



Rushmore Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 2

May 2013

Sponsor:

Siwell Road
Church of Christ
4075 Siwell Road
Jackson, MS 39212

Helping to continue
the missionary
labors of the
late J.C. Choate

Coworkers with
Betty Choate,
Wayne & Janet
Barrier, Jerry &
Paula Bates
& others

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Evangelism

Louis Rushmore
*Gospel Gazette
Online, Editor*

*Voice of Truth
International,
Associate Editor*

Stateside Travel

Louis Rushmore

Typically, Bonnie and I travel parts of about 45 weeks a year, including stateside and foreign travel. March and April, we were stateside, and we documented our first March appointment in the last *Rushmore Newsletter*.

On **Sunday, March 10**, we visited the **St. Joseph St. Church of Christ in Dyersburg, TN**. For Bible class, I acquainted the congregation with Bonnie and my mission trips abroad in 2012 and early in 2013. For worship, I preached, "Why Do the Churches of Christ Not Use Instrumental Music in Worship."

We are always heartily received by this little, predominantly black congregation of Christians. Interestingly, one of the two preachers is white and the other is black. Recent conversions in the community also have been among the white community. I am used to visiting integrated congregations where black, Hispanic or Asian converts populate a predominantly white congregation, but the St. Joseph St. church is a first for me to observe a predominantly black congregation being populated with Caucasian converts.



The world over where we travel, we encourage Christians to worship together and to cooperate in all things Christian. Then, we work with fellow Christians wherever and however we find them, whether integrated or in culturally parallel, but equal settings. We adapt ourselves to the circumstances, but we applaud brethren who apply a heavenly com-

munity attitude to earthly neighborhoods.

Sunday, March 17, Bonnie and I visited the **Winchester Rd. Church of Christ in Huntsville, AL**. For the evening worship period, I presented our PowerPoint presentation about our 2012-2013 foreign mission trips. We count these brethren also as friends in addition to our relationship in our Lord. The congregation has a keen interest in our mission labors, and finally, it has an opportunity to involve itself more in foreign missions. The men are deliberating now on how and to what extent they will participate financially with Bonnie and me in the future.

Sunday, March 31, we worshipped in the morning with the **Old Union Church of Christ in Carroll County, MS**. I presented my PowerPoint presentation about my 2013 three-week mission trip to Guyana, South America. During worship, I preached, "Why Do the Churches of Christ Observe the Lord's Supper Every First Day of the Week?" That Sunday happened to have been "Easter Sunday," and that sermon was calculated to edify brethren and explain to the usual "extras" who show up for the "holiday" more perfectly about that aspect of Christian worship.

Perhaps in part due to their proximity to where we reside, this small, countryside congregation has been responsive beyond all others toward us especially regarding Bonnie's recent illness. Our hearts and their hearts are melded together, and they along with many other fellow Christians sustain us in difficult times.

I had no appointments the first two weeks of April since Bonnie was hospitalized during that time, and I stayed at her bedside except for Sunday morning Bible class and worship. Bonnie was discharged just in time for me to attend

(Continued on page 3)

"Fear not,
for I *am* with
you; Be not
dismayed, for I
am your God. I
will strengthen
you, Yes, I will
help you, I will
uphold you with
My righteous
right hand,"
Isa. 41:10
NKJV

You can
help us populate
our appointment
calendar by
contacting us &
selecting the
date that your
congregation
desires.

Not Just Another Thursday!

Bonnie Rushmore

Thursday, April 4, I underwent major surgery in Jackson, MS to remove the blockage in my bile duct. What was supposed to be a three-hour surgery lasted about six hours because cancer was discovered in my pancreas. The final prognosis, after all pathology reports, is that I have stage three pancreatic cancer.

Therman Hodge, W.E. Walker and Betty Choate chose to spend the day at the hospital with Louis and Rebecca while I was in surgery. I am told that others stopped in to check on me and to visit with Louis and Rebecca throughout Thursday and Friday. I was in Surgical ICU until late Saturday afternoon and have little memory of those days. Several from the Siwell Road congregation visited and brought snack foods and drinks for Louis and Rebecca. Unfortunately, we did not think to keep a log of all the visitors during surgery and the eleven-day hospital stay.

