

Rushmore Newsletter

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World Evangelism



Off and Running!

Louis Rushmore

We are ***Rushmore-ing*** as we prepare for our fall mission trip to Myanmar (Burma) and India. It seems impossible to get all of our proverbial ducks in a row for the varied efforts at various locations in both countries from the end of September through the middle of November.

On September 27, 2012, Bonnie and I accompanied again this year by Therman Hodge will depart the United States for Myanmar. We will arrive in Yangon, Myanmar on Saturday, September 29 after many weary hours in transit over three days. In addition to opportunities to teach and preach on Lord's Days, we have a full schedule. For the first week, we will fly to Myanmar's second largest city, Mandalay, and teach men's and ladies' classes for non-Christians and Christians. The second week, all three of us will teach at the Hmawbi Bible School in the jungle nearly an hour from Yangon. The third week, we will teach mostly non-Christians in the jungle home of a good brother in Christ.

Parting from Myanmar, then, we will fly to Bangalore, India via Singapore. On our way there, we will have to layover one night in Singapore; we hope to arrange speaking

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Louis Rushmore
***Gospel Gazette Online*, Editor**
***Voice of Truth International*,**
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Method to Our Madness

Louis Rushmore

No, I don't really think that we are mad (insane). To borrow from an old expression, "There is a method to our madness," mission programs are driven methods. There are contrasting methodologies among members of the churches of Christ respecting foreign mission work, and doubtless everyone considers his method as the best, at least for him or for his target nation.

Largely, two factors characterize most modern missions abroad. First, long-term mission work bears a similarity to the Catholic model of establishing a presence in a prominent city, complete with church building and resident worker or workers. Putting someone on payroll in a given locality alone is inefficient when it comes to reaching the multiplied millions who may reside in a nation. Though the church is not strictly speaking a business, we could learn, for instance, from business that setting up a coffee shop in the capital city of some nation is not efficient enough to introduce the company's product brand to a whole nation. Something more or another approach is necessary.

Secondly, especially short-term missions typically rely on a splash event (e.g., giveaways of clothes, food or even Bibles) to draw attendees to an occasion of preaching the Gospel. It is not uncommon for several people to be baptized, only to absent themselves after the event concludes. Often, no more precious souls bolster the attendance of a local congregation than before the event. Or, when these type of endeavors are conducted in areas where there is

no local congregation already assembling, frequently there is still no congregation in the community after the proverbial dust settles; the same people next year, drawn with the same incentives, can be immersed year after year to no real benefit to the Lord's church. However, these events result in the statistics (i.e., numbers present, number of baptisms) necessary to continue fundraising for repeat performances next year.

Variations of these practices occur as well. Of course, decades ago, pioneer missionaries had to plow new ground on foreign fields for the sowing of the seed of the kingdom, and there is still a legitimate need for outreach efforts today, too. Yes, benevolence, particularly in the face of natural disasters, along with evangelism is effective in providing opportunity to the lost to become aware of the Word of God, but even benevolence and other material externals if used to draw crowds for a splash event weaken the impact of Gospel preaching and provide poor results.

My Lord no more sends me to foreign lands to baptize people than did He send the apostle Paul in the first century primarily to baptize people. "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect" (1 Corinthians 1:17). Baptism, absolutely necessary for one to be saved from his or her sins and to become a child of God, is the desired result, naturally. However, Bible baptism follows thorough

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Here, There and

Everywhere

Bonnie Rushmore

The month of July found us travelling to DeFuniak Springs, FL; Decatur, AL; Piedmont, AL; Collierville, TN; Greenwood, MS; Walnut Grove, KY and Valdosta, GA. On our way home from Valdosta, we stopped in Atlanta, GA for an interview with Homeland Security for Global Reentry. Now, when we return to the States, we do not have to wait in long lines to pass through immigration and customs. We will test this new procedure in November when we return from our trip to Burma and India. The procedure is to insert one's passport into a kiosk, after which it will either grant reentry or send us to the front of the long line for an interview.

