



RUSHMORE NEWSLETTER

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Where Is Home?

By Bonnie Rushmore

Sometime during the month of May, Betty Choate called to ask us to visit J.C. and her in Winona, MS. They were searching for individuals to join them in their longstanding work with World Evangelism. I do not remember having met J.C. or Betty before, however I had read some of their books and articles in magazines and was limitedly aware of their mission efforts. Louis and I agreed to visit them the middle of June. We spent two days with the Choates, talked about the work and what they envisioned our role would be, visited the local congregation and drove around the Winona area. Then, we spent the balance of the week with our daughter two hours away in Tennessee. We talked about the work, we prayed for God's guidance as we discussed the pros and cons of moving to Mississippi and made the decision by the end of the week to accept the Choate's offer. When Louis called the Choate's to inform them that we would come, Betty wanted us to move the next day.

Making the decision to move was the easy part. One of the hardest tasks was to inform our dear friends and loved ones in Cameron, WV that we would be moving 900 miles away. It was especially difficult to explain to the children, to whom we had grown so close as we watched them grow and mature physically and spiritually, that we were moving far away. The older ones understood our reasons for moving, but were disappointed. The younger ones do not understand why Louis is not the one preaching every Sunday.

Next came the daunting task of convincing congregations to support us as we labor for the cause of Christ both in the states and on foreign fields. Also comes the apprehension of not knowing that the funds will be available to meet our personal financial obligations and to fulfill the Lord's work. We needed thousands of dollars to move our household goods and the printing equipment to Mississippi. All these obstacles needed to be addressed as we planned our move to Winona.

We have moved several times during our 34 years of marriage. All three of our children were born in different states. Packing and preparing to move 900 miles is something I know how to do. However, for some reason this move seemed to take a toll on us both physically and emotionally.

As we researched our options to move our household goods and the printing equipment, we quickly realized our first choice of having a moving company load our belongings, deliver everything in Mississippi and unload cost thousands of dollars more than we were willing (able) to pay. Our next option was to rent a U-Haul truck, load, deliver and unload ourselves. However, we needed two trucks to move everything. Finally, we decided our best option was to rent crates (7 feet x 7 feet x 6 feet), load them, have UPS deliver them and we would unload them.

In preparation for our move, we had a yard sale to dispose of several items we no longer used or needed. We gave a few items to friends that we thought could use and appreciate what we decided not to move. Finally, the time arrived to load the crates. Our first estimate of six crates mushroomed to nine crates. On Monday, Sept. 24, five crates arrived. The loaded crates would be picked up on Wednesday and four more would be delivered. Those four would be picked up on Thursday. With the help of friends, we began to load the crates. Soon, we had one crate full of bookcases with boxes of books lined up on the shelves. We also stacked boxes of dishes on some shelves to give the dishes extra padding. Our seven-foot sofa would not fit inside the crate, so we spontaneously gave it away to one of the men helping to load. The extension ladder would not fit, so we gave it away. UPS arrived Wednesday morning to pick up the loaded crates. Unfortunately, the crate with bookcases and books was too heavy for the forklift to lift onto the flatbed trailer. We had to unload it and reload with lighter items. By now it is apparent that our

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Trip Talk

By Louis Rushmore

December's trip took us to stops in Mississippi, Tennessee, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, 2,720 miles. With the GPS navigator programmed, Bonnie and I set out Sunday, December 9 to make an unannounced visit to the Elliott church of Christ. After several doubtful and suspicious turns over several miles, we were utterly lost. We neither believed the GPS when it declared that a barren field was our destination nor when it attempted to send us up a barricaded fire trail or through a military base. The GPS couldn't find our alternate destination, either, the Southside church of Christ in Grenada, but we remembered its location. Sunday evening, we worshipped with the Germantown church of Christ in Tennessee.

Monday, at 9:30 p.m. we pulled into Motel 6 on the northside of Columbus, OH. About that time, Rebecca (our daughter with whom we lodged Sunday night) called to advise us we left my suit and Bonnie's dress in her closet. Our second disappointment that night was to discover that our motel room was adjacent to a busy railroad track, a freight train pounding through seemingly every ten minutes all night long.

