



RUSHMORE NEWSLETTER

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Two Orphan Girls

By Louis Rushmore

An eight-year-old Burmese girl whose name I do not remember and which I could not pronounce lost both of her parents in the 2008 cyclone that ravished the southwest region of her country. Her Buddhist parents were some of the upwards of 1,200,000

who lost their lives in that horrific storm. One of her parents died as a direct result of the cyclone, and her other parent died from malaria after the storm. Having survived, but without other family members to care for her, this little orphaned girl was alone.

Indirectly, the churches of Christ dramatically improved her lot in life.



Tenderhearted American Christians instantly contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars following the cyclone, which enabled American and Pilipino Christians, but especially Burmese Christians, to distribute benevolent relief to many of the survivors. Whereas the Burmese government refused to cooperate with benevolent countries and international aid organizations, the churches of Christ were able to distribute rice, cooking oil, sleeping mats and blue tarps for roofing (until thatch was available again). However, especially Burmese evangelists who distributed benevolent relief in the hardest hit areas also taught the Gospel of Christ to the beneficiaries of that benevolence.

Consequently, there were two spiritual results that accompanied the physical goal of saving lives. Besides saving many physical lives, many of these formerly Buddhist people obeyed the Gospel, becoming our brothers and sisters in Christ. They became spiritually alive, too. Secondly, grateful Buddhist neighborhoods and villages continue to permit Christians to regularly teach them about the God of the universe and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. One Buddhist village in particular built a one-room, bamboo, thatched roof, dirt floor building expressly for the churches of Christ to teach them about the Bible. On one occasion, 65 children, many men and women, and the village elder assembled for just such an encounter. It was my privilege to be their instructor in Christ that Saturday afternoon.

One of the new converts and his wife built a one-room meetinghouse for new Christians in the delta in which to worship. This Christian couple is



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also practicing the benevolence of James 1:27 by taking in the orphaned girl already mentioned to raise her as their own. They have a four-year-old boy, and now he has an eight-year-old sister, both of whom are being reared by Christian parents.

. . . the churches of Christ were able to distribute rice, cooking oil, sleeping mats and blue tarps for roofing . . . as well as the Gospel of Jesus Christ .

Nearly thirty years ago, another Christian sister took into her home an orphaned girl. Subsequently though, the government removed this academically talented child from the home to groom her for future service. Then decades later, armed soldiers closed down a Bible School operated by the churches of Christ in Myanmar (Burma). The good sister who had taken the orphaned girl into her home years before and a couple of Christian brethren repeatedly petitioned various levels of government officials to permit the reopening of the school. Every effort was met with the denial of their request. They feared severe retribution (maybe even death) from a harsh government if their final appeal also was denied. However, their final appeal was heard before a female general, who as it turned out, had been the orphaned girl twenty-eight years before who had been befriended by the widowed sister in Christ who now stood before her.

Two orphan girls three decades apart demonstrate the impact of Christianity in what we might think is an unlikely and hostile environment. Surely the providence of God coupled with the act of Christianity of a good sister in Christ provided this female general the opportunity and the inclination to permit the Bible school to reopen with government permission. Further, who is to say that God's providence coupled with active Christianity is any less responsible for the introduction of the eight-year-old orphan girl into a Christian family recently? These accounts are only a couple of instances in which generous Christians on this side of the planet have made a real difference in the physical and spiritual lives of precious souls a world away. You, too, can make a real difference through your prayers, moral encouragement and financial participation. †

Work Days

By Bonnie Rushmore

From time to time, groups of Christians arrive in Winona to spend a day or two completing necessary tasks that those of us living in Winona do not have time to accomplish with our other duties. January 18-19, 2009 was one of those occasions. Sunday evening, a group of young people, and a few not so young, from the Strickland church of Christ (Glen, MS) arrived to spend the next day working in the office building. Monday morning, three young adults from the Indianola (MS) church of Christ joined the group. After a hearty breakfast, everyone was given his or her assignment.

Three young people joined our daughter, Rebecca, in the archive room sorting, cataloguing and moving books. Two young people painted the upstairs bathroom. Several individuals stamped, labeled, stuffed, taped and prepared for mailing two separate newsletters for a total of approximately 1,000 pieces of mail. Some of the strong-backed young men spent most of the



day at the old office building/warehouse next to the Choate residence. They loaded a trailer with old literature to be taken to a container for overseas use, set items no longer needed out for the trash (or anyone who could use it) and moved boxes of books from the old office/warehouse building to the office/warehouse.