We were out of Winona more than in Winona for the month of August. Friday, August, 10th, we left the office mid-afternoon for Collierville, TN. Rebecca spoke at a Ladies' Day in Raymer, TN on Saturday, and I wanted to attend with her. This was the first time I had heard her speak, and she did a wonderful job with the biblical message as well as with the presentation. Since we were unable to schedule an appointment for Sunday that allowed me to attend the Ladies' Day, we worshipped with her on Sunday.

Tuesday, August 14th, we loaded the car for our Wednesday appointment in Portland, TN, followed by a week in Sevierville, TN for Polishing the Pulpit. Louis and I taught 4- and 5-year-olds "Bible Geography" and "Buckets of Time" each afternoon Monday through

Wednesday. Monday through Thursday mornings I taught "Esther" to the 6- to 9-year-olds, and Louis taught "We Ought to Obey God Rather Than Men" to the same group of youngsters (at a different time). We did find time to attend some lectures, visit with old friends (some of whom we have not seen in many years) and talk about our mission work.

At the conclusion of Polishing the Pulpit, we headed north to Pennsylvania. A visit to our families was long past due. Late Friday afternoon, we visited Louis' dad, and then we traveled on to the home of one of his brothers where another brother met us for a pizza supper. Late that night, we travelled another 20 miles to our hotel for the night. We spent Saturday at the home of one of my brothers where the rest of the clan assembled for a picnic. We four siblings and our spouses, several nieces and nephews, a few cousins and an aunt gathered for a few hours.

Late Saturday evening, we were on the road once again. This time we headed east for Ohio. Bob and Martha Noland were once again our hosts for a couple of days. Sunday, Louis preached in Medina, OH and Hanoverton, OH. Since our next appointment was Wednesday in Sandyville, WV, we relaxed – a little – at the Noland's home. Louis fielded a few phone calls and emails in relation to our upcoming trip in Asia, and I worked on the next issue of *The Voice of Truth International* while Louis worked on the next issue of *Gospel Gazette Online*. Tuesday, we took a day trip to Den-

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Rushmore Evangelism Fund: *July - August 2012*

Beginning Literature & Bible Balance	\$1,595.24
Beginning Foreign Travel Balance	\$5,059.79
Beginning Available Balance	\$1,938.07
Income	
Contributions	\$8,076.66
Stateside Travel	\$1,758.00
Literature & Bibles	\$2,980.00
Foreign Travel	\$3,455.00
Lectureships/Workshops	\$95.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$16,364.66
Expenses	
Auto Expenses	\$1,270.31
Stateside Travel	\$2,064.33
Bank Fees	\$8.15
Internet	\$60.00
Lectureships/Workshops	\$448.38
Office & Misc.	\$957.17
Postage/Shipping	\$342.41
Medical Treatment & Insurance	\$1,721.76
Housing	\$1,209.39
Salary	\$1,500.00
Foreign Travel	\$731.20
Business Telephones	\$428.72
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,741.82
Statement Period Net Gain/Loss	\$5,622.84
Ending Literature & Bible Balance	\$4,575.24
Ending Foreign Travel Balance	\$7,783.59
Ending Available Balance	\$1,857.12

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Yes, we want to help Louis & Bonnie Rushmore in their publishing of Gospel literature and foreign evangelism.

- Here is a onetime gift of \$_____.
- I (we) plan to send a monthly gift of \$_____, beginning _____ (month).
- Here is my gift of \$_____ for literature & Bibles.
- Here is my gift of \$_____ toward the overseas travel fund.

Name _____
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Call Bonnie Rushmore at 662.283.9946 or
email Bonnie@gospelgazette.com to
schedule a ladies' inspiration day.


appointments for each of us with brethren (Bonnie, of course, speaking to sisters in Christ). Once we arrive in Bangalore, we are scheduled for nearly a week working among brethren, denominational people and Hindus about eight hours away. Next, we will fly internally within India only to mount land vehicles to go to several venues in the state of Andhra Pradesh. One of those places is a lectureship in Kakinada. Again, myriad opportunities will include edifying brethren, persuading denominational people with the true Gospel and acquainting Hindus with the Creator God of the universe.

