

Evangelistically Speaking

Volume 19, Issue 5

May 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

I want to tell you about some of the studies that I recently conducted on my last trip to Romania. I studied with a lady whose name was Angelica. She is 42 years of age and a very intelligent lady. She teaches languages in one of the universities in Cluj, especially teaching the Italian language.

It was a joy to study with her, but about the third day of study when she arrived I asked her if she had any questions. The Romanians always reply, "Nu" and we proceed with the next study. This time she asked, "What is this about the cross?"

I nearly fell out of my chair! It was just hard for me to believe that there was someone that

knew absolutely nothing about the cross of Jesus Christ, but she didn't. We had a good study regarding the cross of Jesus and what it means for all people of the entire world.

I have known for years that there are millions of people in Romania who have never had a Bible and they know very, very little about the things that I have been taught all of my life. But, it was still a little surprising to know that someone had reached the level of education that Angelica had reached and she still knew nothing about the cross of Christ. We are continuing to study with her and praying that someday soon she will become a Christian.



During mid-April I watched with great interest as a natural event, the eruption of a volcano, took a great toll on modern travel in Europe. My main concern was that, Lord willing, I will leave on May 3 for Romania. So, my fear was that my own travel plans might be affected.

However, I found it fascinating to watch the repercussions from a natural event and how deeply it affected our world. Airports all



Another of my studies was with a man named Marius. He is a man of perhaps 50 years of age and is a computer specialist. He is very intelligent and very shy and quiet. He was raised as a youngster in a denominational body because his parents had little regard for the Russian Orthodox Church. He learned quickly and I could tell he understood the matters we covered.

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Marty's Thoughts

over Europe simply closed and cancelled all flights. It was similar to what American experienced for four days in September 2001.

Our daughter and son-in-law were flying back from California as these events took place. They saw the direct affect of these events that were taking place 10,000 miles away! People in America were stranded and could not get home to Europe. I know of at least one brother who was stranded in the U.K. and could not get back home to Arkansas for five days.

Isn't it amazing how quickly we come to rely upon modern technology and conveniences? For most of us, our ancestors came to America on ships, journeys that took weeks and months. In most cases, they never saw their

hometown or families again. My, how things have changed! Folks travel all over the world in a matter of hours or days. I can communicate with Claudiu via the Internet and it doesn't even cost anything! E-mail and Instant Messenger allow us to communicate effectively in an instant.

This makes me think of just how easy it should be for us to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. Simply put: God is making our job easier all the time!

Yet, somehow we find excuse after excuse for not being able to do His work. Before you jump to the conclusion that I'm about to beat you up and put you on a guilt trip for not doing more, let me say that is NOT my intent.

(Continued on Page 3)

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

When we got to the place in the study that I thought it was appropriate to do so I asked, "Right now in your life, would you say that you are saved or lost?" His immediate response was, "I am lost." However, with all of the encouragement that I could give, he still has not become a Christian.

I believe that it is because of the memory of his mother whom he loved so dearly and her devotion to the church that she was a member of that he has not yet obeyed the gospel although he is not a member of that church. We continue to study with and pray for Marius to come to the Lord in obedience to His will.

I had studies with a man and his wife, Daniel and Valerica. They have nine children. Daniel went to church with his mother as a youngster but never joined the church of which she was a member. Valerica was raised in the Russian Orthodox religion, but left that many years ago and joined a large denomination in town. In December of last year Claudiu and Anca got acquainted with them and they began attending the services of the church.

My studies with them were the first one-on-one Bible studies that they have had. They also came very close to obeying the gospel, but due to some serious problems with providing for their family and possible unemployment for Daniel they just did not come to the Lord either. It is possible that they will leave the country to try to find a way to provide for their family and we are praying that doesn't happen. Claudiu and Anca are continuing to study with them and encourage them in every way to become Christians and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

I had other studies as well, but I wanted you to see something of the kind of people that we study with in our work in Cluj. They are people to whom the gospel is very strange and new and they struggle with the fact that they have been misled all of their lives. It is really

hard for them to know that they have lost so much when they have been told that they didn't need a Bible and that they should just listen to the priest and let him take care of all of their spiritual needs.

We have 30 students who will begin the WEI (World English Institute) classes on April 1. There are ten others who are on the waiting list. We follow these studies with Bible studies as we have the teachers to do so. We are asking you to pray for all of these students, that they will learn and understand what the will of the Lord is and become Christians.

Marty will be over there when you read these words. Much of his time will be with the 60 or more Christians at the National Young Adult Retreat, but we are hopeful that he will have the time to study with those whom I have mentioned earlier. God's word will not return void so we continue to sow the seed, sometimes with tears and we leave the rest up to the Lord.

We've received the new song books for churches all over Romania! I don't know how many congregations will want them, but enough have been printed to supply each congregation.

Claudiu did a great deal of the work in selecting and translating them with assistance from other brethren. Eastern European Missions printed them at no cost to us and we are grateful for that. Our total investment in having these song books printed and made available was \$750. I love the new books and they are going to mean a lot to the Lord's people in Romania.

