

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 17 Issue 5

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*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

"Let God arise; let His enemies be scattered; let those also who hate Him flee before Him." Psalm 68:1

One of the most strengthening things that I have in my life is the knowledge that God is still in charge. When prices are outrageously high, when sorrow comes, when things just seem very difficult, I remember that God is still in charge and His enemies are doomed to failure. I am thankful for that assurance.

We have enjoyed so very much the work for the month of April. We were with the Caney congregation near Yellville, Arkansas on March 30-April 2 for a gospel meeting and it was a pleasure. The tornadoes that passed near

that area a little earlier had done a tremendous amount of damage and then floods followed the tornadoes. Brother Jeff Crawford preaches at Caney and he and his family lost their home and only because of God's blessing, their son Jordon's life was spared. They are having to deal with all of the "red tape" but will have their house rebuilt soon hopefully.

We were blessed to be with the Southside congregation at Batesville, Arkansas on April 11-13 for a gospel meeting. Brother Bob Harris has been the preacher at Southside for many years and the work is making fine progress. Barbara made the trip to Northeast Arkansas to speak at a Ladies Day program on Saturday,



April 19. It was a special treat for Barbara to have several ladies from our home congregation at Bay, two sisters-in-law, a special dear friend from Mississippi, and another dear friend formerly from Morrilton, Arkansas present for the days events. I did not get to accompany her on the trip because I was involved with the 10th Annual Evangelistically Speaking Lectureship.

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Marty's Thoughts

Robert Swain, his wife Michal and their son Jamie, have traveled to Romania and they will be hosting the event along with the brethren from Cluj. We're confident that this will be a major event for the church in Romania.

The lessons and open forums will focus on the topic, "The Future of the Church in Romania." Special emphasis will be given to sharing ideas and best practices, all of which lead these young Romanian brothers and sisters toward developing the skills needed to lead the church in that country into the future. In addition to the Swain family, I want to offer my deepest thanks to those who made this event possible. Our brother Claudiu has worked diligently for the past three months in planning this event.

Two congregations in the U.S. provided financial sponsorship and we are thankful for the Levy church and the congregation in Shirley, Arkansas for their contributions.

I look forward to sharing photos and stories from the retreat in the next issue of this publication. Robert will also conduct a series of sermons during the week of May 4-8. Michal will also teach a ladies class and both Robert and Michal will teach one-to-one Bible studies during the remainder of their trip.

Pray that this event will bear fruit for years to come and that it will have a positive impact on the church in Romania.

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As I type these words, the first of what we hope will be an annual event is getting underway in Cluj, Romania. On Thursday, May 1 young men and women from across Romania gathered for a national Christian retreat. I talked to Claudiu Murtaza, the preacher in Cluj, on April 30 and he informed me that there were 60 Christians making plans to be together for this event. We are THRILLED!

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

I will say more about the lectures later. We left on Friday, April 25 to make our way to Chanute, Kansas for a meeting with the good church there. I last preached at Chanute in 1984 and it was really good to be there again. Brother Larry Dye preaches for the church at Chanute and he and his wife had just arrived back home from a mission trip to Africa. We pray that good was done in the meeting.

ROMANIA

Robert, Michal, and Jamie Swain left on Thursday, April 24 for Cluj, Romania. The Swains work with a program that they call Gospel Opportunities which is a work primarily among Spanish-speaking brethren. But, Robert has worked with us in Romania a few times before and we asked them to make a trip there for a special program for young adults, as well as one-on-one Bible studies with Christians and non-Christians.

I will let Marty bring you up to date on that work and the work that is planned to distribute 7,000 invitations to study God's word through a Bible Correspondence Course. I just want to say that I am excited about the work in Cluj and we believe that this year will be a great year for the church. Please pray for the work there and all the teams that participate with us in teaching the gospel.

TENTH ANNUAL EVANGELISTICALLY SPEAKING LECTURES

I wish that I knew how to create a genuine hunger and thirst on the part of the Christians in this area for learning how to more effectively teach the lost and to be motivated to do it. We have just concluded the lectureship at Mars Hill for this year and we were thrilled with the lectures and were thankful for those who came.

However, I was a little disappointed in the participation and attendance and am puzzled by this. I want to give you a brief account of what was taught and I even in-

vite you to get in contact with the Mars Hill congregation and see about getting tapes of the lessons.

Brother Bill Green, minister of the Harrison and Willow congregation in Conway and missionary to Guyana, opened the lectureship on Friday night with a lesson on the subject: "GOD'S MESSAGE—GOD'S CHALLENGE—OUR CHOICE." His lesson was powerful and motivating.

Brother Green pointed out that God has a message of peace, unity, love, and salvation that He wants the world to hear. God has a challenge that He places before His children to get the message to every creature in the world. We as Christians have a choice to either do our best to do what God challenges us to do or to ignore it. The lesson was exceptional.

Brother Jim Davis, minister of the Liberty congregation near Conway, spoke on the subject, "SPEAKING THE TRUTH." Brother Davis did an exceptional job of pointing out that if we do not speak the truth, then our efforts are worthless.

Truth is the most precious commodity that we have in the world today and we must not depart from it, either to the right hand or to the left hand. Every Christian needs to hear this lesson.

Brother Randy Rankin, minister of the Downtown congregation at Morrilton followed Brother Davis' lesson with a powerful lesson on the subject, "SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE." We are instructed to present the truth in love and we will fail in our endeavors if we do not do that. Brother Rankin did a splendid job of reminding us that we must have an attitude of love in our teaching if we expect the Lord to bless our efforts.

