



Rushmore Newsletter

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August 2021

Covid-19 Consequences

Louis Rushmore

No one knew what the ramifications or the consequences of Covid-19 would be when it surfaced in late 2019 and early 2020. Skeptics and conspiracy theorists aside (including our children, perhaps representative of their generation), people far and near are dying because of Covid-19. I just learned that the sister and brother-in-law of the preacher, for the church with which we worship, died of Covid yesterday and today respectively. I know a preacher and his wife in Texas who contracted Covid; he recovered, but she died. A few days ago, one of the most influential Gospel preachers in Myanmar or Burma died of Covid, and others are sick with that disease. Especially, India has been devastated by Covid-19, resulting in mass outdoor cremations, as well as dumping bodies in rivers. Some of our children have had Covid and recovered, for which we are thankful, of course.

The Covid-19 pandemic paralyzed the world, and many nations locked their citizens down – ruining their economies in a desperate attempt to snuff out the virus. Wave after wave of Covid-19, including more deadly and contagious strains, continue to batter humanity. The final toll on mankind has not yet been realized.

Naturally, the Lord's church and foreign missions have also suffered and still reel from the effects of Covid-19. Worldwide, most churches of Christ decreased the number of assemblies or curtailed them for a time altogether. Practically, every home in which Christians lived became a small congregation of God's people, inclusive of family members and perhaps other brethren living nearby. At times, Martha and I worshipped in our home, and sometimes, some of her children and grandchildren worshipped with us, too.

Travel abroad, as well as stateside reporting to churches, stopped. Many international borders are still closed as various nations battle Covid-19. Jerry and Paula Bates, coworkers of ours, were able to make multiple trips to African nations by avoiding Europe and Asia; they have also resumed reporting to stateside churches. Martha and I have lately begun to report to churches, too. We also ventured out to the Maywood Missionary Retreat outside of Hamilton, Alabama, and more recently, Martha and I participated in the annual World Evangelism Team Meeting in Winona, Mississippi.

Besides cautiously beginning to travel in the states, Martha and I, along with coworkers, have not ceased publishing *Gospel Gazette Online* and *The Voice of Truth International* magazines. Though *The Voice of Truth International* is a quarterly journal in printed form, one may view it as a PDF by selecting the link for the Digital Library in the last line of the masthead for *Gospel Gazette Online* (www.GospelGazette.com). All 110 editions of VOTI and dozens of book PDFs are there for anyone without charge.

Shipping companies remained active despite Covid-19 and were busier because of the pandemic. This enabled us not to experience any interruption in sending literature to Guyana, South America. Preparing for the next shipment in October, I bought forty large print NKJV Bibles and 3,000 communion cups. We'll put with that, one hundred of my most recent sermon outline book, *Preaching the Whole Counsel of God to the Whole World, Vol. 4*. It is primarily full sentence sermon outlines highlighting Christian living and Christian service. Volume 1 was about Deity, primarily lessons concerning Jesus Christ. Volume 2 treats Bible authority, and the third volume con-

Overseer:

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

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

Coworkers with

Betty Choate
Jerry & Paula Bates
Shane & Emily Fisher
Wayne & Janet Barrier
Nigel & Jasmine Milo
& others

Involved in these good works:

*Voice of Truth
International*

*Gospel
Gazette Online*

Global Harvest

Overseas
Campaigns

International
Radio & TV

Foreign
Bible Schools

Worldwide
Publishing &
Distribution of
Literature

India, Myanmar,
Singapore,
Sri Lanka, Guyana

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cerns the church of our Lord. These sermon outlines will bolster particularly foreign brethren who may find themselves thrust unprepared into the roles of Gospel preachers, evangelists and teachers. Anyone, however, can benefit from the sermon books, even stateside.

Back issues and current editions of *The Voice of Truth International* magazine are a primary part of all of my shipments to Guyana. Our Guyanese brethren need tracts also for edification and evangelism.

When possible, Martha and I will resume foreign mission trips. **India** is closed to travel on tourist visas (which we must use) until Covid-19 has run its course or has been satisfactorily contained. **Myanmar** is out of control, both with uncontrolled Covid-19 and the military overthrow of the government, resulting in massive unrest. The military has killed about 1,000 protesters and imprisoned nearly 10,000 others. Further, it has criminalized doctors and nurses because they also marched in protest of the coup. Hence, health care is in shambles as medical professionals have fled clinics and hospitals. For seven decades a limited civil war has been ongoing between the government and tribal holdouts who refuse to submit to Burmese dominance. Now, with protesters who determine to fight back against the military, who are being trained and armed by the tribal army, guerrilla warfare or a much wider civil war may occur. Of the places to which Martha and I ordinarily travel, **Guyana** remains a hopeful destination for our annual series of workshops in February 2022.