I mentioned the third annual retreat for the young adults that Marty will be assisting with the first of May and he will give us a good report of that work in the next issue of ES.

ES LECTURESHIPS

We just finished the 12th Annual Evangelistically Speaking Lecture-

ship. It was one of the finest that we have ever had. My only regret is that more people did not attend. It seems to me that when the subject of study is something that challenges us to arise and take the gospel to the whole world, we should have to conduct that meeting in a huge auditorium to accommodate the number of Christians who should be eager to learn more about the needs and how to meet them. Our speakers did a great job and a lot of people told me that they were blessed and intend to do a better job of seeking the lost.

BARBARA'S HEALTH

Most of you know that Barbara has had some health issues for the past month or more. On April 9 the doctor gave her some medicine for an infection in her bladder. She took it on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings. On Sunday afternoon we had to take her to the emergency room with symptoms resembling a heart attack. She spent four days in the hospital.

The doctor determined after all the tests that she had an adverse reaction to the medication. However, the problem for which she was given the medicine continued. On Tuesday, April 20 she was examined by Dr. Juan Roman at UAMS in Little Rock and he found a small piece of mesh from surgery done in June 2007.

He believes that it may work itself out and he wants her to take some medicine and on July 27 she will go back. If it is not resolved on it's own he will remove it surgically. So, she will continue to have pain, but he has given her medication to help with that. Thanks to all of you for remembering her in your prayers.

May God bless your brethren and thank you so much for helping us in spreading the gospel to as many as possible while there is time.

- Ted

WEBSITES AND GENERAL 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)

My objective in writing these words is to help you SEE the opportunities that God has put before you.

As an example, I give you none other than Facebook. Most of you know about this social network that seems to be taking over the Internet. For those who may not be familiar, it is a website that allows individuals to connect by choosing one another as "Facebook friends." Not only does it give you the chance to communicate with that person, but you can also share news with your entire network of friends. I know some people who keep up with each other on a hourly basis!

I come from a very large family. On both sides of my family, I have a total of over 50 first cousins. In the past year or so, many of us have reconnected via Facebook. Case in point, two of my cousins recently found out, via Facebook, that they were both going to be in Kansas City on business at the same time. One lives in Benton, Illinois and the other in Monroe, Louisiana. I don't believe they had seen each other since our grandmother's funeral in 2004, but they had dinner together and enjoyed a grand evening catching up with each other. All because they had something that informed them about one another!

Of course, there are some who believe that social networking tools such as Facebook are a waste of time. (*Claudiu, we'll bring you along someday!*) As with anything in life, I suppose that they could become a distraction or be used for a negative purpose. But, God has seen fit to give us many great tools that can be used to spread the Gospel. The question is: ARE WE GOING TO USE THEM TO HIS ADVANTAGE?

I've made many appeals for those who are willing to go into the mission fields of Romania to help in the Lord's work in Cluj and other places. Those needs still exist. We need teachers who are willing to go. And let me add that it is much easier to "go" than it once was.

When I made my first trip to Romania in 1997 there was no Internet, no e-mail back home, and certainly no Skype that gave me the chance to call my family and talk to them. As a matter of fact, phone service was so spotty that you could rarely get through. During that two-week trip I only had the opportunity to visit with my family on two occasions.

Such is not the case today. So, you may ask, why do I bring up this topic? I do so for two reasons.

First, I want you to be informed about how convenient it is to travel internationally. The thought of being 8,500 miles away from home and loved ones is intimidating for most people. Airports and long flights are definitely not what most consider to be fun. But, my experience is that most people could deal with that aspect of being involved in foreign missions; what is most intimidating is being away from family.

While technology does not completely eliminate that isolation and separation, it does reduce it. The sound of a voice can make all the difference in the world. One individual who traveled to Romania with me would call home each morning (Cluj time) via Skype and say bedtime prayers with his small children. What a deal!!

My sweet wife is not a big fan of the phone. It's just not part of her makeup. I will never forget calling home from Cluj on a recent trip only to have her answer the phone and say, "What d'you want now?" Of course, she wasn't serious, but it does make the point about how far we've come. Where once I was barely able to communicate, if at all, I could now communicate so freely that I became a nuisance. God has given us great opportunities!

Second, I want to challenge you to find ways to teach and share the Gospel without ever leaving your home. There are ministries today whose sole purpose is to provide Bible instruction via the Internet. If you're interested in learning more about these methods, Ted and I will be glad to get you in touch with the right folks.

Not only are these methods cost-effective and convenient, but they are the perfect solution for some individuals. Some Christians find it terribly intimidating to study with someone face-to-face, but could easily do so via correspondence. If you're one of those people, then give this prayerful consideration.

We live in amazing times. God has given us so much. Are we going to use those opportunities to reach the lost and dying? Let us know if you would like more information.

As Dad mentioned in his article, I will be in Cluj from May 3-12. In keeping with this article, I will be using a Facebook group to share news of future mission efforts in Romania. Search for "Mission Evangelism" and request to join the group. May God bless each of us as we labor for Him.

- Marty

LEVY MISSION EVANGELISM GIFTS OF HONOR / MEMORIAL

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