

Evangelistically Speaking

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2011

*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 understand why the apostle Paul told us to "Redeem the time" because it passes so quickly and I often feel that I have not used it as wisely as I should have. I feel like the empire-builder Cecil Rhodes who said, "So much to do, so little done." But, we keep on keeping on and pray that the Lord will bless our efforts to His glory.

I will give a brief report on the work that was done in August since the last issue of ES was done for two months. We were with the congregation at Black Oak, Arkansas on July 31-August 3 for a gospel meeting. The church at Black Oak is always encouraging to Barbara and me and this was no exception. One of the things that amazes us is the number of young people and small children in this rural congregation. They have a lot of them and that makes the future look brighter for the church.

The following week, August 7-10, we were at Bay, Arkansas, the congregation where both of us became Christians at an early age and grew up together there. You just cannot imagine how thankful we are to be invited to come home and preach and enjoy the fellowship of people whom we have known and loved since childhood. On August 14 it was a great joy to be with the Ben's Branch church, located in one of the

most beautiful areas in our state of Arkansas. The folk that make up the church at Ben's Branch are just as beautiful as the natural surroundings. It was a bit humorous that following a wonderful meal with Junior Dodson and his wife, Kathy, it was decided that Kathy would lead us out to the main highway because of so many curves, turns, and side roads that I probably could not find my way out. If she hadn't done that we might still be in those mountains looking for a way out of there. What a great day!

On August 21-24 I preached in a gospel meeting for the Gravel Hill church of Christ near Dover, Arkansas. We have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the church there for twenty years and when we feel a little need for a spirit boost, Gravel Hill is a good place to find one. They asked me to speak about some of the basic, fundamental, needs of the church today and so I chose to speak on the theme, "Have we forgotten?" Each lesson concerns some area where it seems to me we may have let some things slip away and possibly have completely forgotten.

The lessons were well-received and on the last evening there was great joy when a man who is known and loved a great deal there,



put His Lord on in baptism. On August 28 we were blessed to be with the church at Hoxie, Arkansas. The church at Hoxie is enjoying the work of a new preacher and his wife, Matthew Balentine, and things really look good. The house was full for the services and I believe that the future does indeed seem bright.

We arrived at home Sunday afternoon and had a call from the family of Brother Olen Lindsey telling us that he was not expected to live but a few minutes. Sure enough, a few minutes later we got the call that he had passed away. I was honored to speak at the funeral service on Wednesday, August 31. We have enjoyed the fellowship and friendship of the Lindsey family for many years. Brother Olen served as an elder in the Lord's church at Enola, Arkansas.

We left on September 2 to go to Michigan City, Indiana. There were several reasons why we had scheduled this trip.

(Continued on Page 2)

From Ted's Pen (Continued)

Of course, we looked forward to being with the church there which is so precious to us. However, there was another special reason for us to go as well. Brother Stanley Davis and his wife, Jean, have been very dear friends of ours for more than fifty years. We had been told that they were both seriously ill and that Stanley had been saying to people, "Ted and Barbara will come." We arrived there on Friday and went immediately to their house, but Jean had just gone into a coma.

Two hospital beds had been set up in their living room, one for each of them so they could be together. We had a great visit with Stanley for a short time and then again on Saturday we went to their house. On Sunday morning, shortly after dismissing the services of the church and starting to leave, a call was received that Sister Jean Davis had died and they were asking for us.

We drove immediately to their house which is only about three houses from the church

building. The arrangements had already been made for her body to be cremated and a memorial service to be scheduled later. They asked about my schedule and I was able to make an adjustment in it so that we could go back for the memorial service on Saturday, September 24. Therefore, we left home on September 20 and went to Oskaloosa, Iowa to be with the church there on Wednesday night, September 21 and then drove from there to Michigan City for the memorial service.

We came on home on September 26 and both of us were completely exhausted, but so happy that we could be there with the Davis family. We were with the church at Cave City, Arkansas for a gospel meeting on September 16-18. Our theme for this meeting was "Strengthening our Faith." Again, the lessons were well-received and hopefully we all were made stronger as a result of our study. We have worked with the church at Cave City many times and always enjoy being with them.

MY LADY'S HEALTH

On September 15 Barbara went to Dr. John Brizzolara for a checkup and he released her from his care and told her that she was a completely different person than he saw when she first came to him in March. He told us then that he had repaired a lot of surgeries that her first surgeon had performed, but that he had never seen a botched job quite as severe as hers.

Now, she is in great shape and he has told her that she can resume all of her normal activities. For the first time in four long years she is not under the care of a doctor and has no appointments to return to him unless he is needed. We thank GOD and also all of you who have prayed for her for so long.

