



RUSHMORE NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 No. 3

MAY 2009

The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ

By Louis Rushmore

Not everywhere on planet earth may persons freely choose to obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ and become Christians. For instance, in one country half the world away from the shores of the United States of America, it is illegal to be baptized without first requesting and being granted government permission, but people request baptism and are baptized immediately anyway, without obtaining government permission. Why, because of the urgency of conversion, illustrated in Scripture by the baptism of the Philippian jailer and his household in the wee hours of the night (Acts 16:33). In another nation, also distant from America, it is illegal to convert from Buddhism or to convert someone from Buddhism (the legal penalty is capital punishment), but people still request baptism and are baptized immediately anyway. Why, because just like the apostles of Christ who were charged to no longer teach in the name of Jesus, they essentially answered with them, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

There are serious consequences in some parts of the world for becoming a Christian. A professor at foreign a university obeyed the Gospel, for which he was fired from his teaching position, imprisoned for two years and his family members were scattered about the country (some of whom have never been found). Elsewhere, a Muslim woman obeyed the Gospel and was murdered by her husband for no other reason than that she became a Christian. Yet, another Muslim woman and friend of the deceased Christian lady decided to become a Christian, knowing full well that she might be murdered, too.

Of course, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ lies behind the sacrifices of these Christians just mentioned. Without the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, sacrifices to become Christians would be meaningless. The world knows one verse of Scripture better than any other, which speaks to God sending Jesus Christ into the world to work out the salvation of humanity; that verse is John 3:16. A similar Scripture resounds with the same message, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all..." (Romans 8:32).

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is **the subject** of the Bible, beginning in the first book of the Bible (Genesis 3:15). About 333 passages throughout the Bible foretold the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ (such as, Psalms 22; 34; Isaiah 53; Daniel 9). It is not surprising, then, that the apostle Paul focused on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. He indicated that nothing is more important than or as important as the sacrifice of Jesus Christ; the apostle wrote, "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). How important is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ? No sacrifice, no purchase price or ransom for our sins (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:5-6).

However, Christ's sacrifice involves far more than His crucifixion. Our Lord laid off the honor of being God to be made in the form of mortal man. Philippians 2:6-8 refers to Jesus Christ and reads, "who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." He was no less God or Deity than He was before His incarnation, but to pay humanity's debt of sin, Jesus Christ voluntarily relinquished the glory due Him to become the Perfect Sacrifice.

In addition, Jesus Christ left the glory and splendor of heaven to live a poor existence on earth. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9). Even more, our Lord was willing for a time to be separated from God (because of man's sin that He bore for us). Our Lord's words on the cross, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) record the agony He suffered for the interruption of divine fellowship. This instance gives greater meaning to one of the statements of the apostle Paul, "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2 Thessalonians 1:9). One of

Sponsor:

Vermilion Church of Christ
5116 Driftwood Drive
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

Louis & Bonnie Rushmore
705 Devine Street
Winona, Mississippi 38967

662.739.3035

rushmore@gospelgazette.com
www.gospelgazette.com
www.worldevangelism.org

Co-workers with
J.C. & Betty Choate
& others

Involved in
these good works:

Voice of Truth International
Gospel Gazette Online
Global Harvest
Overseas Campaigns
International Radio & TV
Foreign Bible Schools
Literature Distribution
School of Evangelism
Bible School Curriculum

Louis Rushmore

Gospel Gazette Online, Editor

Voice of Truth International,
Associate Editor

the eternal punishments for unrighteous souls will be separation from God.

The benefit of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ pertains to His resurrection and Ascension. The Old Testament prophets focused on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 26:22-23). It is no wonder, then, that the apostle Paul defines the heart of the Gospel as the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Jesus Christ built into the establishment of the Lord's Supper memorial His sacrifice for the remission of men's sins (Matthew 26:28). Further, we are reconciled through the death of Jesus Christ, which we act out when we obey the Gospel by imitating the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord.

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection. (Romans 6:3-5)

Jesus Christ takes away the sins of those who obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9). Therefore, Christians can eagerly await the return of our Lord. "So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation" (Hebrews 9:28). Those sins were nailed to the cross in the very Person of our Savior, Jesus Christ; "who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ means to you and me that we ought to take our Christianity seriously and not lightly. The Christian martyrs following the establishment of the Lord's church mean that we ought to take our Christianity seriously and not lightly (Acts 12:1-2; apostles of Christ; extra-biblical historical references to Christian martyrs). The sacrifices of contemporary Christians mean that you and I ought to take our Christianity seriously and not lightly.

Do you practice sacrificial Christian living, sacrificial Christian service and sacrificial Christian worship? I have to ask myself those same questions. If you have never put Jesus Christ on in baptism (Galatians 3:27), the baptism that is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16), the baptism that saves (1 Peter 3:21), then you have not really begun the Christian walk just yet. If you are not taking Christianity seriously in your life (putting it first above all else, Matthew 6:33; 10:37-39), or if you are guilty of sin though you are a Christian, there is a remedy. Forasmuch as the apostle Peter was afforded the opportunity to pronounce the first law of pardon (for non-Christians) in Acts 2:38, Peter also was permitted to pronounce the second law of pardon (for Christians when they sin) in Acts 8:22. The apostle John verified that erring Christians can be forgiven; "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross was an incomprehensible price paid for the redemption of humanity. However, that redemption is not automatic or without human participation. Dear Reader, do not allow the sacrifice of Jesus

Christ to be wasted on you. Become a Christian today! If an erring Christian, return to faithfulness before it is too late! †

Out & About

By Bonnie Rushmore

The past two months have been very busy for us. With the Bates on their six-week long spring missionary trip (Kenya, Sri Lanka and India); we tended to all the day-to-day duties at the office (accounting, shipping books, typesetting, editing and proofing literature, etc.). The last week of March, a tractor trailer arrived from the printer with three pallets of books (7,000 copies). These needed to be unloaded and stored in the warehouse.

