

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 17 Issue 1

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

Inside this issue:

Ted's Schedule	4
Marty's Schedule	4
Romania-Albania Conference Information	3

From Ted's Pen

We have come to the end of the year 2007. Whatever mistakes were made are forever past and whatever good has been done has been recognized and now we move on. It would be easy to sit and live in sorrow because of the mistakes or revel in happiness and joy because of the successes, but either one would become a hindrance to our future. So, we move on, forgetting the things which are behind and reaching forth to those things which are before, pressing toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

We began 2007 with a little apprehension about what our work would lead us to throughout the year. We were beginning a new work for us in Romania. In prior

years, Harvey Starling had attended to all the "nuts and bolts" as we called it in planning and preparing for our work. He raised the majority of the funds for the work of the church and we went and taught the word of God. Beginning in 2007, we are going to have to do some things that we had not done before and it requires extra time and effort to get the work done.

We started the year with Barbara, Marty, and me going to Cluj, Romania for our first time as a team. Marty had been there briefly before, but only for a very short time. Brother Dan Davis and his wife, Jan, who had worked in Cluj before, had prepared a place in the church building for us to live. It was nice and



we enjoyed so much being able to live and work in the same place without having to get out in the weather and move from place to place. We had been able to furnish the living quarters with only \$850 including cleaning, painting, and all the furniture that we needed. This was a great benefit to us. We are indebted to Dan and Jan for their efforts to make our living there as pleasant as possible.

(Continued on Page 2)



Marty's Thoughts

This mission effort—and it truly is a *mission effort*—is no different than any other. At times, those of us involved will be excited and at other times we will be discouraged. The knowledge that other Christians around the world are praying for you is a great comfort.

We have identified property in Vilonia that we will rent for the time being with an option to purchase the property when that is feasible. It is an outstanding location with highway frontage; a small building that will meet our current needs; and almost six acres of land that will meet our future needs.

We are currently focused on preparing for the evangelistic efforts that will begin in 2008. We have no greater objective than this: to reach the lost with the

gospel; to restore those who have grown weak in faith and fallen away; and to keep those who are saved in that condition. Please keep us in your prayers.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me using the information on page 4. So many of you have sent words of encouragement and those are greatly appreciated. I make it a point to share those words of encouragement with the rest of the congregation. It means so much to them!

As 2007 draws to a close, I have much for which to be thankful. The support and prayers that I receive from you are one of the foremost. May God bless each of you!

I'm going to be brief this month so that Dad can share his thoughts with you regarding the work in Cluj. I look forward to being in Romania during January, as I leave for Cluj on the 18th. Please keep me in your prayers during those two weeks.

I want to thank those of you who have shown support for the effort to plant the church in Vilonia that I mentioned in this column last month.

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

We had several very good and productive meetings with the few Christians who are there. Barbara had special ladies classes and they were encouraged to do their part in building the church. Some of the ladies are older and in poor health. In fact, almost all of the older people have some burdensome health issues that they must deal with every day. We went all over the City of 330,000 people to learn as much as we could about it and try to determine what we should do.

In May I made a trip to Cluj by myself. Barbara had come home in January with what the doctor feared was another bout with throat cancer, but after the surgery we learned that it was benign. What a joy it was to see the doctor coming across the waiting room with a big smile on his face and I knew that everything was alright. However, since that time the doctors have urged Barbara not to go to Romania anymore because the very long and hard trip is not good for her health. So, at this point she does not plan to return, but God and time will determine whether or not she goes.

While I was there in May I made a lot of plans for a city-wide teaching effort which would be conducted in July/August with Marty and a team of U.S. teachers. They would be joined by several Romanian teachers in their work. They worked diligently in extremely hot weather doing one-on-one Bible studies and conducting services each evening. They provided much needed bottles of water to people who were having some very difficult times with the heat. Three people were baptized into Christ and the church was strengthened.

During May I was able also to visit two days in Pitesti and two days in Craiova and then completed the trip with a weekend with the church in Moreni. It was wonderful to see many of the people that we have known and loved so much in Pitesti and Craiova. The work in both of these places and in

Schitu Golesti, Vali Stanciului, Cioroasi, Corbeni, and Valcea continues to move forward and grow under the leadership of Harvey and Pat Starling and the involvement of several teams of workers from the U.S. and Romania. We praise God for His wonderful blessings in the work in those places. It was a joy to be with the brethren in Moreni for one weekend. The church at Moreni is made up of some of the most wonderful Christians and we pray that the church will grow in the future.

I returned to Cluj in October. Again, there was more work to be done than I had time to do. One of the great joys of my life was baptizing Ana Maria Harrison into Christ on October 21. I had studied with Ana on the Internet for almost two years and since she had moved to Spain and there was not a single Christian within hundreds of miles of her, we had begun to wonder if she would ever have the opportunity to become a Christian even though she strongly desired to do so. She made her way from Spain to Cluj on October 20 and I met her for the first time on Sunday morning, October 21. Following the morning service we filled the bath tub in the building and Ana became a Christian and we all rejoiced with her.