Monday morning, April 8, I walked a short distance in the hall with the assistance of a walker. A few days later, I was walking both morning and evening. Finally, Monday April 15, I was released to go home! I am thankful that Louis was able to stay by my side throughout my hospital stay. He only left to go to the cafeteria for meals and to worship Sunday mornings with the Siwell Road congregation. Since Siwell Road live streams their worship services, I planned to watch the service on my computer while in the hospital. Unfortunately, I was unable to access the live stream segment, and if I had been able to access it, I was



Bonnie
in 2010
Smoky Mountains

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 _____

Address _____

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Siwell Road Church of Christ
4075 Siwell Road
Jackson, MS 39212

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frequently interrupted for medical treatment and physical therapy during worship times. I have used this service since returning home when I am unable to attend worship services. In fact, when Louis spoke at Siwell Road April 28, Rebecca and I participated in that worship program via the Internet live stream segment.

The day I returned home from the hospital, dear friends, Bob and Martha Noland from Ohio, arrived in Winona. They timed their visit so Martha could help care for me and give Louis a hand. Their visit allowed Louis to keep his scheduled appointments at the India Mission Conference held on the campus of Heritage Christian University. Bob opted to go with Louis while Martha took care of my every need. They stayed almost two weeks, and Martha's help was invaluable.

Physically, I am gaining more strength each

day. Emotionally, I have good days and bad days. The phone calls, emails, text messages and cards from around the world are an encouragement to me. I know that I am not alone in this journey. God is always by my side whether I remember that or not, and hundreds of Christians are praying for me, for which I am most grateful. I get frustrated because I cannot do many of the things I want and feel I need to do (laundry, cleaning, cooking, etc.). My physical activity is still limited due to doctor's orders. I am anxious to once again travel with Louis, visiting the congregations we have grown to love. Our daughter, Rebecca, has been gracious enough to spend her weekends with me, freeing her father to once again report to our supporting congregations. Hopefully, by the time you read this I will be travelling with Louis again.

We meet with the oncologist Tuesday, May 7. We ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers. The oncologist is talking *cure*, and I am looking forward to once more being "on the road again," serving our Lord and Master to the best of my ability. In the meantime, I'll be at the office as much as possible, and otherwise work on my laptop computer at the house.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND PRAYERS! 📖

Rushmore Evangelism Fund: March 2013 — April 2013

Beginning Literature & Bible Balance	\$3,576.59
Beginning Foreign Travel Balance	\$3,200.30
Beginning Available Balance	\$2,237.04
Income	
Contributions	\$9,336.66
Stateside Travel	\$1,530.00
Literature & Bibles	\$255.00
Foreign Travel	\$0.00
Bonnie's Medical Bills	\$3,275.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,396.66
Expenses	
Auto Expenses	\$1,169.70
Stateside Travel	\$797.77
Bank Fees	\$20.65
Internet (Gospel Gazette)	\$60.00
Literature & Bibles	\$659.40
Office & Misc.	\$188.09
Postage/Shipping	\$178.86
Medical Treatment & Insurance	\$3,758.78
Housing	\$457.99
Salary: 2 Months	\$3,000.00
Foreign Travel: Asia & South America	\$0.00
Business Telephones	\$310.85
Printing Expenses	\$603.13
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,205.22
Statement Period Net Gain/Loss	\$3,191.44
Ending Literature & Bible Balance	\$3,172.19
Ending Foreign Travel Balance	\$3,200.30
Ending Available Balance	\$5,832.88

(Continued from page 1 **Stateside Travel**)

the **India Missions Conference at Heritage Christian University in Florence, AL (April 17-19)**. I set up two tables of displays and books for the program, and I was privileged to both give a field report and present one of the lessons. Dear friends and Christians Bob and Martha Noland came down from Ohio to be with us following Bonnie's release from the hospital; Martha cared for Bonnie and Bob accompanied me to the conference.

I resumed my weekend preaching appointments on **Sunday, April 28** while Bonnie recuperated at home under the care of our daughter, Rebecca. I preached that morning, "Why Do the Churches of Christ Not Use Instrumental Music in Worship," at the **Siwell Rd. Church of Christ in Jackson, MS** in the absence of Gary Hampton. In the evening, I worshipped with the **Union, MS Church of Christ** (not to be confused with the Old Union Church of Christ) and made my PowerPoint presentation about my 2013 mission trip to Guyana.