Saturday evening Feb. 28th, we traveled to Hatton, AL for appointments on Sunday. Not far from Winona, we noticed a few flakes of snow (yes, I said snow in MS). The further we traveled, the more snow we observed with the road covered in some locations. Finally, when we arrived at our motel, the snow was behind us. Sunday morning, one of the elders called to say services were cancelled due to the two inches of snow on the ground with one worship service scheduled for 4:00 p.m. We expect snowstorms to wreck havoc on worship services in the north, but we were not expecting this in northern AL on March 1st. Monday thru Wednesday, we attended the Faulkner University Lectureship in Montgomery, AL. We returned home on Thursday evening and spent Friday catching up on office work. Friday night, we repacked the car in preparation to

leave early Saturday morning for Valdosta, GA. We had the pleasure of Betty's company on this journey. Sunday morning, we met with the elders of the Dasher Road church, and then Louis taught Bible Class and preached for the morning worship. The Dasher Road congregation is a longtime supporter of J.C. and Betty, and is pleased that others

are continuing the work J.C. started many years ago. At the conclusion of services, we left for an evening appointment at the Chaffee Road Church of Christ in Jacksonville, FL. We were

well received at both congregations and were treated wonderfully.

On Monday, the Fox's (with whom we were lodging) took us to St. Augustine, FL to view the historic "Castillo de San Marcos" fort and the beach at Anastasia State Park. The weather was warm and sunny, which caused Louis to have a sunburned face by evening. That night, we attended a *Fishers of Men* class presented by Tim Wilkes at another congregation in Jacksonville. We left early Tuesday morning for home.

Rebecca spent the first few days of her spring break helping in the Winona office. On Thursday of that week, we followed her home to Collierville to do some remodeling work on her house. Thursday, Friday and Saturday were spent tearing out the bathroom tub and surrounding ceramic tile as well as the back wall of her house. The window in the shower allowed water to leak inside the wall, rotting out the studding and ruining wall board behind the ceramic tile. Saturday morning, she had a huge five-foot-wide hole looking into the backyard. We inserted a one piece tub and shower surround through the hole in the wall and replaced the wood exterior wall. By 10:00 p.m., we could shower (the

first since leaving home on Thursday morning). Louis had appointments in Hazen, AR and Biggers, AR for which we left for on Sunday morning and returned to her house Sunday evening. While she was at work on Monday, we spent the day working on the bathroom project, working late into the night. Finally, with two more weekend trips to her house, she has a new bathroom complete with new tub and shower surround, toilet, vanity and a fresh coat of paint on the plasterboard walls. No, we cannot remodel your bathroom.

Currently, we are finalizing the menu/shopping list for the Missionary Retreat at Maywood Christian Camp near Hamilton, AL with an expected attendance of 80-90 people. We just finished printing the booklet of lessons for that event. Also, Louis is scheduling speaking appointments for our visit north the first week of June, at which time we will visit my mother and other loved ones in the OH and PA area.

Now that spring has arrived, the yard work beckons along with the other household chores. There is always something that needs our attention with never a dull moment. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement that allows us to help spread the Gospel around the world.†

Note: One senior Christian couple has placed Bonnie and me in their monthly *Food Budget*, whereby what money they don't spend on eating, they send to us. We are greatly humbled and warmly appreciate such dedication and sacrifice.

Rushmore Funding Goals

Foreign Travel Funds/Louis & Bonnie (\$20,000 annually)

Foreign Travel Funds/Rebecca (\$3,000 annually)

Overseas Literature Distribution (\$2,000 annually)

Computer for Bible School Co-Director, Philip (\$1,000 Special)

Louis & Bonnie Support (\$2,800 Monthly)

Louis Rushmore
 World Evangelism
 P.O. Box 72
 Winona, MS 38967

**Non Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 12**

Address Service Requested

Place Label Here

Yes, we want to help the Rushmores save souls as they labor with the Choates & others in worldwide evangelism.

Here is a onetime gift of \$_____ to help perpetuate the proven work of evangelism in which Bonnie & Louis are participating.

I (we) plan to send a monthly contribution of \$_____, beginning _____ (month) to help the Rushmores spread the Gospel far and near.

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to: Vermilion Church of Christ, 5116 Driftwood Dr., Vermilion, OH 44089

**Rushmore Evangelism Fund:
 March—April 2009 Report**

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH LOUIS & BONNIE RUSHMORE FOR A LIVE MISSION REPORT TO YOUR CONGREGATION .

Beginning Balance	\$5,723.07
Income	
Contributions	\$9,941.00
Printing/Book Sales	\$3.00
Foreign Travel	
Travel	\$970.00
Philip's Computer (Myanmar Preacher)	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,914.00
Expenses	
Auto Expenses	\$1,503.84
Stateside Travel	\$1,001.46
Foreign Travel (Rebecca)	\$140.00
Office	\$531.24
Postage & Shipping	\$283.91
Equipment Maintenance & Repair	\$489.47

Printing Expenses	\$351.01
Office Telephone	\$293.08
Medical Treatment	\$704.52
Bank Fees	\$2.94
Medical Insurance	\$0.00
Life Insurance	\$100.58
Housing	\$476.51
Salary	\$3,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,878.56
MONTHLY BALANCE	\$2,035.44
Available Balance	\$7,109.77
Foreign Travel Balance	\$618.74
Philip's Computer Balance	\$30.00