Brother Oran Burt, minister of the Somers Avenue congregation in North Little Rock for the past 34 years, presented an outstanding lesson on the subject, "COME AND LEARN—GO AND TEACH." Brother Burt pointed

out that we cannot teach what we do not know and it is vitally important for every Christian to study the scriptures diligently.

Then, we must "go and teach" others. The Lord did not say, "Come and sit" but He invites us to come and then commands us to go. What a great lesson from Brother Burt.

Brother Robert Swain spoke during the Bible class hour on Sunday morning about "PAUL, THE MISSIONARY." Paul is a great example of a man with vision and courage to preach the gospel regardless of the circumstances that he may face. Brother Swain urged us all to be missionaries in our own community and follow the example of this great man of God in spreading the gospel.

Brother David Riley delivered one of the most powerful and moving lessons that I have ever heard during the worship hour on the subject, "THE VALUE OF A SOUL." If we knew - if we only knew - the value of each soul and realized that most of them are LOST, surely we would focus on doing the very best that we can to lead them to Christ.

Each person has only ONE SOUL and if it is lost there is

nothing that can be changed. May God help us to reach as many as possible.

I closed the lectureship on Sunday evening with a lesson on the subject, "THE JOY THAT IS BEFORE US." I believe that Jesus was able to endure all the suffering that He had to endure because of the JOY that was before Him. What was that joy? The joy of saving the human race! There is great joy in leading people to Christ, in fact there is no greater joy.

Brothers and Sisters, what is it going to take to wake us up to the needs of the more than SIX BILLION people in our world? What can be done to create a fire in our bones to reach the world for Christ?

I know one thing - the efforts which are made by the Mars Hill brethren in April of each year to move us forward is ONE thing that can be done. We just need to take advantage of the opportunity to grow in our zeal, knowledge, and courage by attending this great event. Please pray that much good will come from this effort.

Brethren, as always, we thank God for each of you who make our work possible.

- Ted

Schedule

Ted and Barbara

MAY 4
Higden, Arkansas

MAY 6
Area-Wide Fellowship
Plumerville, Arkansas

MAY 11-14
Harding Street—Morrilton, Arkansas

MAY 17
Kyndall's Graduation
Vilonia, Arkansas

MAY 25-28
Colony—Bee Branch, Arkansas

Marty's Thoughts

(Continued)

I also want to share some news with you regarding other plans in Cluj. The brethren there, with assistance from the Christians in Oradea, will distribute 7,000 flyers in the town of Floresti just outside of Cluj. These flyers will invite the recipients to enroll in a Bible correspondence course conducted by the Cluj church. The distribution of these flyers will take place over the next two weeks. Please pray for a positive response from this effort, as it will be instrumental to future work.

A number of teaching teams and individuals will be in Cluj during the months of July, August, September, October, and November. Please pray for these efforts.

There are still some opportunities for teachers, especially during the July/August work. Please contact me if you are interested in being a part of the team leaving the U.S. on Friday, July 25 and returning on Tuesday, August 5. We currently have three brethren who are planning to be involved, but another two slots are open. If you are interested then give me a call at 501.269.0450 or drop me an e-mail at martyknight@alltel.net. As always, God bless you for your love of His church and your interest in the lost.

- Marty

Wells We Did Not Dig

by Marty Knight

How many of you know the history behind the establishment of your home congregation? Do you know when it first met? Where did that meeting occur? Those details may be familiar to some of you, but not many.

I'm aware of the fact that many of those details may not matter. With the passing of time and generations, those details become lost. That's a natural occurrence.

But, consider this passage found in Deuteronomy 6:10-12:

"When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."

God, through the prophet Moses, was warning Israel that with the passage of time, their young people might forget some very important things. Without a conscious effort, the following generations would lose their appreciation for the fact that God had done great things on their behalf.

That they were the recipients of God's blessing. By the pen of Moses, Israel was told what to do to avoid this fate: REMIND THE YOUNG OF THEIR HERITAGE!

How does this relate to us today? I am so very thankful for those men and women—brave Christians—who stepped out on faith during the 20th century and made churches all over the U.S. a reality. I've been blessed in my life to know many such individuals. For example, there were a number of families back in 1951 and 1952 who left the comforts of existing congregations and sacrificed so that the church in the little suburb of Levy could become a reality. A few of those charter members are still there today and I'm grateful to have had the chance to know and appreciate them.

We've had the opportunity to worship with many congregations over the years. Most were started in the late 19th or early to mid 20th centuries. I wonder if children at those congregations are cognizant of the fact that men and women "dug the wells" on their behalf?

When an individual or family has the chance to be a part of a church plant, they share some unbelievable experiences. They

have the chance to witness the power of the Gospel first-hand. When they grow old, they can look back and remember the sacrifices made to have that first service, to buy that first piece of property, to lay that first cornerstone, and—most importantly—witness that first baptism!

The bottom line: they will have an appreciation for that well. They will KNOW what it took to dig the well!

There is certainly nothing wrong with being a member of a mature congregation all of your life. Not everyone is cut out for involvement in a church plant.

However, if you choose NOT to be involved, I would ask two things of you. First, respect those who DO choose to be involved. It's hard work and requires a big sacrifice. Be supportive of them in any way possible.

Second, make sure that the young people in the older congregations appreciate the fact that they are benefiting from the sacrifices of preceding generations. They should not forget those who "dug the wells." And none of us should EVER forget the Lord who made it all possible—Deuteronomy 6:12!

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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

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In Memory of
JASON PETTEY
Ted and Barbara Knight
Marty and Lisa Knight

In Memory of
JOHN HUGHEY
Steve and Kim Knight

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