



# RUSHMORE NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 No. 5

MAY 2008

## Teach, Baptize, Teach

By Louis Rushmore

The summary of our Lord's Great Commission as it appears in Matthew 28:19-20 is essentially teach, baptize and teach. Stateside or abroad, teaching must precede baptism or there won't be any baptisms into Christ. Likewise, without teaching after baptism, new Christians will not properly mature, and in addition, many will slip back into the world. The Gospel of Christ is as suitable for Christians (Rom. 1:15) as it is suitable for non-Christians (Mark 16:15-16).

American churches make a terrible mistake whenever they fail to nourish new Christians with the Word of God (1 Peter 2:2). Likewise, missionary campaigns that baptize several hundred precious souls in a matter of weeks while overseas do a terrible injustice to those babes in Christ whenever they fail to provide ongoing spiritual nourishment for those new converts after the campaigners return home. Remember, Jesus said to teach, baptize and teach.

World Evangelism, started by J.C. and Betty Choate over 45 years ago, has contributed to the establishment of over 200 churches, which provide the means by which the 3,500 converts annually associated with this effort are continually nourished with the Word of God. We take seriously the concept of teach, baptize and teach. Consequently, the retention rate of these new converts ranges from 75% to 80%. The churches of Christ in America would be so happy if that were customarily true of them.

Mass media is the key to presenting the Gospel of Christ to billions of souls today. The 36 weekly radio programs and 8 weekly TV programs abroad net 250,000 responses annually, each of which initially receive literature from brethren in the nations where these broadcast are aired. Next, several thousand of these contacts receive personal follow up by our brethren overseas, resulting in the many thousands of conversions each year. Teach, baptize and teach is always at the forefront of World Evangelism, and the results speak for themselves.

We solicit your prayers, moral support and financial assistance respecting this good work to which Bonnie and I have dedicated our lives. 

## \$10,000

By Louis Rushmore

The churches of Christ do not have a missionary society, because God did not organize the church that way. Neither do the churches of Christ have a central headquarters from which funds filter back to various programs, because God did not organize the church that way. Consequently, the responsibility for mission work among the churches of Christ falls squarely on the shoulders of congregations and individual Christians; mission work among the churches of Christ simply does not happen unless it is funded by congregations and individual Christians voluntarily cooperating together. One can clearly see from the apostle Paul's writing that this is precisely the way that the first century church funded missionary work. "I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service" (2 Cor. 11:8).

Commonly, people can be heard to say something like, "If I only had a million dollars, I would do this or that." However, few of us ever make that million dollars, and I have heard some say that they have started working on their second million dollars —because they failed to make their first million dollars. The truth of the matter is that the combination of various size monetary gifts, small and great, are what makes missionary work possible in the Lord's church. Furthermore, what we may consider small, God counts as great (Mark 12:42-44), and out of one's poverty great contributions can be made to the cause of Christ (2 Cor. 8:2).

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Let me illustrate how even little can result in much. Currently, we print 1,000 of this monthly newsletter; if the 1,000 recipients of the Rushmore newsletter each gave \$10.00, that would result in \$10,000 a month financial support for missionary work. Or, if the approximate 450 addressees to whom we mail our newsletter each month gave \$10.00, that alone would be \$4,500 a month for mission work. See how easy it is for virtually any Christian, young or old, to have a substantial part of taking the Gospel of Christ to the masses abroad?

Presently, monetary gifts that Bonnie and I receive each month for mission work from individual and congregations range from \$10.00 to \$350.00 monthly, plus occasional gifts from \$10.00 to \$1,000. Taken together, these contributions make it possible for Bonnie and me to labor in the Gospel stateside and overseas. We also covet your prayers.

One sister faithfully gives \$10.00 each month through PayPal; PayPal also processes donations made with major credit cards. (See [www.gospelgazette.com](http://www.gospelgazette.com) for the "donation button.") Others snip and return the completed donation form found each month in the Rushmore newsletter, mailing it to our overseeing congregation (Vermilion Church of Christ, 5116 Driftwood Dr., Vermilion, OH 44089). Will you prayerfully consider being a partner with us in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to souls hungering for it? **Jesus Christ only gave us one job to do (Mark 16:15-16), let's do it together!** 

## April '08 Trip Talk

By Louis Rushmore

**McMinnville, TN: 4/6/08.** It was our good pleasure to be with the Pleasant Cove church of Christ Sunday a.m. where I made PowerPoint presentations on *Bible Archaeology* and *Evangelism*. Especially the hospitality extended to us by brother Ray and sister Charlotte Weddington was reminiscent of that usually extended to royalty or someone famous. Though we are neither and not deserving of such kindness, we are nevertheless exceedingly thankful for the same. Pleasant Cove is a new supporter of Bonnie and me in our labors.

