

Rushmore Newsletter

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Sponsor:

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

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Adventures Abroad: Fall 2010

Louis Rushmore

Statistical Overview

Bonnie and I, along with Therman Hodge from Meridian, MS, spent 30 days abroad from October 6 through November 6, 2010. Our travels took us approximately 25,000 miles from Memphis to the other side of the planet and back, on 13 airplanes operated by four different airlines. We spent 63 total hours in the air, twice more than 12 hours at a time, plus over 17 hours in airports waiting for our flights. Further, we were 53½ hours (plus additional incidental taxis) aboard one form or another of foreign vehicles for ground travel, ranging from motorized rickshaws to moving wrecks dubbed taxis to occasionally a comfortable contemporary and roadworthy car.

Ordinarily, our mission trips overseas concentrate on teaching brethren more perfectly or extensively the Word of God, and we equip them to evangelize their own nations more effectively. With the apostle Paul we could say, “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel...” (1 Corinthians 1:17). That is, we are not characterized by seeking *baptism notches on our belts!* Nevertheless, some baptisms do occur from time to time as often evangelists bring their contacts to the seminars, Gospel meetings and worship services in which we teach or preach. Rather than we American Christians being responsible for impulsive responses to be baptized, the occasions of our speaking appointments provide further oppor-

tunity and encouragement to prospects with whom our brethren have been studying already.

Our adventures abroad in the fall of 2010 (October—November) took us to various cities and villages in India and Myanmar (Burma). Bonnie had opportunity to speak 25 hours to ladies and children, sometimes to over 200 at a time. I spoke 32 hours, and Therman Hodge spoke 44½ hours, for a team total of 101½ hours. (Additional World Evangelism team members joined us in Myanmar, and still others had preceded us and left already by the time of our arrival. Their hours of instruction are not included in this overview.) Our team of three had 54 occasions to speak publicly in India and Myanmar, and in those instances, we addressed a sum of about 1,655 precious souls. On



more than one occasion, especially Therman and I addressed persons representing over 13 congregations, and on other occasions in a different place, we spoke to evangelists from 72 churches of Christ. Visible results included 24 baptisms – 14 of which occurred in one village – and two restora-

tions. Brethren expressed appreciation to us and determined to evangelize their communities more zealously with the Gospel of Christ.

Herein these paragraphs above is an overview of the statistics respecting our most recent mission trip to India and Myanmar. Our trip was shortened by 10 days due to tenuous political circumstances in Myanmar, or otherwise we would have extended our stay abroad on this trip. The

following paragraphs provide some details of our adventures abroad in the fall of 2010.

Elections in Myanmar

Due to a national election in Myanmar scheduled for November 7, our Burmese brethren advised us to leave their country not later than November 5, which we did. The military government, which seized power about two decades ago, and imprisoned for the last 15 years the democratically elected leader, donned civilian clothes on some of the top military leaders, dissolved one or more opposition parties and scheduled an election in an attempt to legitimize itself in the eyes of the rest of the world. Resistance to the military government has sporadically manifested itself in bombings and standing armed militias that control some parts of the nation. Our brethren in Myanmar look to the unfolding of these events with some hope, but they will endure irrespective of the outcome. I could not bear the thought of tragedy befalling our beloved Burmese brethren and friends; please pray for them.

Before our departure, in an attempt to control the country as much as possible, factories were closed, international phone and Internet services were suspended, domestic airlines were grounded and measures were in place for imposing a curfew. Police and military units were activated, and they were visible more than usual.

A Ride with Jehu's Descendant in Bangalore

In 2 Kings 9:20 appears a reference to the way in which the Bible character Jehu “furiously” drove his chariot. Well, we met Jehu’s de-

scendant one would think in Bangalore, India. Several of our short trips in Bangalore were aboard what Indians call an “*auto*.” It is a three-wheeled, motorized, green and yellow, sheet metal version of a rickshaw. It has one seat for a driver, behind which is a bench seat designed to hold three Indians – or two Americans. We, however, were required to put three Americans and one Indian on that bench seat! First, we tried putting me on one side with Bonnie sitting on my lap, Therman beside me in the middle and brother Swamy on the left of Therman – half in and half hanging out of the auto. We soon found out that the balance was off and the driver being unable to steer adequately, we almost ran over a pedestrian. So, we redistributed the weight with Bonnie and me in the center, in either case with Bonnie’s head curled forward and resting on the roof. There was little tension on the front wheel, and it probably would have been relatively easy to pop some wheelies!