Tuesday and Wednesday, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves with our beloved Weaver family, especially five wonderful youngsters ranging from 4-years-old to 17-years-old. Mark Weaver installed trailer towing wiring on our van in anticipation of pulling a U-Haul trailer later in our trip (to complete the move of our belongings to Winona). We signed bank paperwork concerning the sponsorship by the Vermilion church of Christ of our evangelistic ministry.

Thursday and Friday, we visited Bonnie's mother in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania. We took her from her nursing home to Cracker Barrel (where we met Bonnie's brother and sister-in-law), Wal-Mart and Value City. Later Thursday night when trying to find the home of a niece with whom to lodge, the good ole GPS put us off course by 20 miles, and we never did find it (so, we took a motel). Friday, we drove to Weirton, West Virginia to make a deposit in our old checking account, and then to Chester, West Virginia (where we lodged with Bob and Martha Noland and dined with Jeremy and Karen Main). Friday we left informational packets with the North Meadville (Pennsylvania) church of Christ and the Virginia Avenue church of Christ (Chester, West Virginia).

Saturday, we drove to Massillon, Ohio (where we lodged with Keith and Jackie Crum). Shortly after our arrival, the bottom fell out of winter in the north, dumping four inches of snow, on which fell sleet. Though cold outside, inside with the Crums was warm with Christian hospitality; it was as if we had known Jackie and Keith forever.

The weather and roads cleared enough for us to have an uneventful trip to the church building Sunday morning. However, by the end of morning services it was snowing again. We enjoyed the hospitality of Delores Hamilton for a wonderful noon meal. Also present was Delores' daughter Nancy and Jack and Katie Gilchrest. Immediately following our meal, we left for a four o'clock appointment in Columbus. Heavy snowfall and blizzard conditions hampered our travel, leaving us a half hour late for meeting with the elders of the Fishinger & Kenny church of Christ.

Monday afternoon we arrived in Cameron, WV, visited with the Smith family, enjoyed the evening meal with the Smiths, Chambers and Mary Aston (briefly visiting with Edith Pos-

lethwaite also) and lodged with Mary Monday and Tuesday nights. Tuesday, we crossed the Ohio River into Ohio to secure a U-Haul trailer in order to move the remainder of our belongings to Winona. That afternoon, with the help of Andrew and Maxcine Briggs (where our belongings were stored), we loaded the trailer and the back of the van in preparation of our departure the next day. Tuesday evening we returned to the Smith's for more hugs from Brayden, Sarah and Austin before our departure. Unfortunately, time did not allow us to visit all those with whom we would have enjoyed seeing again. Hopefully, the next trip north will allow time for more extensive visits with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Wednesday we enjoyed lunch with Emmanuel and Judy Daugherty before leaving for Carrollton, OH for Wednesday evening services; the North Suburban church of Christ in Carrollton is our largest, single supporter at this time. Thursday and Friday, we made our way back to Winona, Mississippi, U-Haul in tow. Unloading the trailer with the help of our co-laborer, Jerry Bates, we were able to turn in the trailer Friday evening. Trip over!📖

Gospel Gazette Online (GGO)

Hard to believe, but with the coming of January 2008, we begin the tenth year of *Gospel Gazette Online*. Bonnie and I decided nearly a decade ago to publish a monthly, 20-page Gospel magazine on the Internet. We are thankful for the participation in this effort by numerous brothers and sisters in Christ whose articles make GGO what it is today. Thousands of articles are archived and accessible on the Internet with the aid of the site search engine (that permits selection of articles by topic).

