



RUSHMORE NEWSLETTER

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Analysis of a Mission Trip

By Louis Rushmore

Just how to quantify six weeks abroad laboring for our Lord Jesus Christ poses somewhat of a quandary. Should we define our mission trip by the number of foreign countries and cities in which we landed, even if as transients to board another plane (Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Myanmar)? Do the 64 hours in airplanes or the 86 hours in taxis (not counting in town commutes) and buses adequately describe the intensity of our recent journey abroad? Maybe our combined 176 hours of teaching in three countries begin to fairly flesh out our activities. Surely, the distribution of dozens of CD's on which were hundreds of books, plus the books and tracts we gave away help declare our labors. Do the three or four baptisms that occurred along the way, though we primarily taught and edified Christians, add some perspective? We think that the funds we left this trip for the printing of many thousands of tracts in several languages will lay the groundwork for future conversions in India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and China.

Bonnie taught ladies' and children's classes as well as taught sisters in Christ how to teach other ladies and children. Bonnie also gave away three Teacher Activity Bags in India and three more in Myanmar; only baggage weight limitations prevented us from giving more of them away this trip. Bonnie taught lessons about "Mrs. Peter," "Mrs. Noah," "Mrs. Potiphar," "The Role of Women," "English Grammar," "The Love of Christ," "Acts 19 and Baptism," "How to Teach," "Questions and Answers" and "The Book of Esther," as well as videotaped ladies teaching, all of this over a period of 72 hours in India and Myanmar.

It was my good pleasure to teach over 104 hours in India, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. My presentations included the following subjects: "Biblical Interpretation," "English Grammar," "The New Testament Church," "Church History," "Sermon Preparation and Presentation," Bible Geography, Bible Archaeology and Sacred History," "How We Can Know That God Exists," "Introduction to the Parables of Jesus Christ," "The Parable of the Sower," "The Parable of the Tares," "The Parable of the Mustard Seed," "The Parable of the Leaven" and "The Rest of the Story (Malchus)."

Of the 41 days we were abroad, we only had nine down days. That's good, because idleness for us quickly develops into boredom; we would gladly have traded some of those days for greater opportunities to serve. However, our down days were filled with working on a future issue of *The Voice of Truth International*, made possible through the use of our two laptop computers (our mobile office) we brought along with us. Bonnie also worked some on the ladies' class book she is writing, and I wrote a requested article for another brotherhood magazine, too. (This article was handwritten on one of our flights toward home and was typed shortly before midnight in the San Francisco airport the evening before our return to Winona, MS.)

We also received Internet orders for books (that we forwarded stateside) and other emails, when we could convince (slow, slow) Internet services (when available) to work. I worked a little on the next issues of *Gospel Gazette Online*, too, though the Internet connections were insufficient to upload the material to the Net. Often, it was like trying to push a jade elephant through a thin, copper phone wire!

Just how to quantify six weeks abroad laboring for our Lord Jesus Christ poses somewhat of a quandary. Perhaps the best way to quantify our meager efforts is that it was and is our perpetual goal to glorify God and edify souls. That we did, with your help and in answer to your prayers. 📖

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Louis Rushmore

Gospel Gazette Online, Editor

Voice of Truth International,
Associate Editor

We're Back

By Bonnie Rushmore

The month of October started with a bang. Several individuals gathered in Winona for the October session of the *School of Missions* on Thursday (the first) and Friday (the second). Friday afternoon we left for Maywood Christian Camp for an outing with the Collierville (TN) Church of Christ for their annual *Family Harvest Weekend*. Some thought we were crazy for attending this program since we were leaving on Wednesday the 7th for a six-week trip to India, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. However, attending this enjoyable program allowed us to spend a few days with our daughter, Rebecca, before our trip overseas. It also allowed us to develop a closer relationship with some of the members of this good congregation that have looked out for Rebecca since her graduation from Freed-Hardeman University nearly 15 years ago.

Our goal was to leave Winona at noon for the hour and half drive to Jackson, MS where we would board an American Airlines jet for the Dallas-Fort Worth airport, the first of four planes before arriving in Bangalore, India on Friday, October 9th. However, as is usual at the Winona office, plans are subject to change. Louis and I stopped by the office to take care of a few last minute details before meeting Betty Choate (our chauffer) when unexpected visitors stopped by to see the facilities and visit with Betty and any of the workers present. Needless to say, it was about 12:30 p.m. when we left Winona, leaving the visitors in the hands of Theola Burton (Betty's mother) and Ruth Orr (she also arrived before our departure to spend a couple of days helping in the office).