Late in the afternoon, after a hot cooked lunch, the weary workers loaded into their respective vehicles and headed home. Their help was much appreciated.

The last week of January, our dear friends, Bob and Martha Noland from Hanoverton, OH visited for a few days. Martha (who cannot sit still) spent several hours cleaning out filing cabinet drawers, stamping envelopes and other odd jobs. Bob busied himself by reading some of the many books filling the bookcases at the office building. We always enjoy our visits together and hated to see them go.



We also appreciate the help of others when it comes time to unload pallets of books from tractor trailers. Fortunately, we have been able to schedule several book deliveries during our monthly "School of Missions." The saying that "many hands make light work" has new meaning when several young men unload and stack hundreds of boxes of *The Voice of Truth International* and other books upon arrival from the printer. These willing hands also taped and labeled the boxes of *The Voice of Truth International* in preparation for mailing to stateside recipients. As you can see from the accompanying pictures, we employ all ages as we train our youth at an early age to work for the Lord.†



Family Time

By Bonnie Rushmore

An advantage of moving from West Virginia to Winona, MS for us is being closer to our daughter, Rebecca, in Collierville, TN. As a schoolteacher, Rebecca has holidays and weekends off from work. Since she is just two hours away, we are blessed with her frequent visits and help in the office and archive room at the World Evangelism building. In addition, when we are travelling to Memphis and beyond, we can easily stop by for a visit or a free room when we are too tired to drive home after a Sunday evening appointment.

We were pleased to have Rebecca home for almost a week for Thanksgiving—an impossibility when we lived in West Virginia. Three short weeks later, she returned for two and a half weeks during her Christmas break. Spending time with her is always a pleasure, and her help with the day-to-day tasks at the office and home are always appreciated.

We were wonderfully surprised when we learned a couple of weeks before Christmas that our son, Raymond, serving in the (activated) Coast Guard Reserve, would return from overseas duties in time for the holidays. We were thrilled when Raymond emailed to say that he and his family were coming to visit for a few days after Christmas while the grandsons were on school break.

Sunday evening December 27th, Raymond, Vanessa, Eli and Nate arrived to spend some time with us. We had not seen them since our move to Winona a little over a year ago (the downside of moving several hundred miles away). We enjoyed our two and a half days. We made cookies, played games, showed pictures of our trip and of course the boys played trains with Grandpa. All too soon, it was time for them to return home.



While in Pennsylvania the first part of December, we visited my mother. She is in the early stages of Alzheimer. Unfortunately, she did not recognize me when we first arrived at the nursing home; however, after speaking to her she realized who I was and was glad for our visit. This has been the case with each of our last few visits. Part of the problem was that she was not expecting to see us as we do not tell her we are coming (so we don't disappoint her if we are unable to keep our plans). Mom and several other residents and some of the staff enjoyed the pictures of our overseas mission trip, and we have an invitation to make a full presentation on our next visit.

Family time is always enjoyable. We thank God for the opportunities we have to spend with families and love ones.†

Still Outstanding Rushmore Funding Goals

Foreign Travel Funds/Louis & Bonnie (\$20,000 annually)

Foreign Travel Funds/Rebecca (\$3,000 annually)

Overseas Literature Distribution (\$2,000 annually)

Computer for Bible School Co-Director, Philip (\$1,000 Special)

Louis & Bonnie Support (\$2,800 Monthly)

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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.

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

**Rushmore Evangelism Fund:
 January—February 2009 Report**

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH LOUIS & BONNIE RUSHMORE FOR A LIVE MISSION REPORT TO YOUR CONGREGATION .

Beginning Balance	\$2,797.43
Income	
Contributions	\$8,440.00
Printing/Book Sales	\$193.34
Foreign Travel	
Travel	\$1,450.00
Philip's Computer (Myanmar Preacher)	\$15.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,098.34
Expenses	
Auto Expenses	\$652.89
Stateside Travel	\$1,116.87
Foreign Travel	\$144.00
Office	377.96
Postage & Shipping	\$254.55
Equipment Maintenance & Repair	\$300.00

Printing Expenses	\$276.75
Office Telephone	\$410.60
Medical Treatment	\$370.00
Bank Fees	\$1.18
Medical Insurance	\$0.00
Life Insurance	\$100.58
Housing	\$667.32
Salary	\$2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7,172.70
MONTHLY BALANCE	\$2,925.64
Available Balance	\$4,934.33
Foreign Travel Balance	\$758.74
Philip's Computer Balance	\$30.00