**Sparta, TN: 4/6/08.** Bonnie and I traveled some farther to be with the Findlay church of Christ Sunday evening, where I made the presentation on *Evangelism*. This good congregation has been a longtime supporter of the evangelistic labors of J.C. and Betty Choate, and we were happy to apprise brethren there of the ongoing worldwide evangelism, despite the passing of brother Choate in February.

**Huntsville, AL: 4/13/08.** Sunday morning, Bonnie and I worshipped with the West Huntsville church of Christ. No congregation tries harder than this one to show itself friendly toward visitors. I met with four of the five elders regarding our evangelistic work. We found it a small world in that one of the elders is from the Virginia Avenue church of Christ in Chester, WV.

Sunday evening, we visited the Lincoln church of Christ, also a longtime supporter of World Evangelism to which the Choates have devoted themselves for nearly five decades. Preceding the evening worship, I conducted my

special map class for children, including a contest between boys and girls (of various ages); youngsters always enjoy this and the parents never fail to be impressed with how well and how quickly their children learn Bible places, events and characters when working with these maps. That evening, I made my PowerPoint presentation on *Evangelism*.

**Killen, AL: 4/16/08.** It was our pleasure to assemble with the Antioch church of Christ, where I made the *Evangelism* presentation that Wednesday evening. The Choates had been unable for a number of years to visit this supporting congregation, owing to J.C.'s illness preceding his death. As always, brethren are gracious.

**Town Creek, AL: 4/20/08.** Sunday morning at the Hatton church of Christ, I made my *Beverage Alcohol* PowerPoint presentation in Bible class, and I made the *Evangelism* presentation during worship. As we usually do, we drove to our appointment the day before and lodged with brethren Saturday night. There is no better way to make new friends from among brethren aforesaid unknown to us; this was no exception as we were the beneficiaries of such great hospitality in the home of brother Donald and sister Vicky Kidd.

**Decatur, AL: 4/20/08.** Sunday evening, it was my privilege to make the *Evangelism* presentation to the Austinville church of Christ. Beforehand, we were the guests for supper in the home of Arnettie & Wilbur Wright. Betty Choate was with us at the Wright's and at Austinville, though she was not with us when we left Winona, MS the day prior, and she was not with us at the Hatton church of Christ Sunday morning; she traveled with Jerry and Paula Bates Sunday morning to their appointment, and we had an afternoon rendezvous between our respective appointments to transfer Betty between vehicles, much like passing a baton in a relay race. (Never a dull moment!)

**Kosciusko, MS: 4/26/08.** Months earlier, brother Vladimir Rancev from Lithuania called me and invited me to meet with him while he was in the States, before his travel to Mexico. We met for the first time at the Natchez festival, and afterward we traveled to Roosevelt State Park an hour or so further southwest. At both locations, we not only enjoyed time spent with Vladimir, but time spent with several other brethren, including the Franks family. The day was concluded with a catfish dinner and live music in the park.

**Charleston, MS: 4/27/08.** A pulpit vacancy at the church of Christ on Main Street afforded us an opportunity to visit these good brethren. I was privileged to present the *Evangelism* lesson for Bible Class and make the *Bible Archaeology* presentation during morning worship. We were guests of Myra & Carroll Morris for lunch. Later, we were glad to meet brother George and sister Lois Douglas; he preaches for the Boclair church of Christ in Charleston, MS.

We are scheduling appointments on Wednesdays and Sundays with congregations, as well as with elders at other than assembly times, between May and October. For instance, on July 2 (Wednesday) we will be with the Shady Valley, TN church of Christ. Please contact us at your earliest convenience to schedule an appointment. While churches are under no obligation to us, we do want to apprise churches of this good, 45-year-old program of evangelism, and we hope to persuade congregations and individuals to assist us toward this end financially. We covet your prayers. 

## **Don't Sell the Children Short**

**By Bonnie Rushmore**

One of the churches we visited this past month was the Lincoln church of Christ in Huntsville, AL. A sign by the door of a classroom across the hall from the library caught my attention. The sign read, "Children's Library." When I entered the room, I was greeted with bright colorful paintings on the walls, comfortable child-size chairs, a TV/VCR and bookcases full of children's books and videos. The titles of the books and videos indicated that they were Bible-based lessons to encourage even the youngest to think about God. Included in the room were sign out cards so that the children could enjoy the videos and books at home throughout the week. The thoughtful elders of this good congregation are to be commended for realizing the great potential of our young people and the need to provide them with Bible-based material, beyond what they receive in the Sunday and Wednesday Bible classes.

