

Evangelistically Speaking

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*Please join us in prayer
for the following items:*

- Pray for the churches in Cluj-Napoca and Sibiu, Romania as they go through periods of transition.
- Ask God to open doors of opportunity for them as they labor in those places.

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From Ted's Pen

I just returned from a wonderful trip to Cluj, Romania with Brother Curtis Sawrie, a great co-worker in the Lord. It was a great pleasure to have him with me and to enjoy working with him in teaching the word of God to our students and preaching in the public services of the church. Curtis is interested in one thing and one thing only when he is in Romania and that is teaching the word of God. As far as I know he never left the church building and his lodging quarters except to walk to the grocery store to buy food. I appreciate him so very much.

One man was baptized into Christ. Florin Mercea, whom I had studied with in 2007 but who had not been in touch with the church in a long time, had started attending again in recent weeks. Brother Curtis began studying with him and continued every day for one to two hours each day. I studied with him on Friday night and finally he said, "I need to be baptized." I asked him, "When?" and he said, "Right now!"

So, Curtis helped to baptize him at the very same hour. On Sunday morning Curtis presented him with a baptismal certificate before the congregation and he seemed so pleased and rejoiced that he could be with the Saints for the first time as a child of

God. I am enclosing an e-mail message that I received from Florin on Monday, November 14 which I found greatly encouraging. Brother Dan Davis, who had known Florin for many years, told me that Brother Mercea is a very fine man.

Curtis also worked with a children's class on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00. There were 42 children present and he taught them some games and had a great time with them and then presented a lesson with some visual aids about Noah and the Ark. The children had a great time. Curtis also consented to speak to a class of English students. One of them was a young man who is studying to become an Orthodox priest. As you can imagine, it turned into a Bible study and the man seemed very interested in studying further.

We were able to take a lot of teaching material with us including a good supply of DVD's from World Bible School. So, we went shopping for a projector which they can attach to Dragos and Sorina's laptop computer and use them for teaching the entire church, special classes for teens, and for the younger children. It was great to have the funds to make this purchase. We also bought a dehumidifier for the living quarters to help with



the humidity which is causing some problems with mold and mildew. There is additional work that needs to be done on both the living quarters and the church building and we hope to do that as funds become available.

The congregation at Atkins, Arkansas provided us with several copies of the book "INTO THE ABUNDANT LIFE" from Truth for Today and these will be extra helpful for their studies. We are thankful to the church at Atkins for their help.

The trip was a great encouragement to both of us and the church assured us that it was of great benefit to them as well. We had a congregational fellowship meal on the first Lord's Day that we were there and it was a pleasure to be a part of that time.

When we arrived back in the United States and were still making our way to the gate, I called My Lady and learned that we had become great-grandparents for the 6th time with the birth of HAILEY MADISON HARLESS.

(Continued on Page 2)

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

Hailey is the daughter of Daniel and Brittany Harless and granddaughter of Marty and Lisa. She was born on Monday, November 7 at 11:26 AM and we went straight to the hospital from the airport so I could hold her. She sure is a dandy!

On November 13, 2011 we began our 20th year of full-time missions and evangelism and we look forward with great anticipation for a great work in 2012, if we are blessed to live and work in the kingdom. These 20 years have flown by. It is because of brethren like so

many of you that we have been able to wear out five vans traveling in the U.S. and fly many, many, thousands of miles both in the U.S. and in Europe. The gratitude that we feel is just indescribable. Please continue to pray that our labors will result in good fruit for the Master's use.

Barbara and I and all of our family wish for you a safe and pleasant holiday season and a happy, healthy, and fruitful New Year.

- Ted

E-Mail from New Brother

Mr. Ted

It is so good to hear from you. Your words are a big encouragement for me as I am starting a new life as a child of God. I will need your prayer and support to stay true to God and to obey Him.

As for my baptism, I am very happy God helped me to take this step. I have been feeling an innerpeace and stability and confidence in God as I have never felt before. Also I am happy to tell you that I was helped by God's spirit to stop sinning the way I used to, when I was not baptized. I see the fruits of God's Spirit in my life in : inner peace, confidence, obedience.

There was a particular sin I got rid of since I was baptized and that gives me courage. Also when I encounter people who don't treat me nice or polite I don't get back at them but I feel the love of Christ in

me that I show them and I avoid unpleasant situations. So the God's spirit works in me.

I am glad you had quality time with Barbara. I am glad you had a safe trip home. Last Friday we had a very nice teen night at The Church of Christ watching a movie called Fireproof and having good time with Marina, Alex, Dragos and Sorina.