People from around the world use GGO everyday. Site informational bars on the bottom of the lead page graphically and statistically speak to the widespread use of GGO. The guest book chronicles many of the lauds by readers of GGO. Some of the more thought-provoking contacts have come from Saudi Arabia and Antarctica. Some of the more rewarding responses pertain to the conversion of Muslims in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Please pray for *Gospel Gazette Online* that many souls may be edified or led to salvation, and that God may be glorified. Subscriptions (monthly reminders) are free upon request. Interested Christians may contribute financially if they wish by selecting the "donate" button at www.gospelgazette.com and following the instructions.📖

A Work in Progress

Usually, the phrase "a work in progress" refers to something that has been started, but remains incomplete at the moment. From another perspective, "a work in progress" applies also to Bonnie and my activities during car trips. During our December pilgrimage to or through Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, in addition to speaking appointments and meeting with elders and preachers, we essentially maintained a mobile office along the way. Bonnie and I both inscribed a tablet with newsletter articles, which later in the car Bonnie typed into the laptop, as well as composed additional articles. (The laptop is nearly eight-years-old, limited in capacity and suffering from a dead clock battery, which causes boot problems and failure to acknowledge the registration for

PowerPoint, with which I make presentations about our evangelistic labors and Beverage Alcohol.) Though we didn't get to them, we took with us articles to be edited and questions to be answered for upcoming issues of Gospel Gazette Online; in addition, we took Gospel magazines to read, data from which is added into a research database of religious magazines spanning 30 years.

Hardly a vacation, we were either in the car, speaking with brethren about World Evangelism or resting overnight in preparation for the next day. We were gone in December from the ninth through the twenty-first. We live to work for the Lord, and are happy to be a work in progress from both perspectives! 

Printing Equipment

Only \$2000 left to pay! We have been making mortgage-size payments on an array of print shop equipment for the past seven years (besides some costly equipment maintenance along the way). Finally, we can see some faint light at the end of this tunnel.

Essentially, we have assembled a primitive quick-print print shop, nevertheless representing tens of thousands of dollars. We have acquired two computer-driven digital duplicators, a 10-bin collator, a booklet maker, a folder, a perfect binder, a floor standing cutter, a scoring machine, various computers, software, carts, and miscellaneous office furniture, complementing other equipment. Thereby, we have been able to print thousands of lectureship books for various congregations, thousands of monthly magazines, thousands of tracts and church stationary.

We have integrated our print shop into the World Evangelism program, and we are producing in-house stationary and forms on site. In addition, we have the option of printing and binding a library of books published by the Choates and the Rushmores; we will only have to outsource the full-color covers with which we bind the books.

Interested individual Christians or congregations may make special contributions to reduce or eliminate the remaining debt ahead of time. This would greatly assist and contribute to the success of the overall evangelist efforts. Humbly and respectfully, we solicit your prayers and moral support. 

Team Meetings

Several World Evangelism team members met in Winona on November 30. We rehearsed one of the final course syllabi for the School of Evangelism beginning at Winona in the fall of 2008. Present were Janet and Wayne Barrier, Joey Barrier, the two of us, Paula and Jerry Bates, Charles Brymer, as well as Sharon and Dennis Larson. The next team meeting will be January 24-25. 

Voice of Truth International

The Bates and we proofed and selected articles for the next issue of VOTI. Much intense and timely work remains before Volume 56 will be ready for the printer. Time is at a premium; we feel like we are behind when we are reasonably on schedule. There are many diverse duties on our plates. 

The Choates

Recently, J.C. Choate has been hospitalized in Greenwood, Jackson, Tupelo and Winona, Mississippi as well as Jacksonville, Florida. His health remains a serious challenge to the fortitude of J.C. and Betty Choate. Please remember them both in your daily prayers and with cards of encouragement (P.O. Box 72, Winona, MS 38967). 

Day-To-Day

World Evangelism, in the persons of the Bates and the Rushmores, shipped 135 cases of *Voice of Truth International* throughout the USA. Several other packages and letters also went forth from World Evangelism lately. I am editing *Fire in My Bones, Volume III* by Glover Shipp, readying it for printing. Bonnie and I reprinted our daughter's workbook, *What Makes Us Tick?* to fulfill orders for it. Soon, I must spend *some* significant time devoted to initiating the new Bible School curriculum under consideration (to emphasize the exclusivity and identity of the Lord's church). 