Though unable in 2021 to go personally to India, Myanmar and Guyana, I remain a facilitator for ongoing evangelistic work, especially in India and Guyana. Several thousand dollars were conveyed to brethren in India to print thousands of books and tracts in the Telugu language. I sent thousands of dollars more also to India for a Hindi language television program aired in New Delhi, India. Many thousands of dollars were directed to Guyana for the series of workshops and a television program. Since the official language of Guyana is English, as mentioned earlier, we are able to send quite a bit of literature and Bibles to brethren in that country. Beyond that, I correspond with brethren via email in thirty-four countries.

Martha and I are not idle, despite travel curtailments that we have experienced between March 2, 2020 when we returned from Guyana and the present. With your prayers, encouragement and financial participation, we **press on**, and will do so, until we **pass on**. Thank you. 📖

Guyana Television Programs

Louis Rushmore

My dear friend and our brother in Christ, Nigel Milo, is a very talented, experienced and ambitious servant of God. He has determined to live in his home country of Guyana, though some of his family members have migrated to the USA. Many Guyanese immigrate to other countries in the Caribbean, the United States, Canada or England to escape one of the poorer nations in the world. However, brother Nigel is determined to remain in Guyana as long as he can be a productive Gospel preacher and evangelist.

In 2020, funding ran out for both of the television programs on which brother Milo was preaching the Gospel. His programs aired in the capital city of Georgetown and in the second most prominent city in the country, Linden, where he, his wife and son reside. As a temporary and partial remedy for the unfunded TV programs, I was able to divert unspent money for the national workshops to finance one of the television programs for one year.

Dear Reader, can you or the congregation where you worship help pay for a television program? One program in Georgetown, which will reach most of the country, including Linden, costs about \$600 per month or \$7,200 per year. In addition, we need to establish a robust webpage to coincide with the TV program, including past episodes and offering Christian literature. Then, there is the literature that we must purchase or print to meet the needs of follow-up and outreach. It would be wonderful if we could raise \$10,000 for the TV program, the website and follow-up literature. We will appreciate any part of that goal with which you could help, and you will make a significant impact on the small country of Guyana, South America. Send checks to the Rushmore Evangelism Fund, Siwell Road Church of Christ, 4075 S. Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212. Mark in the memo line, "Guyana TV." Thank you in advance my fellow laborers. 📖



Left to Right: Louis & Martha Rushmore; Nigel, Zab & Jasmine Milo; Berna Allicock (Jasmine's mother)

Notes from Overseas

Vinay David: New Delhi, India – Our church building is still locked for over a month now. Due to lockdown, we are still worshipping in our homes. I am really missing the gathering and the fellowship. Some of our members got sick, but they are much better now, and are on the road to recovery. Overall, the church in Delhi is doing fine. In February 2021, an older person obeyed the Lord, and then in March 2021, a lady obeyed the Lord. TV program is running fine. ...I am still able to garner requests for Bible courses, Hindi Bibles, Bible magazines and other Hindi biblical literature. I also sent 8 big boxes weighing a total of 800 pounds, containing 25,000 Hindi tracts, 100 Bibles and 1,000 different biblical books to preachers working in the Hindi belt area.

Joshua Gootam: Kakinada, India – There are 1,000s of dead bodies floating in the Ganges these days in India. The situation in our country and especially in our state is very FRIGHTENING due to the second wave of Covid. Literally millions have lost their lives and millions more are being affected on a daily basis. Kakinada is under lockdown for nearly a month now. You are allowed to move only from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Kakinada is worst affected. Almost every home is affected here, and daily you hear of people dying that you know. In our home, Robin and his wife were victims all last month. Robin spent a fortnight in the hospital and got out of it alive only by God's grace. Rachel his wife had to be quarantined in the next-door house for nearly 3 weeks. She had to fight for her life and at the same time take care of Ryan (4 yrs) and Jordan (1 yr) all by herself. Robin was struggling in the hospital at the same time. ...We had to close our office for ten days to prevent the staff from getting exposed, and yet, one Hindu gentleman opposite the church building died Sunday morning. People are dying for want of Oxygen to breathe. However, our office reopened on 24th Monday morning and are working under closed doors. The church continues to meet at 8 a.m. Sundays secretly in spite of the government's orders to close down. The numbers are depleted as many prefer to break bread in their homes. We lost one or two members as they succumbed to the virus. We also lost many members and preachers in this state.

