

# Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 18, Issue 6

June 2009

*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 in Cluj, Romania and for the preacher and his family, Claudiu and Anca Murtaza.

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## From Ted's Pen

I would not trade my life with anyone on this earth! It is such a tremendous blessing to serve the Lord in the capacity that Barbara and I have enjoyed for more than fifty years in full-time preaching of the gospel. Although there are times when my physical body and even sometimes my mental capacities tire, there is something in the gospel and the work of spreading the good news to others in the world that is highly refreshing and for that I thank God. I pray that we will have many more opportunities to teach the word to others.

This issue will serve for both June and July because of the schedule that we have for the next three months. You notice from our schedule that we will simply not have time to produce



Boy, it seems that I just returned from Cluj and here I am talking about a return trip! During the 12 years that I have worked in Romania, I've never been twice in such a short timeframe.

When Claudiu and I were making plans for 2009, we realized that the retreat in May and the Vacation Bible School to be held in July would be very close on the calendar. But, I couldn't be more excited about the work!

another issue until the very last few days of July. Marty will be in Romania until July 27 and we will try to get the next issue in the mail by August 1.

We will try to send occasional messages to our supporters by e-mail, so if you would like to receive those messages, please send me your e-mail address and I will add it to the list.

It was such a joy to be with the good brethren at the West Liberty congregation in Montezuma, Iowa the first part of May. We love these brethren so very much. We have worked with them in many gospel meetings through the years. While we were there something happened that just thrilled us. Brother Mark Doland baptized Frank and

As I mentioned last month, the church in Cluj is growing both in Spirit and in number. If you've ever been a part of a church that is growing, you know that the excitement is contagious. It builds with every worship service and every opportunity for fellowship. That is exactly what is happening in Cluj.

No one is more excited about the recent events than Claudiu. He has been working with that church since November 2007. He moved there in the dead of winter, having left behind his family and his hometown of Craiova, the only place he had ever called home. He knew a total of about ten people in Cluj, the members of the church. He has often talked about the cold, dark lonely nights spent wondering what God had in store for him and for the church in Cluj.



Darlene Hasselman into Christ. Brother Frank is 87 years of age and his beloved wife is 86. They were baptized on their 68th wedding anniversary. That was wonderful! But, there is something else that encouraged me and confirmed something that I have believed for many years and that is to NEVER GIVE UP on someone.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

Things have changed gradually and Claudiu became much more comfortable last July when his beautiful bride, Anca, joined him in Cluj. During May, I sat and watched the two of them having breakfast in the courtyard and I'll never forget watching this young couple hold each other's hands and offer thanks for their meal. I wish that every young couple in the world had a desire to put God at the center of their home, as these two have done.

We don't always understand or know God's timeline. I'm very thankful that Claudiu was patient during those early days. I pray that God will continue to give the increase and that all of those working in Cluj - and around the world - will be encouraged by that increase.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## From Ted's Pen (Continued)

The Hasselman's were first taught the gospel more than 60 years ago by Brother Harley Johnson of Montezuma. Brother Johnson has been dead for many years, but his work is still bearing fruit. Others, including Brother Doland, had a part in teaching them, but they have not forgotten the work that Brother Johnson did so many years ago. Brethren, the word of God may be planted in the hearts of men and lie dormant for many, many, years before springing forth to bear fruit. The gospel is still powerful even after it did not bear the fruit that we had hoped for when we wanted it to. So, let us keep on sowing the seed and praying for a harvest to the glory of God.

It was a joy to be with the church at Ben's Branch, Arkansas on May 17. This congregation meets in one of the most beautiful settings that you can imagine. It is surrounded by beautiful mountains, sitting down in a valley with Ben's Branch running right in front of the building. It was a gorgeous day and they brought their grills and cooked a great meal out under the trees after services and it was just tremendous.

On May 24 we had a great day with the Colony congregation near Bee Branch, Arkansas as they celebrated their homecoming day. The

weather was horrible, but the atmosphere inside the building and in our hearts was wonderful indeed. We closed the month of May with the church at Greenbrier, Arkansas where we have had such a great relationship for more than 29 years. Their new preacher, Brother Glen Elliott and his family will arrive very soon to begin their work at Greenbrier.

Another thing that happened during the month of May in Weisbaden, Germany that just amazed and thrilled me. I have written many times about Sister Ana Parvu who is a Christian living in Almunecar, Spain. She went to Germany to visit and worshiped with the church at Weisbaden on May 24. Brother Jimmy Young from the Nettleton congregation at Jonesboro, Arkansas was there teaching and she met him. She also met Cliff and Judy McGee and their children who live in Germany. Cliff and Judy grew up in the Levy church in North Little Rock and I baptized both of them many years ago.

Cliff's father, Jack McGee, served for many years as an elder at Levy and was deeply loved and respected by all who knew him. Cliff's mother, Lillian, still worships at Levy and is very active in the work of the church there. We live in a very big world, but when

Christians move about from place to place we often learn that it is a very small world in some ways. It is just amazing that this new babe in Christ from Caracal, Romania who learned the truth by studying on the internet, would someday meet so many people that Barbara and I have known through the years who are her brothers and sisters in Christ!