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plans to have everything loaded and picked up by UPS on Thursday was not going to happen. We requested they wait until Friday to pick up the remaining crates. If they arrived early, we could still leave by noon Friday to visit my mother three and a half hours north before moving south. By Thursday afternoon, we realized many of our possessions were not going to fit into these nine crates. We began to give more items away (a porch swing, workbenches, metal storage lockers, an old wooden desk chair, etc.). We sold the 18-year-old refrigerator to the landlord for \$50.00 and left the 20-year-old microwave as a bonus. I also realized the numerous houseplants I had tended for many years would not survive the 900-mile trip even if we had room for them, so they were given away as well. After filling nine crates, we still had several items to move south. A dear friend volunteered to store them in her garage until we could retrieve them. Finally, by late afternoon on Friday, the house was empty and cleaned, the car loaded, and we were ready to leave Cameron, WV. Our plan to visit my mother near Erie, PA and our son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren near Columbus, OH before our arrival in Winona, MS on Monday, October first had to change. Time would not allow us to make all the visits we desired. Since, Columbus, OH is on the way south, the visit to my mother would have to wait until later in the year.

Tuesday night and Thursday night, we were invited out to dinner with friends. Wednesday night after evening services, the congregation in Cameron gave us a going away party. Some of the women helped clean the house as well as carry boxes to be loaded. On more than one occasion, meals were fixed for us and those helping to load. To all those who helped I am truly grateful. Without the help of so many, we would not have been able to accomplish all that needed to be done by the end of September. Thank-you! A simple thank you cannot adequately express how much we appreciate all

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that you did for us.

Just three months after our decision to move to Mississippi, our belongings were loaded and we were saying good-bye to our dear friends. With many tears, a few sore muscles, some apprehensions and a sense of adventure, we left Cameron, WV to make our home in Winona, MS. A few days later on October first, we arrived at our new home. Upon our arrival, we discovered that at the end of the next week a group would be assembling to discuss the upcoming "School of Missions." The sixty some boxes of books, book-cases, the filing cabinets, the printing equipment, desks, computers, etc. that was unloaded in the World Evangelism building needed to be put away before this meeting. Thus, our new work begins.

During the next two months, we put our house together, put the office together, visited congregations to apprise them of our work and our needs, attended the Getwell Lectureship in Memphis, TN, and as I am writing this making a two week long trip to Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The remaining possessions (with a few minor giveaways) stored in the garage are now loaded in a 5 x 8 U-Haul trailer as we travel home to Winona, MS at the end of our two week journey.

Some would ask why we would move so far away from everything with which we are familiar. Some would ask how we could bear to give away cherished possessions. I once was asked how I could sell a home we owned for nearly fifteen years and move into a rented house a few hours away. My answer to the inquirer of the last question was and remains, "My home is not in this world; my home is in heaven above" (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16). My abode on this earth is where I can be of service to God. For the past six years, that was in Cameron, WV. Now we believe God wants us working with World Evangelism in Winona, MS. Yes, I shed a few tears as we gave things away that we really had hoped to take with us. However, I know that those items are things and can be replaced if needed. Lost souls are more important than the possessions we own. We can reach far more lost souls working with World Evangelism than we could working with the church in Cameron, WV. Are there lost souls in Cameron? Yes! The Christians there are continuing to reach out to those souls. I frequently remind myself, as all Christians should, that we are on this earth to do God's will. If that means moving 900 miles away, then we need to be willing to do so. Our focus needs to be on leading lost souls to Christ!📖

Yes, we want to help the Rushmores save souls as they labor with the Choates & others in worldwide evangelism.

Here is a onetime gift of \$ _____ to help perpetuate the proven work of evangelism in which Bonnie & Louis are participating.

I (we) plan to send a monthly contribution of \$ _____, beginning _____ (month) to help the Rushmores spread the Gospel far and near.

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Mail to: Vermilion Church of Christ, 5116 Driftwood Dr., Vermilion, OH 44089