

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 19, Issue 3

March 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

It was a pleasure to begin the month of February with the church at Greenbrier, Arkansas where we worked for 12 years and have had a great relationship for over 30 years. Every year the elders ask the brethren to make a special contribution above their regular budgeted offering and all of the special contribution is used to support mission efforts that are not in the regular budget. Excitement is always high as several brethren give a report on the work that is being done in the mission field.

So far, I have always been invited to preach during the worship hour on that day. This year the amount of funds given for special mission work exceeded \$16,000 and more is expected to come in. It is such a joy to know that



With great interest I have read the recent reports of the group of U.S. citizens who were held in custody by Haitian officials for attempting to take 33 children from that earthquake-ravaged country. The events involving those missionaries have brought short-term missions to the forefront of news coverage, but perhaps for the wrong reasons.

Being a veteran of nearly 30 short-term mission efforts since

brethren are getting more and more interested in taking the gospel to the entire world and are giving unselfishly for that purpose. I know that the congregations at Higden, Arkansas and Levy in North Little Rock are also encouraging their folk to give extra for special mission efforts. May God bless all the elders and others who are involved in using those funds for the most good.

I am so sick of SNOW and extremely COLD weather! It has not been a good winter for me this year as far as the weather goes. So, My Lady and I had made plans for a few days with brothers and sisters in Christ in Casa Grande, Arizona. We got off the plane in late evening and it was 59 degrees, but the next



day and the rest of the time there bathed in bright sunlight, under the bluest skies that you can imagine. I called daughter Kathy and told her to arrange an auction, sell everything that we had and send us a check because we were not coming back! But, we left there in mid-70 degree weather and came on back home where it was in the 20's. If I am reincarnated, I hope that the Lord puts me down in Arizona!

(Continued on Page 2)

Marty's Thoughts

1997, I have cringed at some of the things I've read and heard. If you aren't familiar with what's happened there, I will quickly recap.

A group of 10 missionaries from the western U.S. went to Haiti with one of their objectives being to transport Haitian orphans to a facility in the Dominican Republic. Let me emphasize this: I do NOT know these people and do not wish to pass judgment on them personally or their actions. However, their experience has brought to light some of the risk associated with short-term mission work. I want to share my thoughts regarding short-term work in the mission field. I'll list them as recommendations. They are not perfect or absolute, but they do reflect our experience.

#1: FIND A MENTOR

If you are contemplating becoming involved in short-term missions, the first thing to do is find an experienced mentor. It may be an individual or church, but make sure that you have a veteran guiding you through the process. And don't be shy about asking for their qualifications. It would be heartbreaking to follow the lead of someone into the mission and find yourself caught up in a legal situation because of their mistake.

#2: KNOW THE GOAL

As I prepared for my first trip in 1997, I heard the leader of that group express it this way: "We take nothing to these people except Jesus Christ."

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From Ted's Pen (Continued)

It was great to be with the church in Casa Grande and find such a fine spirit of hope for the future of the church. Brother Lester Bagley and his fine wife are working with the church and we expect to hear of good things happening as the church goes forward.

On February 21 we worshipped with the church at Hattieville, Arkansas and I gave a report to them about our work and preached during the worship hour. On Sunday evening I gave the report on our work to the congregation at Greenbrier. While I had preached during the worship hour on Missions Sunday, I do not report specific to our work. They have been great supporters of our work from the first day that we started this ministry in 1991. On February 28 I preached and gave a report on our work at the Oak Grove congregation in North Little Rock, Arkansas. They are not able to support our work financially, but we have good friends there including Brother and Sister Burt Wilkerson. Burt preaches there part of the time and Greg Brown also preaches there. Greg has been a co-worker of ours in the past in Romania and we appreciate him and his good family so much.

Our work for the month for March is all set and we are looking forward to it. We will fly to Lakeland, Florida on March 6 to begin a meeting with the church on Sunday, March 7 and continue through March 10. This will be our first meeting there and we know only two people there, but are confident that we will come home able to say that we have many dear friends in that church. I will give a report on our work to the Levy congregation on March 14 and then leave for Cluj, Romania on Wednesday, March 17. So, please pray for our work and our travels during this time.

You will see an ad in this issue regarding the Evangelistically Speaking Lectures which are conducted annually at the Mars Hill church of Christ. Please note the dates, times, subjects, and speakers

and plan to attend as much of it as you can. Our purpose is and always has been, to promote a greater interest in EVANGELISM!

Many of the congregations throughout the state have buses and vans which you could fill and bring brethren to this lectureship. It is informative, motivating, and the fellowship with so many brethren is exciting. I beg you to make your plans to be present at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 16 for the very first service. If you do so, I think that you will want to come back on Saturday. Please help us spread the word through church bulletins, public announcements, and personal invitations. You will be glad that you did.

NEW BOOK

Brother Cleon Green is a great friend and brother in Christ from Nashville, Arkansas. He has recently published a new book of sermon outlines that he and others have preached over the past several years. The cost of the book is only \$6.00 plus \$1.75 for postage. I encourage you to order one. If you cannot use it, give it to someone who isn't a Christian and help to teach the gospel through this means. Brother Green's address is: 10292 Hwy 278 West, Nashville, AR 71852.

