



RUSHMORE NEWSLETTER

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3,000 Miles, 60 Hours and Ten States Road Trip

By Louis Rushmore

Bonnie and I plus our daughter, Rebecca, began early on Sunday, June 29 what turned out to be a nearly 3,000-mile road trip into ten states. At trip's end, we had spent almost 60 hours in the car. This was a working trip that had as its catalyst for timing and directionality celebrating the 80th birthday of Bonnie's mother, Mary; this milestone birthday party occurred on a small, rural farm about 20 miles south of Erie, PA.

June 29, Starkville, MS It was my privilege to speak for the Starkville church of Christ, both for the Bible class (*Bible Archaeology* PowerPoint) and morning worship (*Evangelism* PowerPoint). This congregation faces the challenge of continuing an ongoing active program of evangelism while experiencing heightened postal expenses for the same as well as anticipating a four million dollar expansion to its facilities. The Starkville church of Christ heartily embraces a ministry with students from Mississippi State University and is one of the most heavily involved congregations with World Bible School students abroad. We were well received and World Evangelism was praised as a longstanding and worthy work. We hope that this congregation will entertain a small, monthly contribution to our good efforts despite its substantial present obligations.

June 29, Tuscaloosa, AL Sunday evening, we three were pleased to worship with the East Point church of Christ, where I spoke about *Evangelism* (PowerPoint). Delightfully and quite unexpectedly, we were invited to spend the night in the home of brother and sister Evans; we are humbled by such acts of hospitality. Brethren really get to know each other much better through extensions of such hospitality than merely meeting for class and worship or staying in a motel. Brethren encouraged us in our labors with World Evangelism, and we hope that this small congregation will participate with us financially on a monthly basis in taking the Gospel overseas.

June 30, Ringgold, GA Early Monday afternoon, we stopped by Gospel Broadcast Network (GBN) where we were greeted by brother Jim Dearman. We left about 200 copies of my book, *Beverage Alcohol*, for possible free distribution to the audience of an upcoming television program addressing the Bible and social drinking. Anywhere from 200 to 1,000 requests for free material typically follow offers on their television broadcasts. In addition, callers responding to other offers or asking questions may be offered various materials, including *Beverage Alcohol*. Through the generosity of a brother in Texas, about 3,500 copies of this book have been given away over the last year and a half. If GBN needs more of my book for free distribution, we will ensure that they have them to give away.

June 30, Shady Valley, TN While traveling toward GBN, brother Jim Sherman called us and invited us to spend the next few days in his empty retirement house in Shady Valley, TN. We had anticipated staying in a motel, as we had anticipated staying in a motel the night before; however, the generous hospitality of brethren contributed immeasurably to the conservation of limited financial resources and afforded us incomparable hospitality. We arrived in Shady Valley that evening, coincidentally driving over the mountain into Shady Valley in tandem with our host and hostess who were returning home from a visit to a funeral home. The Shermans were gracious hosts, part of which graciousness has helped especially me add some pounds.

July 1, Elizabethton, TN Tuesday morning, it was my good pleasure to visit for the first time the Tri-Cities School of Preaching. After greeting brothers Eddy Craft and Wesley Simons, and after introduction to the balance of the staff and student body, I made my *Bible Archaeology* PowerPoint presentation in chapel. We left numerous mission books for the school library as well as several editions of the *World Evangelism* that brother J.C. Choate formerly edited. We left encouraged by the good work ongoing there to prepare Christians to better serve the cause of Christ.

July 2, Shady Valley, TN The Shady Valley community is a small, isolated cross-roads, ringed on three sides by mountains. We traveled two of these three mountains and the third mountain was nicknamed "the snake," which because of its deserved reputation made it very popular with motorcyclists. The signs on these mountains didn't mess around

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with warnings about curves, but instead warned of “switchbacks”; the GPS device attached to my windshield looked like a box of snakes! The tree coverage was so dense that our GPS also lost satellite reception. The fourth side of the valley was open along a creek, until reaching a natural stone wall, through which formerly the railroad had bored a tunnel of about 10 feet in length and which now sported a two-lane highway. It was here that the Shermans took us on a picnic and hiking, including over the tunnel. This was a delightful side excursion to the trip. That night (Wednesday), I spoke about *Evangelism* (PowerPoint) and was well received. We hope that this good church may decide to participate with us in our labors to take the Gospel abroad.

July 3, Abingdon, VA We met the elders of the Abingdon church of Christ about noon on Thursday. This congregation is already helping with World Evangelism monthly. We apprised them of the ongoing work, especially since the illness and death of brother J.C. Choate, and we asked them to consider any extra funds that they may be able to direct toward Bonnie and me as we labor with World Evangelism. The Abingdon church of Christ has grown considerable over the decades since our labors in Virginia and our subsequent trips through the area since. We are happy for its achievements and anticipate continued strength and growth.

