



Rushmore Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 3

August 2015

Stateside Travel Resumes

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

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

Louis Rushmore
Gospel Gazette
Online, Editor

Voice of Truth
International,
Associate Editor

The latter weeks of Bonnie's life, as it turns out, our travel itinerary to stateside congregations was limited to those only who requested our presence on specific dates. Accordingly, then, I accepted a request for my presence at the **Lincoln Church of Christ** in Huntsville, AL on **March 29**. As feeble as she was, Bonnie insisted on accompanying me; we are indebted to brother Bob and sister Patricia Gaffin of that congregation for stellar hospitality Saturday and Sunday associated with that visit. Later, sister Gaffin observed to me that outing was certainly one of Bonnie's final excursions. It might have been except that Bonnie refused to quit living as long as she had breath in her and the strength to move forward. For you see, on **April 19**, Bonnie and I made our way down to the Mission Day program of the **Siwell Road Church of Christ** in Jackson, MS; that congregation sponsored us and continues to sponsor me in my mission labors. Later, brother Paul Franks noted to me that he believed on that occasion that Bonnie was approaching the end. Not long thereafter, Bonnie excused herself from her hospital bed to attend the **Annual May Maywood Missionary Retreat** outside of Hamilton, AL; it was held this year **April 30 through May 2**. Two weeks later, Bonnie fell unconscious and died after two more days. Before that while attending the Retreat, one brother walked up to Bonnie and said, "I guess you will be going to heaven before me." Without the least hesitation, she responded, "Well, I hope not!" Bonnie persisted to live and have personal hope.

After Bonnie's passing on May 18 and her subsequent funeral on May 21, I gave myself some time to regain my composure before launching out once more to visit churches of Christ that participate with me in mission work. Maybe before I was really ready, I was asked to fill in for a preacher away from his congregation, and I spoke all three times on **June 14** for the **Indianola, MS Church of Christ**. The following Sunday (**June 21** – Father's Day) I was back in the full swing of things, speaking in the morning twice for the **Old Union Church of Christ** in Carroll County, MS and in the evening at the **Courtland, MS Church of Christ**. Wednesday the 24th, I visited and spoke for the **Elliott, MS Church of Christ**. Sunday, **June 28** found me with the **Chaffee Road Church of Christ** and the **Riverview Church of Christ**, both of Jacksonville, FL for a total of three speaking appointments. Still in Florida, but in a different location, the next Sunday (**July 5**), I spoke all three services for the **Liberty Church of Christ** outside of DeFuniak Springs.

July 8-10 was the annual **World Evangelism team meeting** in Winona, MS. Core



team members from around the country and interested guests converged on Winona to encourage each other and inform one another of our ongoing efforts to evangelize stateside and abroad. The production staff of *The Voice of Truth International* also met. The highlight each year is supper Thursday night at the *Carmack, MS Fish House* (though I opted for some of the best-tasting chicken instead of the famed catfish). The trimmings alone are about worth the 30-minute trek each way to that wide spot in the road.

Immediately on the heels of that affair, I hosted brother Mark Posey who had come from Alabama to preach the *Gospel meeting* (July 12-14) for the *Old Union Church of Christ*. I was wonderfully blessed with good meals in homes and restaurants because I got to tag along with brother Posey each time someone fed him. Blessings come in all forms! Right after that on Wednesday, **July 15**, I spoke for the *Crockett, MS Church of Christ*. Following on Saturday (**July 18**), I was one of six speakers at the *Annual Southeast Mississippi Missions Lectures* hosted by the *Union Church of Christ* (not to be confused in name or location with the Old Union Church of Christ). The very next day (**July 19**), once more I filled in all three services in the absence of the preacher at the *Indianola Church of Christ*. Wednesday (**July 22**), I spoke for the *Huntsville Church of Christ* outside of French Camp, MS.

Sunday, **July 26** found me in Arkansas. That morning, I spoke twice for the *Center Ridge Church of Christ*, and that night I traveled to and spoke for the *Imboden Church of Christ*. Sunday night, I traveled as far as my daughter Rebecca's home in Collierville, TN. She spent most of the summer with me and was my faithful companion and comforter in Winona as well as on the road as I traveled to many of the churches noted above. However, she had returned home many days before so that she could ready herself for and travel to Guyana, South America for her annual mission foray there. Monday, Rebecca and I had "brunch" (too late to be breakfast and too early to be lunch) before I continued my return trip back to Winona, MS.

