

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 19, Issue 1

January 2010

*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 remember the first time that I heard the song, "God Is So Good." I marveled at the truth of those words and felt so encouraged and uplifted that I thought that I was the most blest human being that one can be. As the years have come and gone since that time, I still rejoice every time I hear it sung or I sing it myself through the day and am reminded of His greatness and goodness.

If one began to write about the ways that God has manifested His goodness, it would take many volumes to contain them. When I arise in the very early morning hours of a new day, I pause to give thanks to my Father for all of His goodness to me and my family. I know of no better way to begin a new day.



Twenty years ago. Late 1989 was an amazing time to be alive. Just as most Americans did, I watched events in Eastern Europe in November and December 1989 with a detached indifference. "We" had won the Cold War. Like many others, I didn't realize the impact those events would have on my life.

I consider it a blessing to have grown up as an acquaintance of a number of missionary families.

After a few more days have passed we will begin a new year, 2010. I remember many years ago, Barbara and I accompanied some Levy high school seniors on a night out in honor of their graduation. We had asked the parents and others to make it a very memorable night on the same night as the high school prom and it was indeed a wonderful, all-night affair.

One of the things that we did was rent the Cinema 150 theater in Little Rock for a showing of a movie that I hope the students enjoyed much more than I did. I just didn't like the movie in the first place. And, in the movie the year 2010 was mentioned and I knew that I would never live to see that year. Now, it is here and I am still



"kickin' high" most of the time. If we are privileged to live in God's world for the entire year, it promises to be a very busy one for us in preaching and teaching the gospel of Christ. We look forward to it with great anticipation. Whatever good is done will be accomplished because GOD IS SO GOOD!

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Marty's Thoughts

In the early 90's I had the chance to hear some of them talk about the earliest efforts of American churches in taking the gospel to Eastern Europe and specifically to Romania. But, I had heard Bill McDonough and Harvey Starling talk about foreign missions most of my life, so Romania was just one more place on their lists.

Then, in 1995, my parents made their first trip to Romania and I saw first-hand how dramatic an impact it made on them. I made my first trip to Craiova in 1997 and my life has never been the same.

As I write these words on December 22 in Little Rock, millions of Romanians are celebrating the 20th anniversary - to the day - of the fall of the Ceausescu regime and the birth of freedom.

I recently read about a conference held in Budapest in 2009. A number of political scientists and sociologists from Poland, Hungary, and Romania discussed the 20 years of recovery from decades of Communism, with their focus on economics.

Many of the things that they said about economic conditions could also be applied to the spiritual state of their respective countries. One comment stood out to me: "We believed that it would take 20 years to recover from Communism. We greatly underestimated the work that it would take to overcome the influence of Communism. I now believe that it will take at least 50 years to fully recover."

(Continued on Page 3)

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

Whatever failures are experienced will be because we are fallible, stumbling, servants who fail often at meeting the needs of the moment, but we will continue to pray and work diligently to improve in our efforts.

When I look back at 2009 I have mixed feelings. I am sorry for missed opportunities and for my failure to see and seize them as I should have. I deeply regret that there were people with whom we studied who chose against the Lord, as did King Agrippa, instead of choosing Jesus to be their Lord, Master, and Savior. I deeply wish that we could have reached more people with the gospel.

I am thankful for those who were baptized into Christ, and some who had departed from the Lord who came back home to serve Him. I pray that in our efforts we encouraged and strengthened the churches where we worked, as well as individuals with whom we studied, prayed, and worked.

We had some heartache in our family during the year. Since the last week of July 2009 we lost three members of our family in death. We also lost at least six members of our spiritual family, two of them very fine shepherds of the flock of God. We miss all of them so very much. However, we rejoiced as our earthly family grew stronger in their faith in the Lord and served Him faithfully and fruitfully.

When Barbara and I started on this cruise together more than 51 years ago there was just the two of us and the Lord. Now, there are SEVENTEEN in our crew and we love them and are so proud of every one of them. We pray together every day that each of them will be loyal servants of God and we desperately try to be examples of that before them.

Our work in Romania made some excellent progress during 2009. Our brother and sister in Christ, Claudiu and Anca Murtaza, worked diligently to lead the work and the

results were very good. A brother in Christ provided funds for us to purchase and install a baptistry and that was a wonderful thing for the church in Cluj. A man named Paul was the first one to be baptized into Christ in the new baptistry and he is already assisting with the preaching and teaching in the assemblies of the church. Our second annual Christian Retreat was conducted with much success as was our Vacation Bible School. Children's classes were started on Sundays with Anca and some other sisters teaching those classes.

Many students have enrolled in a regular study of the English language using the World English Institute materials and the Bible is taught in those classes every Saturday, as well as daily when there are American teachers there. Benevolent assistance was provided for several very needy families. We are praying and we believe that 2010 will be a very

fruitful year as long as we remain faithful to the Lord and sound in our teaching and practice. Please continue to pray for His work in all of Romania. If you would be interested in going to Cluj and help teach, we would love to hear from you.

We want to inform you early and encourage you to plan to attend the TWELFTH ANNUAL EVANGELISTICALLY SPEAKING LECTURESHIP which will be conducted April 16-18 at the building of the Mars Hill Church of Christ on the Faulkner/White County line near Vilonia, Arkansas. This lectureship is all about EVANGELISM and that is a matter that should be of interest to EVERY Christian! Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to be there for Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday if possible. Please see the ad on page 3 for speakers and subjects. May God bless you in 2010!

- Ted

My Lady Barbara is a passionate and very good gardener. I read the following statement which was made by a lady gardener named Barbara Winkler.