July 3, Wheeling, WV A long day of driving behind us, we spent the evening and overnight with Judy and Emanuel Daugherty in Bethlehem, WV (same zip code as Wheeling, WV). We had not been able to reach Judy and Emanuel because, as it turned out, they were on vacation in New England. However, Bonnie had mentioned via a phone conversation to Mary Aston (outside of Cameron, WV) that we were trying to get a hold of the Daugherty’s to see if we could lodge with them when in the area; Mary subsequently left a message on the Daugherty’s answerer that especially since we were staying with them that they should come out with us to a Cameron church of Christ picnic. Then, Mary conveyed to Martha Noland (of Chester, WV and New Freeport, PA) that she had mentioned to the Daugherty’s that we were staying with them; all this I found out when Martha and Bonnie talked while we were driving toward West Virginia. That means Judy and Emanuel were anticipating our arrival before I had even asked if it were convenient for us to lodge with them. No wonder when I called Emanuel while hustling down the highways that he said, “You’re late for supper!” When we did arrive, much later, we enjoyed one another’s company, and Emanuel played with his trains. (We love trains!)

July 4, Moundsville, WV We three drove 30 minutes south after breakfast at Bob Evans with Emanuel and Judy to visit with Liz Robison, dear friend, supporter and librarian for West Virginia School of Preaching. (We left several missions books and a set of *World Evangelism* with Emanuel Daugherty, an instructor, for the school.) Sister Robison has been experiencing some minor health hiccups and is doing well, for which we are thankful.

July 4-5, Meadville, PA Several hours later, we arrived in rural Pennsylvania about 20 miles south of Erie. Saturday, the 5th, Rebecca secretly celebrated her birthday, and we all with other kinsmen celebrated Mary Reed’s (Bonnie’s mother) birthday with a picnic on the micro-farm.

July 5-6, Martinsburg, WV Late in the day, Bonnie, Rebecca and I began our several hour journey to the Central church of Christ in Martinsburg, WV where I was to speak

the following day in the Bible class (*Evangelism* PowerPoint) and in worship (*Bible Archaeology* PowerPoint). I got lost owing to confusing the respective exit numbers for our motel and the meetinghouse, and misunderstanding the Google Map directions (GPS had no clue). However, temporary frustration aside, we arrived at the church parking lot in time for a beautiful fireworks display. (July 3 in Wheeling during rain and low clouds, fireworks explosions alternately turned clouds from one color to another, not actually disclosing the fireworks themselves. That was an interestingly different perspective.) We had good interaction with the brethren at Central, and upon speaking with the elders, encouraged them to give serious consideration to helping us at least a little monthly in our evangelistic efforts; we have been doing fairly well in securing one time funds, especially when visiting with congregations, but we have not done well enough in securing monthly commitments to make short and long term plans respecting our work.

July 6-7, Cameron, WV It worked on paper, but the trip between Martinsburg and Cameron, WV did not work well in actuality that Sunday afternoon. Owing to a ten-mile-long traffic jam for over an hour on I-70 south of I-68, and to a traffic stoppage of six minutes on I-68 at Morgantown, WV, evening worship of the Cameron church of Christ had begun just before our arrival. With a shaky start, inclusive of assembling the necessary equipment and booting the laptop computer (while singing hymns), I presented the PowerPoint lesson, *Cruise Ship or Battleship*. We enjoyed pizza and punch after evening services, with a church picnic encore at Mary Aston’s farm the following night.

July 8, New Freeport, PA Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, we stayed with Bob and Martha Noland at the preacher’s residence for the New Freeport church of Christ. Tuesday we drove to Morgantown to Cheddar’s Restaurant and did a little shopping; otherwise, back at the house, we simply vegetated, and enjoyed each other’s company. Not the least of the activities during this temporary downtime was clothes washing, since Sunday we wore the last of our clean clothes we had with us. (Thank you, Bonnie! She vegetated a little less than I did.)

July 9, Sandyville, WV After repacking our freshly laundered clothes, we made our way to the Sandyville church of Christ. We were the guests of Julene and Rodney Nulph for a very delicious supper. Their little boy and infant girl are as precious as is the whole family to Bonnie and me. Rodney is a graduate of the West Virginia School of Preaching where I was privileged to teach for 10 years, and Rodney is the able preacher for the Sandyville congregation and one of the editors for *Gospel Gazette Online*. That evening, I made my *Evangelism* PowerPoint presentation. Afterward, owing to the Nulph family vacation that our presence had already delayed by one day, we were overnight guests of one of the elders and his wife, John and Susan Baylis. Brother Baylis was particularly interested in the part of the World Evangelism program where we not only teach and baptize, but also see to the ongoing teaching of new converts through the established and continuing congregations overseas. In addition, he appreciates the Bible schools that emphasize the preparation of native Christians abroad to do most of the evangelizing with the Gospel of their own countrymen. The Sandyville congregation is one of the finest churches of which I am aware, practicing a balanced Christianity, evangelistic and evidencing real internal strength

as well; I have spoken twice before for these brethren, and this church contributed in a big way to Bonnie and me transferring our household to Winona, MS to labor with World Evangelism. We hope that they will help us monthly in this good work.