ROMANIA

Brother Claudiu and others have reported that the weather in Romania this winter has been dangerously cold and even deadly. One of our sisters wrote and said, "People are dying from this very bad weather." I had originally planned to go to Cluj in February, but some conflicts in my schedule and theirs caused me to change my plans. Claudiu has repeatedly told me that it was good that I did not come at that time. However, he has told us that the attendance at the services has been good and some new visitors are attending.

When Claudiu had to be away one recent Sunday, Brother Lee Skelton and his family traveled from

Sibiu where they live and work and he preached for the church at Cluj. We appreciate that very, very, much.

Claudiu assures me that there are people waiting for me to study with them as soon as I arrive and I am anxious for that time to come. We have 36 people who are coming to study WEI lessons and some of them are attending services. We are looking forward to some special events such as the Young Adult Retreat in May and the Vacation Bible School in July, as well as teaching teams going at other times.

God is blessing the work in other places in Romania where we worked for ten years and we are praying that the work in Cluj will continue to grow as we strive to sow the Seed, which is His word.

PERSONAL NEWS

My Lady is doing well. She suffered severe headaches from June 2009 until this past December. She consulted several doctors, including a neurologist, but found no relief.

However, in December we read in our local paper about a doctor

who specialized in headache treatment and she immediately made an appointment to see him. He began his treatments and since that time she has only had two headaches and they were not nearly as severe. We are so thankful for that. As for me, I am still "Kickin' High" and feeling well most of the time. In my head I am still 30, but sometimes the ol' body reminds me that I am not. God sure is good to us. Several times I am asked about retiring, but I have not considered that option and do not plan to unless the Lord has other plans for me. I heard these words in a song one time in Romania: "I did not come this far to falter; I will not quit 'til I get home." That is my plan.

May God bless every one of you who support us with your prayers, encouragement, and those of you who make our work possible through your financial support. We rejoice because of what God does through us all. We love you very much.

- Ted

WEBSITES AND INFORMATION

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

Operation Outreach:
<http://www.operation-outreach.com>

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>

Marty's Thoughts (Continued)

Will there be opportunities to help ease the pain of someone who is suffering? Yes! How you go about easing the pain and heartache is important. Be very careful about making promises that are not realistic. I've seen individuals who are in an emotional state make life-altering decisions on the fly with little time to think through the situation and without consulting their families. I recommend to our teams that they stay focused on the goal of teaching and let other types of helped be managed by the local church in the field.

#3: KNOW YOUR SITE

Pardon my candor, Americans are often times ill-equipped to go outside our borders. They tend to make assumptions that our laws, traditions, and customs will apply regardless of their destination. That is NOT the case!

Knowledge of your destination is not only key to your success in meeting your objectives, but it is also key to your safety. Laws are different around the world and you can't rely on the excuse, "I'm an American and I didn't know." Not only is that unwise, but it is also pretty arrogant.

#4: KNOW YOUR HOSTS

I never take a short-term worker into the field without first helping them get to know their student. Remember that you are the guest and your hosts deserve respect. Be sensitive to cultures, language, and practices that are different from your own experience. All it take to offend a person is a rude or thoughtless gesture, comment, or even a laugh. The world is a big place and while many things are the same, cultures differ. If your goal is to connect with people, remember that it's your responsibility to know them.

#5: ALWAYS BE SAFE

I won't even begin to list all of the tips and hints that will help you stay safe in your travels. Many of them are simple and easy, but

some are more specific if you are traveling internationally. A simple Google of the term "travel safety tips" returns over 52 million hits. While some of that information is suspect or low-quality, there is much from reliable sources, including U.S. State Department. Take this process seriously, establish some good practices, and document. Registration with the State Department via their website is also a good practice and let's our government know where you are.

#6: IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU

I know some who participate in short-term missions as "thrill seekers." Their primary objective is to experience the travel and culture themselves. If you fit this description, then plan a vacation. The purpose of the proper short-term mission effort is to serve others and make a difference in their lives. That being said, be ready for the possibility that a short-term work will change your life for the better! It did mine!

#7: LIVE DIFFERENTLY

Hopefully, your experience will result in different thinking. You may be compelled to return to the field, perhaps for a long-term work. You may be more sensitive to and supportive of mission efforts that you hear about. You may want to invest your financial resources in other works. Last, but certainly most important, you may find yourself better equipped to do the Lord's work and tell others of the Christ. That's what it's all about!

This isn't an exhaustive list, nor is it complete. Others with more experience may feel that other issues are more important. Listen to them and respect them. Our goal should be to leave the mission field having accomplished our objectives, with respect from our students, having done everything in a lawful manner, and having brought to God the Father and Jesus His Son!

- 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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GIFTS OF MEMORIAL AND HONOR

In Memory of
MR. AND MRS. E.A. NORRIS
Marty and Lisa Knight

In Memory of
MR. AND MRS. RAY CRAFTON
Marty and Lisa Knight

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