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle: A seed waiting to sprout and the anticipation nurtures our dreams."

I have seen Barbara digging in the winter planting those tulip bulbs and thinking of how they will beautifully bloom in the spring. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this could be said:

"Every Christian knows that in every heart there lies a miracle: A seed waiting to sprout and the anticipation of a soul saved nurtures our dreams."

Will you resolve to plant the seed of the Kingdom, the word of God, in the heart of many people in 2010? No greater resolution could be made. May God bless every one of us as we begin this new year of service to Him. Remember, "GOD IS SO GOOD!"

ROMANIA - ALBANIA MISSIONS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 8-9, 2010

Prestoncrest Church of Christ
Dallas, Texas

For details visit
www.romaniaalbaniaconference.net

Co-hosted by the Prestoncrest
and Ovilla churches of Christ

Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

Which brings me to the church in Romania. It is my belief that the church in that country is experiencing challenges similar to the economy and for many of the same reasons.

There are some obvious reasons for this difficulty in transition. A huge void in leadership was left behind. Trust was destroyed and is difficult to rebuild. Many find it difficult to think and reason for themselves, especially concerning spiritual matters. Over the course of 60 years, the entire country was robbed of some core beliefs, including a spiritual foundation upon God's word.

While it would be difficult for me to prove and quantify, I believe that the church in America entered the mission field in Eastern Europe 20 years ago with a belief that the work there would be relatively short in duration.

Scores, even hundreds, of workers poured into Romania in the early 1990's. Churches around the world rallied to provide resources. For churches in America, Eastern Europe became the center of our attention relative to missions. Over 20 American families made the commitment to move to Romania, some staying for well over a decade. Many times that number of families made short-term commitments to the work in Romania, some making scores of trips anywhere from weeks to months in length.

But, that momentum was hard to maintain. 2010 begins with one American missionary family still living in-country. Some U.S. churches continue to support the work. I'm encouraged by the fact that several Romanian families (and one "blended" American/Romanian family) are supported in their work for the church.

There is something that weighs heavy on my heart and a question stays at the forefront of my prayer life: HAS THE CHURCH IN AMERICA GIVEN UP ON EASTERN EUROPE?

I've had some brethren tell me personally that they believe 10-20 years is as long as a mission work should be supported. After that length of time, a work will either thrive on it's own or die.

I'm certainly glad that my parents did not adopt that attitude! More importantly, I am thankful that my God doesn't have that attitude about me personally!

Far be it from me to pass judgment on how a church or an individual decides to support or not support a mission work. But, I hope and pray that we're not giving up on Eastern Europe!

Being involved in a church plant right here at home makes me well aware of the attention that needs to be paid to our own neighborhood. **A commitment to evangelism begins at home.** But, let me encourage you not to give up on Romania, Eastern Europe, or any place else!

In closing, I ask you think soberly about this one thing. For Christians my age, children of the Cold War, we have been left with the perception that the West won. Politically, I suppose we did. **But, a battle still rages!**

It's not one that will ever come to the attention of politicians or the media. CNN won't report on this struggle, nor will it make the front page of a newspaper or mainstream website. The battle for lost souls around the world continues. People still need the redemptive healing of Christ.

If you're supporting a mission effort in a difficult place, please continue to do so. Don't give up!

I invite you to participate in the Romania-Albania Conference on January 8-9, 2010 in Dallas, Texas. See the conference ad on Page 2. The Prestoncrest and Ovilla churches are co-hosting. It will be an informative event regarding missions all over Eastern Europe. I hope to see you there!

- Marty

12TH ANNUAL EVANGELISTICALLY SPEAKING LECTURESHIP

APRIL 16-18, 2010

**Mars Hill Church of Christ
Vilonia, Arkansas**

*Located just south of U.S. Highway 64 at the
Faulkner/White county line between
Vilonia and Beebe*

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

7:00 — Singing

Ted Knight (Conway, Arkansas)

7:30 — The Cross: Our Motivation For Evangelism

David Riley (Vilonia, Arkansas)

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

9:30 — Singing

Thomas Martin (Vilonia, Arkansas)

10:00 — Dealing With False Doctrine In Evangelism

Glen Elliott (Greenbrier, Arkansas)

10:45 — Evangelizing Our Fallen Brethren

Randy Rankin (Morrilton, Arkansas)

11:30 — Evangelism Of The Early Disciples

Steve Norris (Conway, Arkansas)

12:15 — Lunch Provided By Mars Hill Sisters

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

9:45 — Evangelism: Key To Unity

Robert Swain (Vilonia, Arkansas)

10:45 — Evangelism: The Path To Maturity

Ted Knight (Conway, Arkansas)

6:00 — Evangelism: Redeeming The Time

Jason Almond (Perryville, Arkansas)

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Ted—ted.knight@sbcglobal.net
P.O. Box 1297
Conway, AR 72033
Phone: 501.327.6116

Marty—martyknight@windstream.net
70 Weaver Circle
Vilonia, AR 72173
Day Phone: 501.269.0450
Evening Phone: 501.796.4124

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In Memory of
CHARLES KNIGHT
Mary Walker
Toma Jane Walker
Danny and Vickie Wilson

In Memory of
JERRY RILEY
J.T. and Dorothy Glover
Ted and Barbara Knight
Marty and Lisa Knight

In Memory of
NELL RIFFLE
Ted and Barbara Knight

In Memory of
JUNE BUTTS
Ted and Barbara Knight

In Memory of
WADE BRADFORD
Ted and Barbara Knight

In Memory of
DANNY LEAVELL
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