

Rushmore Newsletter

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Sponsor:

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

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I'm Back!

Monday, November 21, I returned from a foray for several weeks into various points in the Asian nations of Myanmar (also called Burma) and India. Brother Therman Hodge and I winged our way from Jackson, MS to Houston, TX to Moscow, Russia to Singapore to Yangon, Myanmar to Singapore (again) to Vishakhapatnam, India. Thereafter, he returned home and I continued to New Delhi, India.

Along the way, we taught at every opportunity and in all venues available to us in Myanmar and India. For two weeks we both taught Monday through Friday in the **Hmawbi Bible School** in its jungle setting an hour from Yangon; I also taught one week in the home of Kyaw Sein a couple of miles from the school. In addition, I rode 12 hours each way across one mountain chain and then wound back and forth up another 3,000 foot high mountain, itself veiled in a tropical rainforest. Torrential rain bathed the highlands both days I was there, and the clouds came down to the peaks protruding skyward.

To reach the remote village, the last trek was by foot up a slippery, muddy path clinging to the side of the mount through the banana trees to humble dwellings hanging over the drop-off. Nearly every person of the 20-home village is a member of the Lord's church, and the assembly clamored for more lessons over the two days at the conclusion of each presentation. Owing to no



electricity (or any other common amenities), I had to descend the mountain trail daily before dark; the meager hotel in which I stayed was two hours away. Greeting me also on my ascents and descents from the hillside settlement were leeches that were all too obliging to bloody both of my feet.

Back in Yangon, brother Hodge and I shared speaking on the Lord's Day for two congregations that gather in the homes of two sisters in Christ. When our time was up, we proceeded to India.

Upon arriving at Vishakhapatnam, we lodged overnight in a comfortable hotel; the

Louis Rushmore, 705 Devine Street, Winona, MS 38967 ~ 662.739.3035 rushmore@gospelgazette.com ~ www.gospelgazette.com www.worldevangelism.org ~ http://louisrushmore.wordpress.com

primary hotel in which we stayed in Myanmar was pleasant as well. Saturday, **November 5**, we were retrieved by brethren from Kakinada, India, and we rode by car two and a half hours to Kakinada. There, we spoke in an annual lectureship morning, afternoon and evening over several days. Around 4,000 people registered for the program, and our high attendance at any one session was about 900 precious souls.

We also took turns teaching the wards of the children's home, who collected and gave me 81 Rupees (\$1.19) for my mission work! Between the two of us, brother Therman and I acquired 65 sleeping mats so the children wouldn't have to sleep on the bare floor, especially now that winter is approaching.

After I reached Delhi, I worshipped with and preached for the Lord's church there Sunday. Later that day, brothers Vinay and Francis David and I boarded an express, overnight train to the heart of India where we would remain for several days in a seminar with the *Balco, India Church of Christ*. I was with these brethren last year and fast became familiar with and grew to love and otherwise admire them. I preached morning, afternoon and nightly my theme, "Come Meet Jesus." Attendance was somewhere between 150 to 200 Christians, denominational people and Hindus; several decided to put Jesus on in baptism.





Upon returning to New Delhi, Saturday I participated in an all-day seminar. There also, I preached "Come Meet Jesus." Sunday, once more, I worshipped with and spoke for God's people. Later that night, I went to the airport to begin my journey homeward: New Delhi, India to Paris, France to Atlanta, GA to Memphis, TN. It took me parts of three calendar days to get to Asia, but involving the same number of hours (about 30), it only took me one calendar day to return to the States. Just once, I would like to get back before I started – at least, according to the calendar and the clock!

Surely, those with whom I was and for whom I pronounced God's Word benefitted. If so, to God be the glory. However, no one was uplifted and encouraged more than was I for the exposure to Christians and non-Christians alike who are genuinely hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Thank you for making it possible for me to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in this way and in those places described herein.

Heading Out Again Soon!

I just got back to the USA from Asia on November 21, but soon I will be leaving again for South America this time. The last of January, I will be headed for Guyana, South America, whereupon, I will spend five weeks traversing all 10 regions of the country with the Gospel of Christ. Please send me on my way at your earliest opportunity by mailing a check to my sponsoring congregation, Siwell Road Church of Christ, 4075 Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212. Please write "Foreign Mission Trip" on the memo line of the check. Very soon, I will need to purchase my airline tickets and wire the advance program funds to Guyana. You "Send the Light" by me, and I will "Take the Light" of the Gospel far and wide. Thank you in advance for your attention to this urgent request.

Big Shipment!

Before heading abroad, I hauled a trailer with about 2,000 pounds of books, tracts and other literature to a shipping agent in Nashville, TN. My pet project, so to speak, is to funnel literature to Guyana, South America. The thought is to supply every Gospel preacher in the nation with some "tools of the trade" with which to enhance personal study and preparation for teaching and preaching. The shipment included books, *The Voice of Truth International*, tracts from World Evangelism, etc.

Crash!