Approximately 48 hours later, we arrived in Bangalore, India where we were welcomed by brother P.R. Swamy. We spent our time in India in the home of Sheila and Vernon Douglas. Saturday morning we prepared for lessons on Saturday evening and Sunday morning Bible class and worship, ladies' class, and evening worship. Saturday and Sunday, Louis had two translators (Tamil and Kannada).

Monday, October 12th, we left by car for Namakkal, four and a half hours away. **Tuesday** morning, we spent in Velur, an hour's drive from Namakkal; there were 120 in attendance, twice as many women as men. Following services Louis was asked to pray for a one-month-old baby and his family; he was also requested to pray for a one-year-old girl and her family. Three requested baptism at the conclusion of the meeting, but we had to leave before we could observe their new births. Follow-

ing lunch, we had a Bible study with a group of twelve blind individuals. Brother Swamy set up a tentative date to meet with a larger group of blind in nearby Salem. When we returned to the hotel, the power went out while we were on the elevator to our third floor room; fortunately, the power returned in a couple minutes.

Wednesday in Namakkal, we had a Bible study with about 60 in attendance. We left to return to Bangalore at 5 p.m. for a six-hour drive. There was a lot of road construction, terrible traffic, donkey and ox carts mixed in with the traffic along the highway, making nighttime driving dangerous; we saw two bad accidents.

October 16th, we boarded a very small plane for Vijayawada; there were only 51 seats. We saw a short runway as we approached Vijayawada, and to our surprise, that was where we landed. It proved to be one of the roughest landings we experienced, partly due to the asphalt rather than concrete runway. The terminal was the size of a small bus terminal with baggage unloaded off the cart through a garage door opening and placed inside on the floor. A farm tractor towed the baggage cart to the building, and when empty, men manually pulled the cart away. **October 17, Saturday**, we traveled 85 kilometers to Tiruvuru where we spent the day. Louis taught in the Timothy Bible School for Rural Youth. We were provided lunch of rice and chicken, and we experienced our first Indian style of eating with our fingers, as no silverware was provided.

Sunday morning, October 18th, we traveled approximately two hours to Chilakorumpet whereupon our arrival we were served breakfast of French toast and tea. We met in a four cement block high shelter with a tin roof. Lights and fans were operated by a battery. Following lunch, Louis, brother Swamy and translators traveled with Anil Kumar where Louis preached for two village congregations several miles away. In the afternoon, I taught ladies' and children's classes. Louis returned about 9:15 p.m., and we stopped at a fourth congregation on our way back to Vijayawada, arriving at the hotel about midnight. After breakfast the next morning, we had hot water for the first time since arriving in India; even the toilet had hot water to flush it.

Each of the congregations we visited outside of Bangalore honored us with gifts, leis and a special welcome ceremony. This is their way of showing appreciation. We would have preferred less attention toward us, as we are servants together with them, reaching out to the lost.

On **October 19**, we arrived back in Bangalore

(Continued on back page)

One Lone Christian Woman

By Bonnie Rushmore

How would you feel if you were the only Christian in your town? Would you worship God on the first day of the week with songs of praise, prayer, Bible Study, partake of the Lord's Supper and give as God has prospered you? How would your worship be affected if the only Christians in your community were you, a few other women and one illiterate male?

These two situations were brought to my attention during a women's class while on our recent trip to Myanmar (Burma). I cannot fully comprehend the difficulties these ladies face as they practice Christianity. Distance and available transportation prohibit these Christians from traveling to a community to worship with other Christians on a regular basis. These women live in a country where Christianity is tolerated and the penalty for leaving the national religion of Buddhism can be harsh.

The young lady, who is the only Christian in her community, sets aside a period of time each Lord's Day to worship God. Alone, she sings, prays, studies her Bible, takes communion and contributes for the Lord's work each Sunday. During the week, she tries to reach out to others in her village with the Gospel of Christ. She is faced with the quandary of the need to convert the lost in her village and converting a male who would have no experience and little knowledge to lead the worship services and present the Bible lesson.