P.R. Swamy: Bengaluru, India – Greetings in His holy

Evangelism Fund: March 2021 — July 2021	
Income	
Stateside Travel	\$300.00
Rebates/Refunds/Discounts/Resale	\$4,081.52
Literature & Bibles	\$5,650.00
Contributions	\$34,388.33
Total	\$44,419.85
Expenses	
India Literature, TV & Postage	\$17,100.00
Guyana Literature, Bibles & Resources	\$562.36
Literature	\$1,590.85
Medical Expenses	\$2,835.60
Auto Expenses	\$5,561.64
Stateside Travel	\$1,345.21
Bank Fees	\$99.00
Internet (Gospel Gazette Online)	\$1,175.45
Office (supplies/equipment/software subscriptions/help)	\$3,067.54
Postage/Shipping	\$311.89
Housing	\$26,463.93
Business Telephone	\$458.00
Newsletter	\$1,078.26
Total	\$61,649.73

Yikes!
See the difference!

name. Deadly second surge of Corona Virus. Pandemic took the life of one of our dedicated, fine preachers, Raju Gaikwad, Mumbai today, the 4th May 2021. Covid-19 cases are rising rapidly in Bengaluru. People in general are gripped with fear because of steep rises in Corona cases across the country. Last Sunday, 2nd May, we all conducted worship in our

Yes! We want to help Louis & Martha Rushmore in foreign missions to India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Singapore & Guyana.

- ☐ Here is a onetime gift of \$_____ to be used as needed.
- ☐ I (we) plan to send a monthly gift of \$_____ beginning _____ (month).
- ☐ Here is my (our) gift of \$_____ for English language literature & Bibles.
- ☐ Here is my (our) gift of \$_____ toward overseas travel & missions.
- ☐ Here is my (our) gift of \$_____ to print foreign language literature.
- ☐ Here is my (our) gift of \$_____ for ☐ India TV ☐ Guyana TV & Internet.
- ☐ I (we) plan to include the World Evangelism labors of Louis Rushmore in our will.
- ☐ The _____ Church of Christ is closing, and we wish to contribute the assets to the World Evangelism labors of Louis Rushmore.

Name _____ Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

**Mail to the Rushmores' overseeing congregation:
 Siwell Road Church of Christ, 4075 S. Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212**



"...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).

respective homes. Lockdown will continue till May 14th. Our family, we are safe by the mercies of God. ...From our congregation, one whole family consisting of 5 members are Corona-19 victims.

Nigel Milo: Linden, Guyana – Our distribution for the last shipment slowed considerably because of the pandemic... However, we were still able to distribute some literature. I look forward for the next shipment... and would prefer if it contains the *Voice of Truth* magazine, some tracts and communion cups. The demand is here for the *Voice of Truth* and tracts.

Jay Robin: Yangon, Myanmar – Even though serious of virus infection, we are fine and still working in literature service under the grace of God. We do Sunday service at home each family. ...I request prayers because of political unrest in my country. Everything is hard and the cities are like war zones. Especially pray for our brethren. 📖

Stateside Travels

Martha Rushmore

Most of the time, we have stayed in our own little space, which we call our paradise. We are able to attend Sunday morning Bible class and worship, as well as Wednesday evening Bible class, at the Wildwood Church of Christ in Wildwood, Florida. This is our home congregation.

In May, we attended the Maywood Missionary Retreat in Hamilton, Alabama. It was great renewing and making new friendships with brethren who are interested and working in the mission field. Louis and many of the men gave a mission report of where they have gone and what they are doing with overseas brethren, though presently, we are not able to visit the countries of India, Myanmar and Guyana as we ordinarily do. India is heavily full of Covid. Myanmar had the government overthrown by a military coup, which has imprisoned thousands and has killed many of their citizens. Guyana has had much Covid, but it is getting better. We hope to be able to do our mission work there in



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February of 2022. Please keep us in your prayers.

The last week of July, Louis and I drove to Winona, Mississippi for our annual team meeting. It was wonderful being with fellow Christians who have the same interests. We stayed at the Bates *bed & breakfast*, even after they had to leave for previously made appointments.

Friday evening, we visited Bonnie's graveside. We cleaned the monument and put new flowers in the vases.

Then on Sunday morning, we worshipped with the Old Union congregation. In the afternoon, we drove to Union, Mississippi to be with the Union church. Louis gave a 10-minute update on our work at both congregations. We spent the night at the *Hodge Lodge* with our good friends Therman and Sadie Hodge.

We headed home about 11:30 a.m. With a few necessary and food stops, plus heavy rain off and on, we finally

arrived at our home about 12:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning. There is no place like home and for sure, there is not a bed better than our own. Praise be to God for a wonderful and safe week. Even though we did not get to go overseas, we have been very busy. 📖