I am more and more involved with my classes as I go through my study journey at Faculty. I hope to hear from you. Can you add me on Facebook? You can find me if you type in Florin Mercea. I tried to look you up but I could not succeed. Hoping to hear from you.

Your brother in Christ,

Florin

SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 4
Center Ridge, Arkansas

DECEMBER 11
Jerusalem, Arkansas (AM)
Vilonia, Arkansas (PM)

DECEMBER 18
Bellefonte—Harrison, Arkansas

WEBSITES AND 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>

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

From the Knight, Hall,
Harless, McCarty and Brown Families

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THE MIRACLE OF AN OPENED DOOR

While sitting at home by myself recently I ran across the 2004 motion picture “Miracle” as it was being shown on TV. It was just coming on and I paused to watch a few minutes. I ended up watching the whole two hours! If you aren’t familiar with the movie, it chronicles the feats of the 1980 United States Olympic hockey team as they made perhaps the most improbable run to a gold medal in Olympic history. Two powerful memories flooded back to me.

The first was my personal recollection of the real events. I was a much-thinner, 17-year-old high school senior in February 1980. It was highly unusual for a group of country boys from the southern United States to give a hoot about a series of hockey games, but we certainly paid attention to those. 1980 was difficult time to be an American. The nightly news was filled with accounts of U.S. citizens being taken hostage in Iran, the Soviets invading Afghanistan, and the severe economic woes we were experiencing here at home. But, then out of nowhere came a group of young men who galvanized our country in a spirit of hope! Not only were they giving us hope, but they were doing so at the expense of one of the symbols of what we stood against—a foreboding group of Soviet hockey players wearing Communist red.

The second memory takes place 27 years later. In January 2007 I made a trip alone to Cluj, Romania. A young man—single at the time—had just moved to Cluj to preach for the church there and we were planning the events for the coming year. There we were, just the two of us alone in his apartment one evening, having just enjoyed dinner together. Since I had not yet adjusted to the time difference I was wide awake and we began searching for something to watch on TV. You guessed it—there was “Miracle” and the movie had just started. Plus, it was being broadcast in English! This young man, 24 years of age, had no recollection of these events. They happened before he was even born.

As the movie progressed and Claudiu asked a few questions about the dialogue it occurred to me that he didn’t understand the underlying story. In spite of the fact that he was born into a country (Romania) ruled by an iron-fisted Communist dictator, he didn’t have an appreciation for the Cold War at all. He certainly did not comprehend the recollections that filled my mind. West versus East. Democracy versus Communism. Good versus Evil—or so we believed at the time. I struck me as especially poignant how much change had occurred in a quarter-century for me to be sitting in that place, with this young man, enjoying the freedom to plan the work of the Lord’s church! If you had told that skinny 17-year-old that his future held such an event, he would have laughed. It was unthinkable.

This past September a group of Christians met in Bucharest to celebrate a 20th anniversary. They were comprised of Americans, Romanians, and probably citizens from other countries as well. It was in early 1991 that Christians from “the West” began making their way to Romania to provide help to a country ravaged by godless leadership and revolution. The challenges in those early days were daunting. Those involved at the time must have wondered if there would ever be hope. Yet, today there exist 20 Romanian congregations of the Lord’s church. As many as 500 faithful Christians gather each Sunday to worship in freedom, praise their Creator, and remember the death of their Savior.

Like each of you who read this article, there have been personal events in my life that demonstrate to me the power of God. These things tell me, without a doubt, that there is a God and He is in control. For me, one of those things is the fact that on that cold January night in 2007 I sat with a young man born to parents who were citizens of a Communist country and relived a time in my life when I thought the Cold War would never end. Some say that it took a miracle for the Iron Curtain to fall in 1989. If it was a miracle, I don’t believe that the miracle was happenstance—it was delivered by a benevolent and loving God.

I write this article on what we in the U.S. observe as Thanksgiving Day. When I think about that 20th anniversary celebration, I am thankful for many things. I’m deeply grateful to those brethren who traveled to Romania from the U.S. and other places in 1991 and the years that followed. You know who you are! I have stood on your shoulders! I am even more grateful for those early Romanian Christians. They had faith enough to believe and obey in the face of uncertainty and despite the fear that had dominated their lives. Many of them continue faithfully today.

Still, the question remains for Christians in the U.S.: what do we do with these open doors? Will we be good stewards over the blessings God has given us? According to United Nations statistics, the United States, with 4.6% of the world’s population, controls 25.4% of the world’s wealth. Doors are opened before us—sometimes in ways that seem almost miraculous. Do we have faith enough to walk through them?

- Marty Knight
Vilonia, Arkansas

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By
Thomas and Geneva Gray

In Memory of
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By
Dan and Jan Davis

In Honor of
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