Brethren, for the first time in almost 20 years of full-time missionary and evangelistic work, I just gave out and had to adjust my schedule some in

September. We were scheduled to be in Iowa on September 11 following our first trip to Indiana, but I had to call the brethren and ask them to let me make another arrangement. I am so thankful that they did. I was able to attend the monthly area preachers meeting here at home on September 12 and the Central Arkansas Area-Wide Fellowship on September 13 because of that change in schedule.

It was really, really, good to be with all the great people here at home for those two occasions. I am feeling better and looking forward to the work in October, the schedule of which you will find in another place in this issue. May God bless you for your love, prayers, encouragement, and support for our work. We love you very much.

- Ted

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>

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

SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 6-9
Gospel Meeting—Charleston, Mississippi

OCTOBER 23-26
Gospel Meeting—Atkins, Arkansas

OCTOBER 25
Ladies Day—Atkins, Arkansas (Barbara)

OCTOBER 28-November 9
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

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OUR CHRISTIAN WALK

Much to our surprise at the time, Lisa and I became parents less than two years after we married in 1984. Since that time God has blessed us with a beautiful family and we thank Him for them every day. However, there have been some bonuses to becoming “empty-nesters” after Kyndall married this past June. One of the things that we were blessed with was the opportunity to take a trip to Alaska to celebrate the transition.

This past August (2011) we traveled to Seattle and boarded a ship that took us—along with Lisa’s parents and her sister and brother-in-law—to several locations in Alaska. To try and describe the beauty of the place would be an exercise in futility. It is quite remarkable. In addition to the natural beauty, the history of Alaska is just as amazing.

One of the more impressive things that we experienced was an 18-mile train ride on the White Pass and Yukon Route. Along with scores of others, we boarded a railcar and wound our way through the mountains and followed the Skagway River. A knowledgeable young lady narrated the trip. About halfway through the trip, she instructed us to note a small trail that etched its way through a rocky hillside—the famous White Pass trail of 1898! This was the actual trail over which thousands travelled, making their way toward the Yukon during the Gold Rush. What a thing to see!

After arriving home I couldn’t help but research the trail and find out more about the men and women who travelled this path toward what they believed would be wealth and financial security. Nearly all of them were novices and had no experience in the outdoors, much less the extreme environment of Alaska. They were required by law to bring a year’s worth of supplies with them. A literal ton of supplies. A typical day on the trail consisted of a single man, sometimes using a pack animal and other times on foot, carrying 50-60 pounds of his load up five miles of trail. Then, circling back to get another load and following the same path. The same path, over and over, up a 45-degree grade. Unbelievable!

As I thought of that trail—and the more challenging Chilkoot Pass Trail—it occurred to me how their experience was so like the life of a Christian. Have you ever felt as if you were walking up the same trail, over and over, never gaining any rest? For many Christians, life can be a marathon of challenges and temptations. Back-breaking work!

So, how does the Christian deal with this walk? How do we endure? Does scripture offer help? Yes, it does!

In COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, it seems as if Paul had this very challenge in mind. It’s as if he speaks directly to me!

“Therefore, as you received Jesus Christ the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

What does Paul say about our Christian walk?

ROOTED IN HIM (Verse 7) Remain true to your values! Don’t change who you are as a Christian, even when you’re in difficult circumstances or facing ridicule. I like the language in the King James Version where Peter likened Christians to a “peculiar people.” (1 Peter 2:9) Not weird of goofy. But, different from the world. Rooted in Christ!

BUILT UP IN HIM (Verse 7) The process of building implies development, growth, and strengthening. Paul encouraged the church in Philippi to complete what they started. It is said that approximately 100,000 souls began the journey to the Yukon, but only 40,000 completed it. Legend has it that thousands more made the long journey by boat to Skagway, saw what was ahead of them, and quit before they ever started. Given my family’s attitude toward the outdoors, a few Knights may have been among that latter number! Paul says, “Finish what you start! Be strengthened!”

STRENGTHENED IN FAITH (Verse 7) From the looks of the environment, it took great inner strength to complete the journey to Bennett Lake at the end of the White Pass Trail. It was called the meanest 33 miles on earth and I believe it! However, our Christian walk requires faith in something stronger than ourselves. Paul told Timothy, “My son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 2:1)

ABOUNDING WITH THANKSGIVING (Verse 7) If we are to survive the Christian walk through this life—with all of it’s challenges and heartaches—we must be thankful for what we are given along the way. Giving thanks for something that we have not yet received is difficult. Yet, we persevere because we know that something beyond description awaits. Those in 1898 hoped for earthly riches, the gold that was in the hard ground of Alaska. We hope for the riches of a heavenly Father, to whom we are joint-heirs with Jesus!

May God bless each of us as we carry our burden along the Christian walk!

- Marty Knight
Vilonia, 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
Phone: 501.269.0450

Visit our website at
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By
June Lindsey and Family
Ted and Barbara Knight

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BILL DRYDEN

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