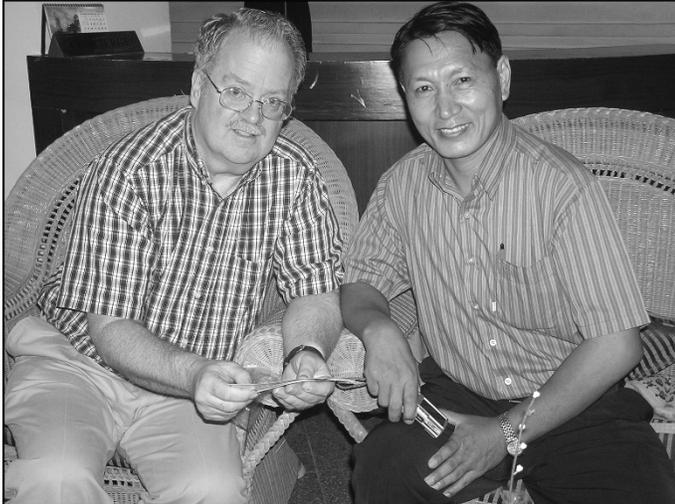
Another sister finds herself worshipping with women and one man. This congregation of the Lord's church has only one man to preach, lead singing, lead prayers and to pre-

side over the Lord's Supper. Unfortunately, this man is illiterate while at least two of the women are well educated in the Bible and with secular education. This places these ladies in a difficult situation. They understand and accept the Lord's teaching about the role of women and acknowledge that the single male Christian, at this time, is unable to present the lesson. All the Christians in the village gather for the Lord's Day worship and have a separate class only for women for further edification. I advised this lady to help the man (in private) prepare lessons by reading the Bible to him so that he could memorize Bible verses and then discuss those verses during the worship hour.

Each trip I make to Asia I realize how truly blessed and spoiled we are in America. I also realize that souls are hungry for God's Word in many of the areas to which we travel. This hunger is evident by the students' attention in the hot, humid climate at the school as they listen attentively to the lessons we present. Many of the students travel great distances in what we Americans would consider unacceptable vehicles on roads that are full of potholes, only to sleep on cement floors for five weeks in order to study God's Word. The courage and dedication of two ladies I previously mentioned reminds me of many of the New Testament Bible characters found in the book of Acts. They are an encouragement to me, and I hope that their story will encourage you to stand firmly on God's Word, proclaiming it far and wide as you have opportunity. Please keep these and all Christians around the world in your daily prayers. 



India, Sri Lanka & Myanmar 2009 Photos



**Rushmore Evangelism Fund:
September—November 21, 2009**

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Beginning Available Balance | \$6,766.36 |
| Beginning Foreign Travel Balance | \$2,405.64 |
| Beginning Philip's Computer Balance | \$30.00 |
| Beginning Tracts (for Asia) Balance | \$600.00 |

Income

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Contributions | \$9,370.00 |
| Printing/Book Sales | \$3,989.82 |
| Foreign Travel | \$3,055.00 |
| Stateside Travel | \$915.00 |
| Tracts (for Asia) | \$65.00 |
| Computer for Burmese Preacher | <u>\$15.00</u> |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$17,409.82 |

Expenses

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Auto Expenses | \$1,125.83 |
| Stateside Travel | \$865.31 |
| Foreign Travel (lodging, meals, | \$3,467.47 |
| Teacher Activity Bags | \$97.63 |
| Computer for Burmese Preacher | \$100.00 |
| Lectureships/Workshops | \$90.00 |
| Tracts for Asia | \$950.00 |
| Office | \$235.71 |
| Postage & Shipping | \$208.64 |
| Internet (Domain Name) | \$114.95 |
| Printing Expenses | \$614.59 |
| Office Telephone | \$461.98 |
| Medical Treatment | \$400.00 |
| Bank Fees | \$12.64 |
| Medical Insurance | \$0.00 |
| Life Insurance | \$100.58 |
| Housing | \$1,203.43 |
| Salary | <u>\$4,500.00</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$14,548.76 |
| MONTHLY NET | \$2,861.06 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Available Balance | \$11,959.37 |
| Foreign Travel Balance | \$1,114.69 |
| Tracts/Literature Balance | \$0.00 |

**Yes, we want to help
the Rushmores save souls
as they continue the
missionary legacy of
J.C. & Betty Choate
and labor with the Barriers
and the Bates & 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 gift of \$_____, beginning _____ (month) to help the Rushmores spread the Gospel far and near.
- Here is my gift of \$_____ toward the \$5,000 needed for 5,000 NKJV Bibles for India.
- Here is my gift of \$_____ toward the \$100,000 needed for 1,000,000 tracts in various languages for Asia.
- We want to schedule Louis Rushmore for a PowerPoint presentation on:
 - worldwide missions
 - The One True Church of the Bible
 - Beverage Alcohol
- We want to schedule Louis Rushmore for a Gospel meeting.
- We want to schedule Bonnie Rushmore for a Ladies' Day.