On one occasion, we had the descendant of Jehu as our driver. He wanted to show us foreigners what an exceptional driver he was, and he drove full throttle down the streets, through the intersections and on the wrong side of the road, challenging traffic head on! On one occasion, he persuaded a full-sized city bus to move over. Riding in any vehicle in India is a frightening experience, but this particular trip even scared

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Sights & Sounds

Bonnie Rushmore

One of the first things one notices upon leaving the Bangalore, India airport is the endless noise and the mass of vehicles upon the road. It seems as though brakes and lights are not necessary, but a working horn and the ability to blow it constantly are required. The multiple lane highways are packed with “autos” (three-wheeled yellow and green motorized rickshaws), cars, trucks, motorcycles, pedestrians, cows and occasionally ox drawn carts, monkeys, camels and elephants. Therman observed that Bangalore has a population of 9,000,000 people and 10,000,000 motorcycles. Stop signs and traffic lights are ignored, most of the time, and each driver believes his destination is more important than anyone else’s, so there is continual weaving in and out of traffic. We have seen accidents along the highway with what appears should be fatalities, and I do not understand why there are not many more. Nighttime driving is far worse than daylight because for some unknown reason the drivers typically do not run

with the headlights on but flash them on occasion in order to see what may be ahead and to alert oncoming traffic. I decided it was better to go to sleep in the car than to observe the many near misses as we traveled back to Bangalore from our trip to Namakkal. However, when the breaks were quickly applied, jerking the car, I would open my eyes to see the backend of a truck




looming just in front of the bumper; I am not so sure sleeping was the answer.

Early morning brings the street vendors out pushing their carts laden with fruits and vegetables. They walk down the streets calling out to the residents, announcing their arrival in hopes of selling their goods. Along the streets are clusters of small stores with fruits or vegetables beautifully dis-

played enticing the buyer to stop. Other stores may display flowers, plumbing parts, electronics or other specialty items, and one small shop seems to have everything. One needs only to ask and the clerk will dig it out from under a counter or from a shelf that is not visible as one enters the small building. Cows freely roam the streets, eating the garbage piled upon the edge of the road.

The type of houses varies widely throughout the region, with most homes in the city comprised of masonry while those outside the city are constructed of boards or are thatch huts. The driving habits do not change when leaving the city but the landscape turns from buildings to open fields of rice, orchards and other vegetation. Coconut and banana trees are in abundance.

The sights and sounds of Yangon, Myanmar and its surrounding area are about the same. There seems to be more lush greenery with less garbage piles and dust than we experienced in India. Also, there seems to be fewer vehicles lining the streets, and cows do not freely roam the city roads. Once leaving the city, ox and horse drawn carts are popular as well as tri-shaws (a bicycle with a side seat for carrying up to two passengers).

This was our third trip to India and our fourth trip to Myanmar, and I am still amazed at the sights and sounds so common to these countries and so foreign to my eyes and ears in this country. When I asked Therman what surprised him the most about our trip, he said it was the traffic in Bangalore. I must admit it still surprises me as well. 

(Continued from page 3 *Adventures Abroad*)

brother Swamy. Jehu sideswiped the mirror of one passing vehicle, and while readjusting his mirror would have plowed us into stopped traffic except that Swamy grabbed hold of the driver and shook him to redirect his focus – just in time! After that, we didn't ride in any more *autos* while in India.

Remuneration: A Live Chicken and Fresh Water Buffalo Milk!

On one of our evening appointments for a Gospel meeting in India, when the road ended, we sensed that we had to be close to our destination that night. The public electricity in this area had failed before our arrival, and by flashlight, we spotted and moved the water buffalo from the entrance of the place of meeting for a little congregation. Upon entering, we discovered a live rooster on a shelf over the doorway. Inside, sitting on the floor, were numerous local Christians who were awaiting our arrival. We were honored with leis to express their appreciation for our presence. After the night's service concluded, we were treated to fresh coconut milk from the coconuts, and upon leaving, we were given *a live chicken*, about a liter of *fresh water buffalo milk* and some fruit for the children's home back in Kakinada, India. I'm just happy we were not given a live pig, which I pictured as slobbering all over the back of our necks as we rode the hour back to our lodging!

30 Days of Rice!

Probably at least once daily for 30 days, we ate rice: steamed rice, fried rice or yellow rice. In addition, most of the time our beverage of either choice or availability was bottled water. **Thirty**

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days of rice and water! Our meals were usually complemented with chicken, strange vegetables and fruits, and hot spices throughout except for the fruits and rice. Curry aplenty accompanied our travels, and those spicy foods will continue emitting an aroma from our pores for weeks to come after our return to the USA. Our first stateside meal upon deplaning was a Cracker Barrel pancake breakfast, and a West Texas Roadhouse supper with a glorified chopped *beef* steak cannot be far behind!