After two weeks so spent, we will board more planes to travel to New Delhi. There, we will celebrate with brethren who have for a decade defended the church in the courts to permit building a meetinghouse for God's people in the Hindu nation's capital. After worshipping with brethren on the Lord's Day, Bonnie and I will travel to Agra to visit the Taj Mahal. Yesterday, someone asked me again whether I had visited the Taj Mahal. Often, acquaintances pose that question. I guess it is time for me to immerse myself just a little deeper into the customs and culture of the people among whom we are laboring in the Gospel.

Finally, Bonnie and I will return to the USA, beginning on November 13. We will arrive back in the United States on November 15. When we return, we will be able to speak more specifically about the places to which we went, what we accomplished and how many hours we jointly invested in promoting the Gospel of Christ.

A concern of some importance as we finalize our mission trip plans is the financial end of it. We have not collected enough funds to engage the various activities that on faith we have

accepted to do on this trip. We are several thousand dollars short of what we anticipate needing to fulfill our work plans. If the money is not forthcoming, we will simply have to curtail several opportunities according to the deficit of funds.

Please, if you or the congregation of which you are a member can help, send a check immediately to the Siwell Road Church of Christ, Rushmore Evangelism Fund, 4075 Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212. If you or the church has already sent something last month, consider sending an additional gift this month. Bonnie and I will take the Gospel abroad gladly, and can only do so – if brethren will send us. Please pray for our efforts. 

(Continued from page 2 *Method to Our Madness*)

teaching of the Gospel – the Gospel alone being the drawing factor, which when correctly understood, candidates for baptism earnestly desire it and request it. Numbers of people wetted in baptisteries, creeks and pools is an unsatisfactory gauge of success in foreign missions.

In many nations today where the church has been maturing for up to five decades (though there is much yet to be done and millions of people yet to be introduced to the Gospel), there is another or additional aspect to foreign missions that we need to pursue. The apostle Paul wrote, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6). Paul planted the seed of the kingdom, and Apollos nurtured the seed that Paul planted. Both are necessary for fruitful results to occur. Notice that the

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Our Borrowed House

Louis Rushmore

Bonnie and I essentially live in a borrowed house. The arrangement is similar to a parsonage situation. The Burton family gave some property to provide a work place and residences for workers in Winona, Mississippi to promote religious publishing and foreign mission work. Years ago, J.C. and Betty Choate established a non-profit foundation to possess this real estate for that stated purpose.

In October of 2007, Bonnie and I moved into 705 Devine Street in Winona. Given our meager financial resources, for all of which we totally rely on brethren, if it were not for the mission house in which we reside, we would come nearer to living in the car. We are grateful for the house into which we have made a home in Mississippi.

Most of the funds received by World Evangelism, through the Liberty Church of Christ in Dennis, MS that sponsored the Choates and still sponsors Betty, go to the specified areas of foreign radio, TV and massive literature distribution. Some money allotted accordingly through the Liberty congregation goes toward the utilities and upkeep of the World Evangelism Building (offices and literature warehouse), but in keeping with earnest desires, as little as possible has been spent on the upkeep, especially of the residence in which I live.

The roof leaks. The exterior panels have long outlived their usefulness and are falling apart. Wood trim outside is rotten. Several win-

dows are cracked, and one has a hole in one of two panes thick. Recently, Bonnie and I have been painting the outside of the house to try and forestall installation of siding, etc. A carpenter replaced the rotten soffits a few weeks ago. Over the nearly five years Bonnie and I have resided there, we have periodically allocated funds for primarily the repair and maintenance of the interior of the house; Bonnie and I have fixed up the inside of the house short of remodeling.