Early in September, I was involved in an automobile wreck, and my first thought was that I might not be able to go on my fall mission trip to Myanmar (also called Burma) and India. My car and I were the victims of a hit-andrun. A pickup truck rammed into the back of my van, which with numerous other cars was stopped at a traffic light. Over about two months or so, my back that was hurt in the accident returned to normal. Happily, I was able to go to Asia, though I wore my back brace as a precaution and to strengthen me while hauling around luggage.

Stateside Travels

Since my last newsletter, I have traveled variously stateside to apprise congregations about my foreign mission work, etc. August 7, I spoke for the Piedmont Church of Christ and Highway Nine Church of Christ, both of which are in Piedmont, AL. August 14, I spoke at all assembly times for the Center Ridge, AR Church of *Christ.* August 21, I spoke twice in the morning for the Clarksdale, MS Church of Christ. Saturday, August 27, I attended the Annual Mission Forum, hosted by the Union, MS Church of Christ, and on Tuesday, August **30**. I attended a *Heritage Christian University* Mission Forum in Florence, AL. Sunday, September 4, I spoke all services for the *Huntsville Church of Christ* outside of French Camp, MS. Sunday evening, September 7, I spoke for the *Batesville*, *MS Church of Christ*. Tuesday, **September 20**, I attended once more a Mission Forum

Evangelism Fund: July 2016 — October 2016	
Income	
Literature & Bibles	\$2,219.00
Bonnie Memorial Fund	\$100.00
Foreign Travel	\$11,624.02
Contributions	\$17,630.32
Stateside Travel	\$3,288.00
Rebates/Discounts/Resale	\$4.07
Total	\$34,865.41
Expenses	
Literature & Bible Expenses	\$1,922.83
Foreign Travel Expenses	\$961.17
Medical Expenses	\$2,319.30
Auto Expenses	\$2,221.49
Stateside Travel	\$868.10
Bank Fees	\$177.77
Internet (Gospel Gazette Online)	\$182.99
Office (supplies/equipment/software subscriptions/help)	\$1,521.17
Postage/Shipping	\$1,135.54
Housing	\$1,235.85
Salary	\$5,375.00
Business Telephone	\$225.14
Newsletter (printing)	\$263.96
Advertising	\$150.78
Total	\$18,561.09

at *Heritage Christian University*. **September 25-29**, I preached a Gospel meeting for the *Center Ridge*, *AR Church of Christ*.

From October 20 through November 21, I was abroad in Myanmar (also called Burma) and India. That brings my travel update to the present. Some appointments through March are already scheduled, and additional appointments are pending. Call me early to schedule my visit to your congregation to report on missions or to present biblical lessons (Gospel meetings, lectures, fill-in for your absent minister, etc.). As Editor of *The Voice of Truth International* and *Gospel Gazette Online*, I can speak to those two Gospel journals, as well as the overall efforts through the cooperative efforts of World Evangelism through the churches of Christ.

My office is in my briefcase, truly mobile, and I can set it up anywhere on earth, and I do. Lodge me, feed me, reimburse my travel expenses and use me as you see fit in the service of our Lord.

Numbers Are Not My Friends

While numbers may not be my friends, the alphabet flows through my veins. I don't excel at math, but I have a love for writing. Literature can go farther and in more directions simultaneously than can I, and literature is always ready when the recipient is ready to pore over it. In addition, anything that I have penned will outlast me, too, as eventually I will lay aside this façade of a body that houses my spirit.

January, **2017** is a significant juncture in my timeline regarding the production of literature with which I am involved. January will mark the beginning of the 19th consecutive year of the



"...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).

publication of the Internet Gospel magazine, *Gospel Gazette Online*. I have been

editing and publishing *GGO* since its inception. Thousands of articles besides each month's new offering are accessible through the Archive.

January will also mark the beginning of my editorship for the quarterly printed Gospel journal, *The Voice of Truth International*. For many years, I have been an Associate Editor. *VOTI* was in publication for a few years before I began *GGO*. Every issue is 114 pages of good material from the pens of Christian men and women. Tens of thousands of *VOTI* are distributed quarterly stateside and abroad; several foreign language editions also provide much needed Gospel teaching in foreign lands.

Presently, I have 28 books, booklets and tracts in print. Some of these also appear in over a dozen languages. Probably, as many of my book manuscripts await the money to print them as well. One of my goals is to put all of them into print before I pass

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

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away so that at least for a little while my efforts toward evangelism and edification can survive me. We will see, and the Lord's will be done, and to Him be the glory.

The most recent title published is entitled, *Biblical Diversity: God's Viewpoint of the Roles of Men and Women*. A year after my wife Bonnie's passing, I found a manuscript of hers that I had never seen. It was

three lessons on the biblical role of women, which she had presented at stateside ladies' days and in foreign ladies' classes. I combined it with lessons on male leadership that I had penned. I can hardly keep up financially with Bonnie's and my books and tracts that are eagerly sought in foreign languages to be able to print our writings in English, too. Any good that they do, and any glory and praise that they may bring to God, is ample satisfaction to me.