Bucket and Cup Bathing

Throughout the two weeks Bonnie and I spent in India this trip, we missed two things when it came to bathing: a working shower and hot water. Only occasionally did we have either. Everywhere, though, we had available to us a bucket of cold water and a cup. While better than nothing, that arrangement is far from ideal. Bonnie kept hoping that the next place we stayed would be better, but it wasn't. Finally, we affixed our hopes for a hot shower on our stay in Myanmar, and happily, we were not disappointed. We can more easily get through the hot, humid, uncomfortable days when we can expect a hot shower at the end of the day and AC in the room while we sleep. Before arriving in Myanmar, though, we had to content ourselves with the routine of pouring a cup of cold water over ourselves, lathering with bar soap and rinsing with cups of cold water. Bonnie had difficulty especially washing her hair, and my hair never felt clean, but got thicker day by day! Before leaving India, I purchased an electric coil that runs on 220 volts that is designed for heating buckets of water; next year, we will be ready for India and bucket and cup bathing.

Almost a Grease Spot on the Roadway!

Most evenings, we walked from our hotel in Yangon, Myanmar the few blocks to the home of Winsome and Sheila Vertannes for supper. To do this, we had to cross six lanes of fast moving traffic. On two occasions, misjudgment of the traffic on my part nearly resulted in me being run over

by the onslaught of cars, trucks and buses. Once, I was caught in three lanes of rushing vehicles and at least one of them brushed my clothing. That may have been the instance in which I was so elated that I survived to make it to the other side that I continued down the sidewalk, forgetting Bonnie who was still picking her way through the moving traffic; one just does not want to be amidst Yangon traffic when the light turns green!

Tens of Thousands of Tracts

Bonnie and I have been raising funds from brethren for literature, chiefly for Myanmar, but also for other parts of Asia, such as India. Unlike some former efforts by brethren where excessive amounts of literature were printed, but went unused (because foreign brethren hoarded it as though it were a treasure to be banked, or it was not the type of literature most useful on the foreign field) or wasted (because it ruined before it was distributed), we parcel out funds for mostly tracts on the basis of (1) what foreign nationals can use effectively in their respective areas and (2) strongly encouraging brethren to distribute literature provided them as expeditiously as possible with the assurance that *we will make more* tracts as needed. Consequently, my tracts, *The One True Church of the Bible, Which Covenant?* and *From Creation Until Now*, are being printed by the tens of thousands for India, Myanmar and China. This involves translation into several languages of those three countries. We put \$1,680 into the hands of several Indian and Burmese brethren for this explicit purpose, plus Bibles in two languages of Myanmar, and hymnals in one of those languages. The tracts alone have more potential for evangelizing large segments of populations in India and Myanmar than our presence twice a year in those countries for two or three months.

Besides our clothes, Bonnie and I lugged 100 pounds of books from the USA through India and Myanmar to leave with brethren in those countries. In addition, we sent at least 50 pounds of books with workers who preceded us to Myanmar this fall. We also took some new books that we

**Rushmore Evangelism Fund:
September 1, 2010—November 6, 2010**

Beginning Available Balance	\$10,720.87
Beginning Foreign Balance	-\$1,430.66
Beginning Literature & Bible Balance	\$3,546.59
Income	
Contributions	\$6,996.66
Printing/Book Sales	\$186.50
Stateside Travel	\$1,150.00
Literature & Bibles	\$2,250.00
Foreign Travel	\$9,566.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,149.16
Expenses	
Auto Expenses	\$1,832.21
Stateside Travel	\$818.72
Foreign Travel	\$8,912.74
Lectureships/Workshops	\$34.78
Literature & Bibles	\$4,180.00
Office & Misc.	\$982.21
Postage/Shipping	\$420.19
Business Use Telephones	\$282.48
Medical Treatment & Insurance	\$3,257.34
Housing	\$400.68
Salary	\$600.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$21,733.11
Monthly Balance	-\$1,583.95
Ending Available Balance	\$10,413.66
Ending Foreign Travel Balance	-\$777.40
Ending Literature & Bible Balance	\$1,616.59

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 and 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 literature for Myanmar (Burma).
- We want to schedule Louis Rushmore for a PowerPoint presentation on:
 - Worldwide Missions
 - Bible Archaeology
 - 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.

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had purchased, which we brought exclusively for the Myanmar Bible School library at Hmawbi as well as some other titles for capable evangelists there.

Summary

This was the most personally rewarding overseas campaign on which Bonnie and I have been. Further, we are confident that we proved to be more useful than we have been on any previous occasion. Our aim is to glorify God and edify souls, and this we were able to do through the participation of congregations and Christians whose financial gifts made this trip possible. 📖