However, the time has come when the roof must be replaced, including some of the sheeting. Unfortunately, though, there is neither enough money to do so from funds that have been set aside little by little through the Liberty Church of Christ nor in the Rushmore Evangelism Fund. In order to preserve the structure from further damage and we to have a place continually in which to live, we need help. Whereas we greatly appreciate contributions that help us take the Gospel abroad personally, via the Internet (*Gospel Gazette Online*) and through literature, and we strictly use funds for such designated purposes, Bonnie and I humbly and respectfully request monetary gifts to help us repair and maintain our *borrowed house*. Mark in the memo line of your check "Mission House Repair" if you can help, and send your gift to Siwell Road Church of Christ, Rushmore Evangelism Fund, 4075 Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212. Thank you. 📖

nison, OH to visit a railroad museum, and since we were so close to the Amish community, we forced ourselves to eat at one of our favorite restaurants – “Dutch Valley Restaurant” available only in Sugar Creek, OH.

Early Thursday morning we left Sandyville, WV, headed southeast for Cass, WV. We have talked several times about riding

the train from Cass to the top of Bald Knob, but all the years we lived in West Virginia and eastern Ohio, we never found the time to make that trip. We decided to do so this time. It was an enjoyable



trip, and the view of the mountains was outstanding. I miss the mountains now that I live in flatland Mississippi. After the all-day train ride, Louis once again steered the car in a southerly direction for our Sunday appointment in Jacksonville, FL. By the time we returned home to Winona, we made a huge circle passing through Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, back through West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi in one day short of three weeks.

Our time in Winona has been very busy as well. A group of 12 from the Central Church of Christ in Cleveland, TN descended upon us July 11-15. They prepared about 3,000 packets of the magazine *Global Harvest* for mailing as well as our newsletter and Betty’s newsletter.

They also painted part of the outside of our house in between raindrops. We continued to work on the painting a few hours in the mornings the next few weeks; however, since we were gone most of August, the backside of the house still needs painted – before we leave for Asia the end of September!

The following week a group from the Strickland Church of Christ in Glen, MS and a group from the Liberty Church of Christ in Dennis, MS came one day each to assist with the mailing of *Global Harvest*.

Wednesday August 8th, Byron and Gay Nichols arrived in Winona for the annual team meeting, which began Thursday morning. By lunch time, 22 individuals gathered to discuss current activities and projected plans for evangelizing the lost. Each family represented is under its own eldership, and we work together spreading the Gospel around the world. This yearly meeting is a great time of fellowship, encouragement and always plenty of good food. Shortly after lunch Friday, everyone dispersed to their next destinations.



We leave in 27 days for our fall trip to Asia. Please keep us in your prayers as we spread God’s Word to the other side of the planet.📖

Christian responsibility includes and ends at planting and watering. We cannot make anyone do anything and ought not to coerce anyone into the water, but we must saturate as much of the world as possible with the Word of God – turning it upside down (Acts 17:6).

Many missionaries major in planting and minor in watering. Bonnie and I major in watering and minor in planting. We work with foreign brethren in Guyana, Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Burma) and India with an emphasis on edifying brethren – growing the church from the inside out or stabilizing it. Further, we equip foreign brethren to more efficiently evangelize their own nations. We empower them to embrace their God-given role in taking the Gospel to their countrymen. Bonnie teaches ladies and children, and I teach whomever –

men, women and children. We still have ample opportunity in most venues to teach non-Christians as well (e.g., denominational people, Hindus, Buddhists and animists). Those associated with our presence who request baptism are souls with whom brethren have been studying and new Christians that our brethren will continue to instruct. These types of efforts result in retention rates of 75% or higher.

It is not nearly as glamorous to water instead of plant the seed of the kingdom. There are fewer baptisms and statistics in general to report to supporting congregations and Christian families. However, watering is an essential aspect of expanding the borders of the kingdom often overlooked. Bonnie and I involve ourselves in sustainable efforts to edify brethren abroad and evangelize lost souls in other countries. 