We continue to press on with office work (wherever we fire up our laptop computers) to keep going with *The Voice of Truth International*, *Global Harvest* and *Gospel Gazette Online* magazines, plus numerous other things (e.g., orders for books and tracts, all manner of correspondence, writing books and tracts, etc.). The next weeks and months, we will juggle the overall ongoing work stateside and abroad along with doctors' appointments and chemotherapy treatments. It's all a matter of time management, but we intend to fully use ourselves up in the work of the Lord as long as he grants us breath on planet earth. 📖

For more details & continued updates, go to our blog at
<http://louisrushmore.wordpress.com/>

Life's Rumble Strips

Rumble strips on our nation's highways as one approaches a stop scream out, "Slow down, Look out ahead!" Rumble strips vibrate through the entire vehicle and shake all the passengers; rumble strips are meant to get one's attention. However, after rumble strips and the eventual stop, the journey continues.

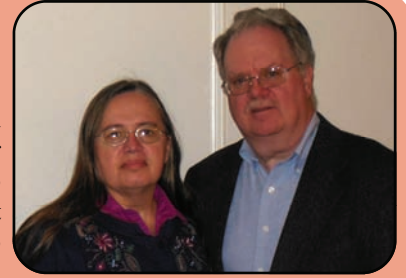
Bonnie and I have experienced some of life's rumble strips from time to time – as every family does. Our most recent rumble strip in life, of course, is Bonnie's surgery and chemotherapy for stage 3 pancreatic cancer. Admittedly, this has slowed us down a little – *temporarily!*

Our program of work has not stopped! Since our office is mobile, I continued our program of work even from Bonnie's hospital room. I corresponded with the printing company for *The Voice of Truth International* about the next edition and I published the April issue of *Gospel Gazette Online* to the Internet. I forwarded online book orders to other team members to fulfill.

Since returning to Winona, following a phone conversation, I have shipped a case of my book, *Beverage Alcohol*, to a congregation in northeast Mississippi where voters will determine shortly whether to permit local alcohol sales. I have proofed an article for a preacher prior to his submission of it to a popular brotherhood publication, and I proofed a new tract on grief written by a talented preacher upon my request for inclusion in our line of tracts at World Evangelism.

On Sunday, April 28, I resumed my weekend appointments with churches stateside. Bonnie is cleared for resuming


Louis Rushmore



our travel stateside and abroad, according to her assessment of her ability to travel. Bonnie is on target to meet her assignment to teach in a 2-day ladies' retreat in November of this year. We do not know yet whether she will be able to travel abroad into Asia this September because her chemotherapy treatments will be ending roughly about that time, but the surgeon and the oncologist have pre-authorized her trip to Guyana, South America in February 2014.

Whether stateside or overseas, whenever Bonnie does not choose to travel with me, as long as she experiences reasonable health, I will continue to make those trips. Historically, Bonnie and I travel an average of 45 weeks per year in this country as well as in other countries. Most weekdays, we are in Winona preparing to print *Global Harvest*, *The Voice of Truth International* and *Gospel Gazette Online* magazines. We ship books and tracts daily. We help with the preparation of publishing class books, too. There is a mountain of behind the scenes work required to make possible the public and foreign labors visible to others.

Our work for our Lord continues. Bonnie is forbidden to work in the warehouse or to load and unload trucks, but that was a small part of the overall work in which she actively participates. She does the lion's share of layout for *The Voice of Truth International*, which requires nearly a quarter of effort to produce each quarterly issue; that's a lot of lead time required to keep it in production in a timely way. Bonnie will continue in that, in addition to doing the computer accounting for the Rushmore Evangelism Fund, teaching ladies' events, writing, accompanying me as I report to congregations in the States, and she will continue with me in our foreign mission trips in the foreseeable future.

The surgeon estimated that Bonnie has maybe five or six years yet to live – and if that is the case, we are determined to live them – for the Lord in His service. The oncologist offers more hope than that, expecting to **cure** Bonnie of cancer. We are aware of others who have experienced pancreatic cancer who have died in a matter of months, and we are aware of others who have surpassed five years and are **cancer free!** There are variables of which no one is aware – including the finest doctors – that will ultimately determine how all of this will unfold, but Bonnie and I long ago adopted an unwavering conviction to live and serve Jesus Christ until we die – whenever and however that may come to pass. I have this sneaky suspicion that none of us is going to get out of this world alive – unless the Lord returns first! We will be found in faithful service to Jesus Christ in either case, and we invite you to continue participating with us – with your moral support and encouragement, as well as financially. 



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"...Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved..." (Mark 16:15-16).