Our children learn more in the first few years of their lives than they do at any other time. Most children learn to walk, feed themselves, talk (a foreign language to them), dress themselves and use the toilet by the time they are three. Within the next couple of years, they will learn to share, count, color within the lines, learn the alphabet and how to write. Most children learn this and much more before turning five. As our children are learning all these things, be sure to teach them about God (Psalms 78:3-6).

Children are sponges, absorbing everything around them. If we provide our children with good, wholesome books and videos about God, they will learn about God. If we provide our children with books and videos about fairy tales with good morals, they will learn about good morals, but they will not learn about God. If we provide our children with books and videos about evolution, hate and selfishness, they will learn to be selfish, hateful and say there is no God. Our children, from infancy, are bombarded with evolution and ungodly behavior by the entertainment world. We must provide our children with Bible lessons and godly entertainment to offset the evil of the world.

Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles need to be proactive in teaching children to love God, His Word and to put Him first in their lives (Matt. 6:33). We do this by example (1 Cor. 11:1); worshipping God and serving Him comes before all entertainment activities. Instead of buying the newest toy on the market, buy age-appropriate Bible resource books and videos for your loved one. Bring your child to every Bible class (on time) and with lesson prepared. Insist from infancy that God and the church come first, before school and homework, before sports, piano or outings with

friends. Provide ample opportunities for interaction with other Christian families, including fun activities and times to serve others. Remember, children are sponges; they absorb that which surrounds them.

The Lincoln church of Christ is taking a step in the right direction. The children have their own library; the Sunday evening we were in Lincoln, the teens were attending an area wide youth devotional, and upstairs was a room for the youth. The bulletin listed various activities (working and pleasure) for the youth. Yes, the elders at Lincoln realize the importance of teaching and training children to be servants of God (Proverbs 22:6).



## **Puzzle Pieces**

**By Louis Rushmore**

Sometimes I've mused about using a hammer or a knife to help me assemble jigsaw puzzles! Being semi-color blind and clueless, sometimes these puzzles have offered me a greater challenge than I have fully appreciated. I have to wonder just a little bit when someone gives me a gift of a jigsaw puzzle of whether their motives were benevolent or punitive.

In a sense, World Evangelism resembles a jigsaw puzzle where all the pieces fit together perfectly (no hammer or knife required). World Evangelism is essentially more than one program where Christians and congregations cooperate to evangelize foreign nations.

The elders of the Liberty Church of Christ in Dennis, MS oversee foreign literature distribution as well as oversees radio and television programs. J.C. and Betty Choate labored and Sister Choate still does work under the oversight of the Liberty Church of Christ.

The elders of the Double Springs, AL church of Christ oversee nine foreign Bible Schools, the School of Missions in Winona, MS and overseas campaigns. Wayne and Janet Barrier labor in these areas under the oversight of the Double Springs church of Christ.

Jerry and Paula Bates, under the oversight of the Strickland church of Christ in Glen, MS, and Bonnie and I, under the oversight of the Vermilion, OH church of Christ, devote ourselves to facets of foreign literature distribution and overseas campaigns. Likewise, other missionaries scattered throughout the states under the oversight of their respective sponsoring congregations, participate in overseas campaigns.

The cooperative efforts of brethren stateside and abroad, plus the prayers financial support of hundreds of Christians and congregations makes this missionary work possible. Each of us is just a puzzle piece. Are you one of the puzzle pieces, or are you that often misplaced puzzle piece that makes even the best of puzzles incomplete?

World Evangelism Foundation  
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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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**Honest in the Sight of All Men**  
**2 Corinthians 8:20-21**  
**Rushmore Evangelism Fund**  
April 2008

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		\$3,748.69
<b>Income</b>		
Contributions	\$5,560.00	
Printing/Book Sales	\$190.34	
Travel	<u>\$465.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$6,215.34</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>		
Auto Expenses	\$1,097.18	
Stateside Travel	\$194.15	
Foreign Travel (passports & toward tickets)	\$1,228.60	

Evangelism (missionary retreat)	\$42.18	
Office Equipment & Supplies	\$109.29	
Postage & Shipping	\$152.57	
Internet	\$34.95	
Printing Expenses	\$655.48	
Office Telephone	\$87.51	
Medical Treatment	\$160.00	
Bank Fees	\$0.59	
Medical Insurance	\$0.00	
Life Insurance	\$50.29	
Housing	\$261.48	
Salary	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,074.27</b>	
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,141.07</b>	
<b>Ending Balance</b>		\$3,889.76
<b>Foreign Travel Balance</b>		\$1,000.00