August 2, I hastened from the Old Union Church of Christ where I had worshipped in the morning to the *West President Avenue Church of Christ* in Greenwood, MS. The congregation had an early second worship service following a fellowship meal, and I had been scheduled for months to speak at 1 p.m. Wednesday evening, **August 5**, I spoke for the *Clinton, MS Church of Christ*. The Sunday after (**August 9**), I found myself in Alabama up against the Georgia state line in Piedmont. For the two morning services, I spoke for the *Highway 9 Church of Christ*, and that evening I preached for the *Piedmont Church of Christ*. Whereas I have been visiting and speaking for the Highway 9 congregation for several years, this was my first opportunity to speak for the Piedmont church. Finally as far as the reach of this particular newsletter, I spoke for the *Batesville, MS Church of Christ* on Sunday evening of **August 16**.

I continue to arrange appointments at stateside congregations and will do so for assembly days until I leave for overseas in the middle of September and for when I return to the States in the middle of November. Let me know when you would like for me to visit your congregation. Call me at 662.739.3035 or send me an email at rushmore@gospelgazette.com.

I get tired just rehearsing everywhere I have been lately, and I remember how worn out and tired I get from so much traveling, teaching and preaching. Yet, I would not have it any other way. There's no Kudzu vine growing on either my car or me! ☺

Workload

From another article in this newsletter, one can see that my workload includes a lot of sitting and standing – sitting behind a steering wheel and standing to teach and preach. In addition, I (along with other team members) are working feverishly to make ready the next two issues of *The Voice of Truth International* for the printing company. Since we are now printing *VOTI* in full color throughout in Hong Kong for less than the price of black and white in the United States, some substantial lead time is required to insure that each new issue is on hand for shipment to subscribers when it is due. Besides that, one of those two editions needs to go to the printing company while I will be overseas. Therefore, I need to do my part, which includes layout, proofing and preparation of PDF files, **before** I depart on my fall mission trip.

As a staff writer for our *Global Harvest* magazine, I had a minor participation in its next printing. For 17 years now, I have been the Editor and Publisher of *Gospel Gazette Online*. That takes time and effort to produce, too.

There are also a number of other things that require my attention daily. Some of those things are in conjunction with other team members. Guests stop by sometimes, too, at the World Evangelism Building. We are experts at triaging our workloads to see what is next. It might be unloading a tractor-trailer of literature (e.g., 15,000 incoming *The Voice of Truth International* magazines) or helping load a trailer of literature bound for a shipping container in another state. It might be hauling Bibles, books, magazines and tracts to a shipping company in Nashville, TN for shipment to Guyana, South America. It is difficult to plan our workdays sometimes because things crop up that we didn't anticipate that we simply must address immediately. **Triage, triage, triage! I have the best job in the world!** The behind the scenes as well as the prominent activity in the churches here in America and mission work overseas consume our days, weeks, months and years – and we love to have it so. ☺

Ducks in a Row

Getting one's proverbial ducks in a row for travel to multiple locations in multiple countries is a significant challenge. There's the need for two-way communication with several persons who themselves must confer with their fellow Christians; multiply that circumstance by as many locations to which one goes in a country as well as by the number of countries to which one is going. Make sure the passport has enough blank visa pages to accommodate the stipulations for number of blank pages required to enter each country. Rebecca said, "Dad! You won't have four blank pages anymore after you visit the first of the four countries to which you are going." Alas, I sent off my passport and \$82 to have more pages added. Myanmar requires me to submit an application for a visa within three months of my travel with a limit on staying once there for no more than 28 days.

Potential airline routes from Memphis, TN to Asian countries and back must be compared with calendar days and projected appointments in those nations. Some of the ducks in a row problem has to do with arranging the sequence of travel from country to country as well as within countries. One almost has to satisfactorily work out all of the details regarding one country before consideration of the travel details can be addressed for each subsequent nation to be visited. I can't make these things happen fast enough. After all, among other things, I'm sleeping when brethren on the other side of the planet are awake, and they are sleeping when I'm awake.

At this writing, the details are still being worked out. However tentatively, I may be leaving the USA on or around **September 22** with my first stop being in Singapore. From there, I will fly to Myanmar. For one week, I will teach in the Hmawbi Bible School in the jungle about 45 minutes from Yangon. Additional opportunities may present themselves as well before moving on to the next country.