Marty, Barbara, and I have spent hours talking about what is needed to really help the work in Cluj. We all agreed that we needed a full-time worker to live in Cluj, preferably a Romanian brother, but where would we find such a person? For several years after the beginning of the work in Arges/Dolj we spent a lot of time praying and looking for some of the men to rise up and provide more leadership for the church. By the way, the churches of Arges/Dolj presently have a good number of men who teach, preach and serve in a number of leadership capacities and they are doing a great work.

We finally agreed to approach Brother Claudiu Murtaza from Craiova about the possibility of moving to Cluj to live in the living quarters and lead in the work. I did not think that he would leave his home and family to come, but on October 22 he arrived in Cluj to begin his work. Brother Claudiu is a young man whom we have known for several years and who has been instrumental in teaching a lot of people as he translated for a number of U.S. workers. He had preached in congregations in the district of Dolj, led singing, and did just about everything that he could to assist in building the church. I was glad to see him when he arrived in Cluj. Immediately we began to discuss our hopes and dreams for the church and to make plans for the future. He is excited about the prospects for the growth of the church.

I have been so happy and excited about the work that Claudiu and the other brethren have started in Cluj. They have started a Friday night period of Bible study and it is being attended quite well. They are getting together at other times for fellowship and encouragement to each other. Since the first of November, they have reviewed all of the past records of the correspondence course work. They mailed letters to all of them and it seems that several are interested in resuming their studies. In fact, some have called asking for directions to the building so that they could visit the services and meet the Christians there.

They have mailed letters to some who have attended the services in the past but have fallen away. Already some of those who were contacted are coming back to every service of the church. Brother Claudiu is working hard to establish a "team effort" among the brethren. He doesn't want anyone elevated above others or for some to think that anyone is more important to the work

than someone else. I commend him strongly for this attitude and effort.

I have been in almost constant contact with Claudiu in recent weeks and I'm thrilled at what is going in Cluj right now. A few weeks ago a brother and sister here in Arkansas said that they would like to make a contribution to our work with the children in Romania in honor of their grown children. Instead of buying them some gloves and golf clubs or something that they didn't need, they decided to honor their children by helping others. I immediately made arrangements through Western Union to send that money to Claudiu and the other brethren to help with these children. He and the other Christians went to the place where there are 30 children who have NOTHING! They talked to the people in charge,

surveyed the situation, and made plans to help and since that time four or five of the Christians have taken food and other items to relieve the needs of these children. I also forwarded money to them to help with food baskets for some of the Christians who needed help. They prepared 18 food baskets for distribution.

They also prepared some baskets for some people that some of the Christians knew about who desperately needed help. In a conversation with Claudiu on December 19 he asked, "Brother, have you ever been to a house where there were 5-6 children and there was not ONE PIECE of bread to put on the table?" He had been told not to get scared when he arrived at some of the places because of the conditions that the people were living in and he thought that he had seen things about as bad as they could be in other places.

However, I think that he was surprised at what they found. He told me that I would not believe the feeling that he and the other Christians had when they were able to give help to these people.

(Continued on Page 3)

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

I have seen some very difficult situations, but I am still surprised at times when I see how hard life is for some people.

We are planning to continue to help with this kind of work as we receive the funds to do it. Of course, our hope and dream is that we will be able to lead these people to Jesus for the salvation that He died to provide.

We are not interested in just feeding hungry mouths or helping needy children, but we are interested in teaching them about the One who can give a better life here and a life beyond description in the world to come. If we do not tell them of Jesus we will have not helped them very much.

We begin the new year with renewed excitement and enthusiasm. We have some teams of teachers committed to go to Romania in 2008. I will be going at least twice and possibly three times and Marty will go twice, perhaps three times, as well. We will pray and work hard and believe that God will bless our efforts with the harvest that He desires. In order to accomplish these things, we will need some things from you.

- We need you to pray for us as we labor and for the efforts in Cluj.
- Pray for Claudiu and the other Christians in Cluj, as well as brethren across all of Romania.
- Pray that the lost will be receptive to the word of God.
- Pray that all of us as teachers will teach the truth in love.
- We will need your financial help as you have the opportunity to help us. I assure you that it will be used to honor God and be a blessing to others.

Thank you, beloved, for the help that you have provided to spread the gospel for the past 16 years of this ministry. You have loved us and supported us more than we could have ever dreamed. Only God knows of the good that has been done. Please accept our love and thanks for your help. May God bless you richly is our prayer through Jesus. Amen!

- Ted

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/Art Henley

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.romaniaalbaniainconference.com

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Visit our website at
<http://www.evangelisticallyspeaking.net>

Schedules

Ted and Barbara

JANUARY 6
Bay, Arkansas
JANUARY 8
Area-Wide Fellowship, Plumerville, Arkansas
JANUARY 11-12
*Romania-Albania Missions Conference
Levy—North Little Rock, Arkansas*
JANUARY 13
Austin, Arkansas
JANUARY 20
Marietta, Oklahoma
JANUARY 25-26
Youth Outreach University—Conway, Arkansas

Marty

JANUARY 11-13
*Romania-Albania Missions Conference
Levy—North Little Rock, Arkansas*
JANUARY 18-28
Cluj, Romania