

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 19, Issue 6

June 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.

Inside this issue:

Gifts of Memorial and Honor 4

From Ted's Pen

Do you realize that we will soon be through half of the year 2010? I am just constantly amazed at how quickly time is flying in spite of the fact that older people have been telling me that it would happen like this as I grew older. Ray Price, the Hall Of Fame country music singer sings a song entitled "TIME." Ray calls time a monster and I guess that may be true as it takes us so rapidly through our life upon this earth.

The past few weeks have been quite stressful for us as we have tried to take care of our work and also take care of Barbara's health problems. In our last issue I wrote that the doctor wanted her to take some medicine until July 27 and then see if she would be better. However,



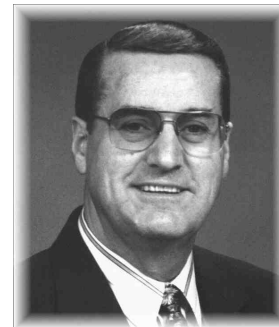
Theories abound and volumes could be written regarding the process of planted churches becoming self-sustaining. There are many factors at play as churches make this transition. These factors include culture, history, economic conditions, and the resources available.

Our family has worked with churches in Romania since 1995. We have grown to love the Romanian people—especially the

after three days of the medicine her tongue and mouth became numb and she had very little feeling in her mouth. She called the doctor who prescribed it and he was out of town until Friday and his receptionist said, "I will tell him when he returns."

That was on Wednesday. She called our pharmacist and they told her to stop immediately and that if she had worse problems to go to the hospital as quickly as possible. The next day she called the surgeon who has taken such splendid care of her and he set the date for surgery on May 19.

She went through some very painful times the past few weeks and on May 19 she had the sur-



gery. Dr. Roman reported that the surgery was more extensive than he had expected and it took between 2½ and 3 hours to do it. Since coming home she has improved very, very much. She is not in pain now except for the pain accompanying the surgery itself. We are so grateful for her improvement.

(Continued on Page 2)

Marty's Thoughts

Christians there—a great deal. We have invested a lot time, effort, and prayer toward helping a number of churches in Romania become self-sustaining. That process continues and will likely go on for some time.

When I consider all of the things that contribute to this process, I feel helpless. It seems that there is so little that I can do from my home in Arkansas. However, we keep doing what we can and leave the rest to the Lord.

Three years ago I approached Claudiu with the idea of hosting an annual event for Christians across Romania that helped them to focus on spiritual matters. This is certainly not an original idea, as spiritual retreats of this type are a common thing here in the States.

On May 6-8 we hosted this event for the third time. A total of 52 Christians from all points across Romania participated. This also served as an evangelistic effort in that there were about 6-8 present who have yet to become baptized believers.

All of the lessons were delivered by Romanian brothers with a focus on the subject "Testing Your Faith." The text was based on 2 Corinthians 13:5, "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves." The topic was selected by some of the Romanian brethren and it could not have been more appropriate for this group. I commend them for their efforts and I'm especially grateful to Claudiu for his efforts in planning.

(Continued on Page 3)

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

All of this has been necessary because of a very bad surgery performed June 17, 2008 when some particles were left inside her. Those things attached themselves to her bladder and adhesions had grown around them. We are very confident that this problem has been corrected now and Barbara will be able to go about her activities without the pain she has had for so long.

We had planned to take some vacation time during May, but of course that has been put on hold. We have never taken a vacation of more than three or four days since we began this work, but that was because of our own choices. We have some very busy months ahead of us and we look forward to them and pray that God will bless our efforts with a good harvest.

We were with the church in Marietta, Oklahoma for the weekend of May 16 and enjoyed it so much. We made a bed for Barbara in the back of the van and she made the trip very well. On May 23 we made a bed for her again and went to northeast Arkansas for the weekend and on May 30 we were with the Southside congregation at Cabot, Arkansas.

We are to be with the church at Ben's Branch near Harrison, Arkansas on June 13 and then to Chanute, Kansas for the week of June 20. The brethren in Chanute have already begun working hard and advertising the meeting throughout the city and we are praying for a great meeting. We solicit your prayers for these efforts as well.

We have a Bible class going with three families here in our area which we are excited about. There are people involved who are not Christians, but who are very interested in learning more about the word of God. We pray that God's word will be taught clearly and that there will be good fruit come from our efforts.

ROMANIA UPDATE

We are encouraged by what is happening with the church in Cluj, Romania. Marty will be giving a full report on his recent trip there and you will enjoy reading about it. In my communications with our brother, Claudiu, who is working full-time with the church there, I am happy to hear the good reports

I often wish that we could report that dozens of people have been

baptized into Christ each month, but that simply is not the case. We could have many more baptisms because there are many Romanians who want to be baptized, but do not know what it is all about.

One of the very first things that I learned in our work there was to teach, teach, teach the truth and let the gospel work in the hearts of people. Consequently, there are many people who simply do not want to make the changes necessary to become a Christian and we will not baptize them just for the sake of reporting baptisms.

We have great teaching materials available to in addition to the word of God itself to assist us in presenting the gospel to people. All of our teachers work diligently to teach the truth without addition, subtraction, or modification. God's word is still God's power unto salvation and we pray that as we teach the seed will fall into good and honest hearts and bring forth good fruit.

We really needed some English bibles and these were bought this month with some money which had been given as a memorial to

Brother Les Lee. I sent a few bibles with Marty for some specific people, but we needed many others and now we have them.

The majority of the young people in Romania are taught English in school and many of them can speak it quite well. Many others are interested in learning English, so we are happy to study with them from the English Bible and help them to learn English and the truth of God at the same time.