We received a message from Brother Mike Mullen on May 27 that his precious mother had passed away a day earlier. While our hearts break, we also rejoice that she was such a wonderful Christian lady. Her husband, Richard, serves as one of the elders for the church in Fall River, Massachusetts. Someday we expect to rejoice around the great white throne of God with "Bob," as she was affectionately called, and all the saints of God. Please pray for the Mullen family.

### NORTHWEST ARKANSAS LECTURES

The 20th Annual Northwest Arkansas Lectureship will be conducted at the Bellefonte church of Christ near Harrison on July 10-12. It has been my pleasure to speak on every one of these lecture series. I cannot think of a better way for you to spend a weekend than to come to Belle-

fonte for this event. If you cannot stay for the services on Sunday, come on Friday night and spend the day with us on Saturday and enjoy some wonderful gospel preaching and Christian fellowship.

### ROMANIA

Marty will probably have more to say about the work in Cluj in his article, but I just want to say how thankful that I am for the great work that is being done by the local Christians there, led by Claudiu and Anca Murtaza. I am encouraged each time that I hear from them about the work that is going on and I am excited about the future work that is planned.

I will be spending all of my time on the upcoming trip in Craiova, where we worked for several years, and I am looking forward to seeing our family of Christians there and doing what I can to study with those who come and to encourage the faithful Christians. Please pray for a safe and uncomplicated trip for me and for a fruitful work for the Lord.

Thank you brethren for your love and support and may God continue to bless us all as we strive to present the gospel of Christ to as many as possible.

#### LEVY MISSION EVANGELISM GIFTS OF HONOR / MEMORIAL

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Contribution intended for Marty

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## Marty's Thoughts *(Continued)*

The primary work during July will be a Vacation Bible School to be conducted on July 20-24. The church in Cluj has had similar programs for children in the past, but it has been a number of years.

Some familiar faces will return to Romania. Justin and Emily Taylor of the Levy congregation in North Little Rock, Arkansas will travel with me. They worked together with a large team in Moreni, Romania during the summer of 2006. Justin was part of the three-man team that worked in Cluj last July. They are very involved in evangelism at the Levy church and have such hearts for the lost.

Please pray for them as they raise the funds for this work. I also ask that you remember their family as they prepare for this trip. They have a young son, Cooper, who is about 30 months old. He will remain behind with family.

I hope that you will pray for this effort. The church in Cluj needs the boost that can be provided by youth. Children can bring such a sense of vitality and energy, all of which is needed there at this time.

This will also give the brothers and sisters in Cluj the opportunity to feel a sense of ownership regarding this type of program. While the American workers will help provide resources and guidance, I hope that this VBS will be an annual event led by the local Christians. Some of the strongest young Christians in Romania were first reached as children in a summer Bible school.

I'm also thankful that my family is so gracious and giving in allowing me to do this work, especially my wife, Lisa. She never complains or grouses about my spending my vacation time doing the Lord's work. She is the most giving person that I've ever known.

Nothing demonstrates that giving heart any more than the sacrifices that she has made for our family. In 1997 she made the decision to give up a spot in the workplace and stay at home with our children. But, the bills had to be paid and to help in that respect, she decided to take in children and provide day care services. Over the years she has been like a second mother to 21 young children.

She loved them, helped to train them, and gave them a regular helping of spiritual training. We always receive Christmas cards and a group of special visitors at Halloween as these kids come back to see Miss Lisa.

Lisa officially "retired" from the child care business on May 21. She thinks we are making a bigger deal about this than we should and she will probably

shoot me for mentioning this in ES; however, she has made such a big contribution to the lives of these children that I couldn't let this pass without recognizing her. God certainly took care of me by giving me the perfect Mom for my girls. And watching her with our grandchildren is one of the great joys of my life. Thank you, Lisa, for what you mean to all of us!

I also want to pass along our sympathies to the Harless family. Our son-in-law, Daniel, lost his grandfather, Victor Harless, early in May. I ask that you remember Sister Vera Harless as she grieves for her husband of over 60 years. Also remember their children, Mark and Rosemary, and the rest of the family.

Thank you for your interest in our work in Romania and for the prayers on behalf of the Vilonia church. May God bless you!

### New Baptistery Installed in Cluj Church Building



Through the generosity of an American brother, a new baptistery (pictured above) was installed in the Cluj church building during April. In the past, a old bathtub had been used for baptisms. Thanks to God for this blessing!

## Schedule for June and July

### Ted and Barbara

- JUNE 7  
*Marietta, Oklahoma*
- JUNE 14  
*Levy - North Little Rock, Arkansas*
- JUNE 16-30  
*Craiova, Romania*
- JULY 1  
*Heber Springs, Arkansas*
- JULY 5  
*Morley, Missouri*
- JULY 10-12  
*Bellefonte, Arkansas*
- JULY 15  
*Cave City, Arkansas*
- JULY 19-22  
*Mt. Judea, Arkansas*

### Marty

- JULY 15-27  
*Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

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***GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR***

In Memory of  
**BOBBIE MULLEN**  
Ted and Barbara Knight  
Marty and Lisa Knight

In Memory of  
**VICTOR HARLESS**  
Marty and Lisa Knight

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