Rushmore Evangelism Fund: June — July 2015

Beginning Literature & Bible Balance	\$9,038.87
Income	\$0.00
Bonnie Memorial Fund Income	\$6,170.00
Expenses	-\$744.86
Ending Literature & Bible Balance	\$14,464.01
Beginning Foreign Travel Balance	\$14,678.24
Income	\$0.00
Expenses	-\$82.00
Ending Foreign Travel Balance	\$14,596.24
Beginning General Fund Balance	\$18,656.23
Contributions	\$10,853.82
Stateside Travel	\$2,084.49
Hindi TV	\$5,860.00
Medical Income	\$1,000.00
Medical Expenses	-\$3,907.54
Auto Expenses	-\$1,031.02
Stateside Travel	-\$854.44
Bank Fees	-\$121.44
Internet (Gospel Gazette Online)	-\$70.00
Office & Misc.	-\$591.20
Postage/Shipping	-\$739.74
Housing	-\$1,137.43
Salary	-\$3,000.00
Business Telephone	-\$203.18
Advertising	-\$12.00
Newsletter (printing)	-\$375.40
Hindi TV	-\$5,850.00
Ending General Fund Balance	\$20,561.15

From Myanmar I hope to go to Colombo, Sri Lanka. Just a few days ago, a drive-by shooting of a political campaign office left one dead and dozens wounded. Later, I am scheduled to spend two weeks working with brethren in northern India, after which I am to speak in a lectureship program in a southern city of India on the Bay of Bengal. There is another brother with whom I ordinarily work in India that requires me to invest another week.

Overall, roughly working the calendar, I should return to the USA in time for Thanksgiving with Rebecca around **November 25**. The easy part comparatively speaking is the teaching and preaching that I will do. The hard part is satisfying the logistics of travel and arrangement of opportunities to serve. I appreciate so very much the encouragement and financial participation of so many that make it possible for me to do what I do in service of Jesus Christ. I love my job, and I must have the best job that there is. 

\$11,000 of Dead Flowers

At Bonnie's passing, I encouraged brethren who wanted to mourn with me to consider sending a memorial contribution in lieu of flowers. I am shocked, greatly humbled and pleased, of course, that individual Christians and congregations of the Lord's church have sent in so far nearly \$11,000. This will be used 100% for distribution of Bibles and literature in the foreign fields where Bonnie labored in the Gospel overseas. So far, three manuscripts have been sent to Kakinada, India for translation and printing in the Telegu language. Bonnie wrote or co-wrote two of those titles. I hope to have books translated and printed into other languages of India (e.g., Hindi, Tamil), Myanmar (e.g., Burmese, Lisu, Rawang) and Guyana (i.e., English). **I'm so very glad that we do not have \$11,000 worth of dead flowers on our hands!**

Still additional memorial gifts remembering Bonnie have been given to *The Voice of Truth International*, Heritage Christian University and another foreign mission effort

among the churches of Christ. Finally, doctors and nurses who served Bonnie's needs and really cared for her made a donation in her name to a hospital cancer center.

Bonnie did the best to be a good wife, mother and servant of Jesus Christ. Even in death, Bonnie continues to make an impact on the world she left behind (Hebrews 11:4). 

Special Invitation!

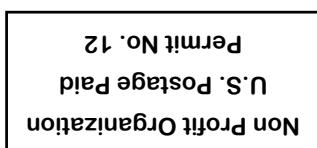
You are cordially invited to participate financially with Louis Rushmore in his fall mission trip to Myanmar (Burma), Singapore, Sri Lanka and India. Please send your gift right away to the Siwell Rd. Church of Christ, Rushmore Evangelism Fund, 4075 Siwell Rd., Jackson, MS 39212; write "Foreign Travel" on the memo line. Thank you in advance for making this evangelistic effort possible. 

Freight and Workdays

June 12, a freightliner pulled up to the World Evangelism Building. Inside were 15,000 copies of *The Voice of Truth International*. The sun was beating down fiercely making the day a real scorcher with temperatures near 100 with possibly humidity nearing the same number. Fortunately, for the four of us who labor daily for World Evangelism in Winona, there was help on which we could call. Three work teams of youth from as many congregations of the churches of Christ were in town. About a dozen teenage girls from the Siwell Road Church of Christ in Jackson, MS came to our rescue and made short work of unloading the semi and putting the contents away in our warehouse. Though I was absent that day, ladies from the Crockett, MS Church of Christ came for a work day on **June 18**.

August 6, about 20 members of the Booneville, MS Church of Christ descended on us to help us with various tasks (e.g., mailings, counting and bundling tracts, and loading literature on a tractor-trailer, which books will ultimately make their way to Africa). 

Place Label Here



Change Service Requested

"...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).