I also want to mention that I have some time available in 2011 for gospel meetings should you desire to have us to come. Simply write or call and we will work on dates with you.

We have some meeting efforts scheduled into 2012, but we do have some time available. Let us hear from you if you need or desire our help.

Brethren, thank you for all that you have meant to us through the years and for you love, prayers, and support for our work. May God bless us as we share together in the teaching of His word.

- Ted

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YES! I want to help spread the news of Jesus Christ through this work.

Contribution intended for Ted

Contribution intended for Marty

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YOUR NAME: _____

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Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

For me personally, the weekend was a chance to renew many old friendships and enjoy reminiscing about past work; however, I only knew about half of the 52 who were there.

One of the larger groups was in attendance from the western city of Timisoara. While I had known of these Christians for years, I had never been blessed with the opportunity to meet them. That was a real thrill for me! There were also some from Bucharest that I met for the first time.

I can't describe how heartwarming it is to see brothers and sisters "reunite" at this event. Many of them became Christians as teens and are now in their early to mid 20's or older. The retreat site holds great sentimental value to them as they recall the early days of the summer camp hosted by Cluj church in the late 90's. It really has the feel of a "family reunion."

With that in mind, beginning in 2011 this event will be known as the Romanian Christian Family Reunion! We hope that it will grow in number and in Spirit as time goes by. ***I view this as one of the ways in which brethren from the U.S. can help these churches become self-sustaining bodies!***

It is my hope that U.S. Christians who have worked in Romania in the past will use this as an opportunity to encourage and support their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. If that is you—if you are a former missionary or short-term worker and you have an interest in being a part of future "family reunions" then please let me know.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the Levy congregation for their support of this event. They provided funds for rental of the camp, food, and some limited transportation needs. Without their assistance this wouldn't have been possible. As hosts, we are able to offer this event to the Romanians with their only cost

being their transportation to Cluj. Thank you, Levy family, for your continued support of the church in eastern Europe!

I also want to thank the three ladies who prepared our meals for the weekend. A sister from Oradea helped for the third straight year. Claudiu's mother, Lydia Murtaza, and her sister were able to be with us and they did such a tremendous job. The weekend would not have been possible without their hard work. They truly possess a servant's heart!

Next year's event is already being planned. The focus of the 2011 Family Reunion will be the verses that we commonly refer to as the Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20. As these congregations work toward independence and self-sustenance, nothing is any more important than focusing on evangelism. Each Christian must have a burning desire to personally share the message of Jesus!

We hope to have dates set in the very near future, so that those of you who may have an interest in participating will have adequate time to plan.

It was also a pleasure to be with the church in Cluj. I was able to meet several of the current Bible students and study with them. I ask that you pray for them as they consider things of great importance. Some are facing great challenges, especially one family in particular. They are 11 strong with the two parents and nine children. Economic conditions are brutal and they are considering a move to Italy to help relieve their struggle and find a better life. With all of these things on their mind, it makes it that much more challenging to consider the things we are teaching them. The devil can work in many ways in keeping us from knowing and obeying the Gospel. Pray for Daniel, Valerica and their family.

I had planned to return to the States on Tuesday, May 11 due to

the fact that there were no seats on a flight from Cluj to Bucharest on Sunday, May 9. What a blessing it was to discover that two couples from southern Romania were planning to stay in Cluj and worship on May 9 before driving home. You can probably anticipate what went through my mind! It did not take me long to bum a ride with them!

That allowed me to get to Bucharest on Sunday and leave for home a day earlier than planned on Monday, May 10. I was not looking forward to a day in Bucharest alone on May 10, so this was a real blessing in more ways than one.

The first blessing was the fact that I was able to spend some time with these two couples. Andi and Alina Loghin are Christians from Bucharest. Andi is originally from Pitesti and we have known him since he became a Christian in 1996. They have been married for several years and have a son who is nine months old. Andi and I had a fantastic time recalling our past work together in Pitesti and Craiova. I'm so proud of him and his family!

The other couple, Marius and Bia Motreanu, have been married for less than two years. I had the honor of officiating at their religious ceremony last summer.

Marius is originally from Pitesti and Bianca grew up literally next door to the Cluj church. It was great to spend time with them driving across Romania!

After an overnight stay in Bucharest I was able to begin my journey home on Monday. It's a good thing that I did since I ran into some travel issues associated with the volcanic ash cloud and did not arrive in Arkansas until Tuesday, May 11.

I ask that you remember the Cluj church in your prayers as they continue to work with English students using the WEI materials. They will also host a Vacation Bible School in July. The VBS is being led by Romanians without Americans being present. We're proud of Claudiu and Anca for taking the lead and for Marius and Bianca who will be traveling to Cluj to assist them.

This will be the first time since 2003 that I have not made a trip to Romania during July or August. Our evangelism campaign at home in Vilonia will use up that vacation time that I usually set aside for Romania. I'm grateful to all who help make this work possible and who assist me with travel expenses. May God bless us as we continue to work for the Master!

- Marty

WEBSITES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Evangelistically Speaking Online:
<http://www.evangelisticallyspeaking.net>

Cluj-Napoca Church of Christ:
<http://www.bisericaluihristoscluj.com>

Levy Church of Christ:
<http://www.levychurch.com>

Vilonia Church of Christ:
<http://www.viloniachurch.com>

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In Memory of
LES LEE
Mr. and Mrs. Neal Lee
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Knight

In Memory of
CHESTER HENDERSON
Marty and Lisa Knight

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