July 10-11 GPS quit working once at a critical time in the northward part of our trip, and likewise, it quit working for hours upon our homeward journey, too. We got lost (temporarily) after making a side trip to the Kentucky Railway Museum. Thursday, July 10, we spent the night at Motel 6; for many minutes, we could see it, but could not figure out how to get to it (that happened the year before trying to get to a Motel 6 in Columbus, OH.) We had checked our email once briefly when in a Martinsburg, WV motel (courtesy of the Central church of Christ), and we thought we would check our email at Motel 6 since they advertised wireless Internet. We came to find out that only some of the rooms were wired for Internet (not ours), that the balance of the rooms might be able to receive wireless Internet upon renting an Internet card from the motel, but the Internet cards were locked away in the motel safe, which was damaged and could not be opened.

Not only had we crossed through at least parts of 10 states, we crisscrossed especially West Virginia. I spoke with seven churches about our work with World Evangelism and gave packets of information to members from additional churches as well. All things considered, we about broke even between expenses and gifts or book sales during this trip. The Gospel was preached; brethren were visited; and new friends were made. We pray that several Christian families and congregations will prayerfully consider participating with us in taking the Gospel to the world through mass evangelism and foreign Bible schools. May God be glorified, and may souls be won for the cause of Christ. 📖

Hospitality

By Bonnie Rushmore

According to *Nelson's Bible Dictionary*, the Greek word translated "hospitality" literally means "love of strangers." A quick look at the Old Testament reveals several examples of hospitality. Some of them are Abraham (Gen. 18:1-8), Lot (Gen. 19:1-3), Laban (Gen. 24:25, 31-33), the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:8-10) and Job (Job 31:17-20). Likewise, the New Testament records examples of hospitality. Mary & Martha (Luke 10:18-32), early Christians (Acts 2:45-46), Dorcas (Acts 9:36-43) and Lydia (Acts 16:14-15) are just a few of the instances of hospitality in the New Testament. In Matthew 25:34-46, Jesus praised those who offered hospitality to strangers and condemned those who failed to show hospitality. Further, Jesus used the act of hospitality to define one's neighbor in Luke 10:33-42.

Some would suggest that the acts of hospitality mentioned in the Bible were required because of the culture and the lack of the modern conveniences of motels and restaurants. Thus, some might suppose that the biblical instruction to extend hospitality does not apply today. Is this idea correct? Let us look to the Bible to find the answer. One of the qualifications of an elder is that he be given to hospitality (1 Tim. 3:2) and a lover of hospitality (Titus 1:8). Paul told the Roman Christians to be hospitable (Rom. 12:13); the author of the book of Hebrews reminded its readers to entertain strangers since some entertained angels without knowing it

World Evangelism Statistical Summary

- 46 years of foreign evangelism
- 36 foreign weekly radio programs
- 8 foreign weekly TV programs
- 9 foreign Bible schools
- 250,000 responses annually
- 3,500 conversions annually
- 75% to 80% retention rate
- 200 congregations established
- 40,000+ *Voice of Truth International* quarterly (English)
- *Voice of Truth International* (Tamil, Telegu & Spanish)
- Internet (*Gospel Gazette Online*)
- Massive literature distribution
- Foreign campaigns

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their part to carry on the noble, decades
old work of J.C. & Betty Choate?**

(Heb. 13.2). Peter stated that we are to use hospitality toward one another without grudging or resentment (1 Peter 4:9). These references alone should impress upon us that God expects Christians to extend hospitality to others.

True hospitality is not inviting our close friends into our homes for an evening of fun, although all Christians need this type of fellowship. True hospitality is reaching out to those we do not know and to those in need.

Louis and I were been blessed by the hospitality shown to us as we visited many congregations over the past several months. Families that we had never met have taken us into their homes for a meal and a place to rest. We were treated royally. Many times the accommodations are nicer than some motels in which we occasionally stay. The encouragement we receive is outstanding. The friendships we have developed are wonderful. Yes, the Bible teaches that all Christians are to extend hospitality to others, and many Christians are practicing the biblical example today. To those who have treated us

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so wonderfully, we thank you. To those who are treating others as God has commanded, we commend you. To all others who may read this, we encourage you to except the opportunities to show hospitality. A sandwich, a place to freshen and change clothes, and a clean bed in which to rest is sufficient. You will be encouraged and uplifted for your efforts, and God will be pleased. 📖

Rushmore Evangelism Fund: July 2008

Beginning Balance		\$1,599.63
Income		
Contributions	\$3,340.61	
Printing/Book Sales	\$165.84	
Travel	<u>\$1,213.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,719.45	
Expenses		
Auto Expenses	\$964.55	
Stateside Travel	\$278.35	
Foreign Travel (Immunizations & \$50.00 earmarked for Rebecca's Guyana Trip)	\$90.00	

Office	\$438.81
Postage & Shipping	\$137.56
Internet (yearly fee)	\$349.50
Printing Expenses	\$477.46
Office Telephone	\$118.49
Medical Treatment	\$80.08
Bank Fees (Rebate)	-\$19.41
Medical Insurance	\$0.00
Life Insurance	\$50.29
Housing	\$347.21
Salary	<u>\$1,752.43</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,065.32
BALANCE	-\$345.87
Ending Balance	\$1,253.76
Foreign Travel Balance	\$1,100.00