Name _____
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**Mail to the Rushmores'
sponsoring congregation:
Vermilion Church of Christ
5116 Driftwood Dr.
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Louis Rushmore
World Evangelism
P.O. Box 72
Winona, MS 38967

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Place Label Here

(Continued from page 2 We're Back)

and had lunch with Seroja and P.R. Swamy in their home. That evening, we had a Bible study in the home of one of the members of the Davis Road congregation with 36 in attendance at last count. The room was no bigger than 10 X 10, a cement building. Half of those in attendance were children. Louis attempted to teach them the song, "Good Ole Noah." Brother Swamy taught the lesson. From there, we traveled to another member's home where some teen children asked Louis Bible questions.

At 2:00 a.m. **October 21st**, we left for the airport to begin the next segment of our trip. Brother Swamy accompanied us to Colombo, Sri Lanka. Wednesday evening two congregations met together for Bible class with about 20 in attendance. Louis taught the "Parable of the Sower." Unfortunately, Louis was losing his voice due to chest congestion and a sore throat. Even with the microphone, it was difficult to hear him. While in Colombo, we visited the radio station where most of the radio programs sponsored by World Evangelism are aired. By **Sunday**, Louis' voice had cleared enough that he was able to teach Bible class and preach. We left for the airport at 9 p.m. to continue our journey.

At **Monday, October 26** at 8:45 a.m., we arrived in Yangon, Burma. Beginning **Tuesday, October 27**, we began our daily 45-minute drive to Hmawbi Bible School. Louis and I taught various classes from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. or so for the next three weeks. This year, the 50 students in attendance were divided into three classes: the beginner's class taught by local preachers, the advanced class taught by Louis and the ladies' class, which I taught.

Sunday, November 1, Louis preached at the Eight Mile congregation in the morning, and immediately following lunch, we traveled an hour away to a new congregation in Than Lyin Kyauk Tan, where I taught a children's class and Louis preached in the worship service; this congregation grew out of conversions in the Buddhist village we visited and in which we taught last year.

Friday night, November 6, we left Yangon for Chaung Tha Beach, which is on the Bay of Bengal. We travel by bus for nine hours on what would barely pass for roads. Many bridges consisted of wooden planks, and one bridge we walked across, getting back on the bus after it crossed the bridge. Chaung Tha Beach had five Christians meeting, and one more obeyed the Gospel the Sunday we were there. There is no public electricity available in Chaung Tha Beach, so the hotel ran a generator only from 6 p.m. to about 5:30 a.m.; the generator did not have enough power to run the air conditioner consistently, making for hot nights. With the windows open during the day and early evening, the room filled with mosquitoes, and Sunday night, Louis was bitten multiple times. Fortunately, they left me alone! Perhaps that means he's sweeter than I am. Louis preached **Saturday afternoon and Sunday**, as well as spoke in several homes in the village. Seven O'clock Sunday morning, about 20 to 25 children gathered for Bible class for two hours. We returned to Yangon **Monday, November 9**.

Sunday, November 15, Louis preached at the Eight Mile congregation in the morning and at the congregation meeting in Esther's home at 4 p.m. Following the afternoon service, we packed our bags in preparation for our return flight at 10 a.m. the next morning. We arrived in Jackson, MS 7:30 a.m. **Tuesday, November 17**.

Our trip this year lasted one day short of six weeks. Our days were filled with teaching mostly Christians. We renewed acquaintances with those we met last year and met other longtime overseas coworkers of the Choates. Burmese brethren are responsible for the growth of the Lord's church in Myanmar since last year with the beginning of several new congregations, and our efforts last year and this year help equip the brethren to make such progress; the same thing is true about our efforts in India, etc. We left Burma with mixed emotions, ready to return home and see our loved ones here, but reluctant to leave the Burmese brethren whom we have grown to love. 📖