ACCEPT THAT CHANGE IS NEEDED

2 Kings 22:10-11 tells us that the secretary to the king, Shaphan, read from the Book of the Law. Upon hearing the words of God's Law and realizing that the things that had been done by Judah were wrong, Josiah "tore his robes."

He grieved over the fact that a change was needed. I know people and you do as well who need to make a change in their lives. They need to grieve over the way that they are living.

A sense of renewal often begins with a hard lesson that change is needed. Perhaps it is a habit that must be broken because of its negative effect on our lives. It may have to do with growth and the lack thereof. Whatever the hard lesson may be, if a change needs to occur, make certain that it does.

HUMBLE OURSELVES AND ADMIT THAT WE NEED GOD

In 2 Kings 22:19, the Lord tells Josiah that He has heard him because Josiah's heart was responsive and he humbled himself.

Humility in the face of adversity is a difficult thing. There is a temptation for the human side of us to take over and handle things on our own. This is especially so with men. Why are men so resistant to visiting the doctor? Why do we trust our instincts when it comes to putting together that barbecue grill in the backyard? Why do we trust our instincts to navigate through a neighborhood that we've only visited one time, 15 years ago? Because it's hard to admit that we need help!

God wants us to be dependent upon Him. He made us as His creation, relying upon Him for the sustenance.

Renewal and commitment often times comes on the heels of humility and an admission that we need God.

TURN TO THE WORD FOR ANSWERS

We live in an amazing time. One of the things that amazes me the most is the availability of information. I can barely remember a time when research required a trip to the library.

First, we came up with personal computers that were connected to the Internet and gave us websites like Wikipedia where an individual can go to find virtually anything. Then we came to the realization that we needed laptop computers so that the information could be available in a portable format. But, then we found that those laptops were too bulky, so we condensed them down to a device the size of a cell phone and became addicts to the Blackberry.

Information and answers are everywhere! That isn't necessarily a bad thing; but, it can be if we search the Internet for answers to our spiritual questions. There are experts everywhere and some of their ideas sound good to us. We must remember that nothing - NOTHING - replaces the word of God when it comes to answers to the spiritual matters of life.

In 2 Kings 23:2, Josiah had the Book of the Law read before all the people of Judah. Imagine how much easier life would be if more people would practice this concept.

COMMIT TO A NEW BEGINNING

2 Kings 23:3 says that all the people pledged themselves to a covenant. That covenant was with God. A covenant indicates a much deeper commitment than a promise. My daughter and son-in-law married in 2005 and they chose to apply for a covenant

marriage license. This was a new thing in Arkansas at that time. A covenant marriage means that it will be more difficult for divorce. Their commitment is deeper.

As we think about renewal, consider the level of commitment to that fresh start. You've probably heard the old illustration about commitment as demonstrated in the ham and egg breakfast. The chicken participates. But, the hog is committed!

TURN FROM OUR FORMER WAYS

My Chicago Cubs ended this past season the same way that they had the previous 100. (That's right - 100!) They finished without a championship. It has been interesting to watch them over the past 30 or so years. They are beginning to realize that there are some former ways that they must leave behind. If they want different results, they must behave differently.

In 2 Kings 23:4-20, the nation of Judah, led by Josiah, turned from their former ways. They tore down the altars to false gods, they removed them from the temple, burned them in to ashes and scattered them throughout the cemetery.

God doesn't want lip service. He wants a life-altering change. There are so many applications of this concept. Each of us have things in our personal behavior that need to be changed.

Collectively, the church has some hard questions that we must ask ourselves. Why aren't we growing as we once did and as we should today? How do we stop the loss of our children? How do we keep the saved, saved?

The answers to those questions might require us to examine our former ways. It is my hope and prayer that we will all enter 2009 with a sense of renewal and commitment toward God.

OUR BEST WISHES TO ALL
FOR A HAPPY AND BLESSED
HOLIDAY SEASON!

Ted and Barbara Knight

Marty, Lisa, and Kyndall Knight

David and Kathy Hall

Daniel, Brittany, Cassi and
Derick Harless

Melanie and Dessie Koone

**EVANGELISTICALLY
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GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR

In Memory of
TOMMY LAMBERSON
Ted and Barbara Knight

In Memory of
LABAN W. BROWN
Ted and Barbara Knight

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