



RUSHMORE NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3 No. 3

JULY 2010

"We were just here, weren't we?"

Louis Rushmore

"We were just here, weren't we?" As I begin writing this, Bonnie and I sit at Gate 1 in the Yangon International Airport in Myanmar (Burma). Accompanying us are our daughter, Rebecca, and Randy Gaddy. Together, we taught English Grammar, Conversational English, Bible Reading and several biblical subjects over the past two weeks.

On weekdays, we traveled about an hour each way from our Yangon hotel to a small, steamy and humid building, which was concealed by banana, coconut and mango trees, besides being shrouded in brush, too. The meager facility (including neither western toilet nor electricity) were more than offset by about 25 nursery school students and around 25 adults, with whom we quickly exchanged our hearts. We love Burma and Burmese people, and they also love us.

Our primary student audience was comprised of young people from the middle teen years through the middle thirties, mostly women. They came from Baptist, Catholic, Buddhist and Christian backgrounds. Whereas typically we teach Christians with an occasional non-Christian present, this time, we taught chiefly non-Christians with a few members of the church in attendance. A surprise, secondary audience was the preschoolers in whose building we provided the instruction; Bonnie and Rebecca taught the little ones for two days.

Collectively, our little team of missionaries instructed young adults in biblical apologetics with a heavy emphasis on the Creator and creation, plus seeing the Master Designer in nature's intricate design. We explained biblical miracles, *The One True Church of the Bible*, the two covenants, Christian salvation, Christian living, Christian service, Christian worship, Christian doctrine and the book, *Getting to Know the Bible*. Randy guided a breakout men's class in what the Bible teaches about true love, how to be good husbands and fathers, and the importance of being morally pure. Bonnie and Rebecca taught ladies' classes especially fitting from them, too. We gave away books (*The Church of the Bible* and *Baptism*), literature, 30 NKJV Bibles (from which we read together frequently), plus toothbrushes, toothpaste, pens, tablets and snack food.

I dispensed hundreds of dollars for translation of tracts in several languages of Myanmar. Funds were provided for feeding students and staff a full meal daily, as well as for all other program expenses (local government fees, building rent, local taxis for the students and long-distance taxis for the staff daily). Including round-trip airline tickets, lodging, meals, monetary gifts (*love offerings*) to church leaders, travel money for traveling evangelists, literature, Bibles, tablets, all program expenses, etc., we **invested** over

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Sponsor:

Vermilion Church of Christ
5116 Driftwood Drive
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

Louis & Bonnie Rushmore
705 Devine Street
Winona, Mississippi 38967

662.739.3035

rushmore@gospelgazette.com
www.gospelgazette.com
www.worldevangelism.org

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Louis Rushmore

Gospel Gazette Online, Editor

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Associate Editor

Min-ga-la-bar

By Bonnie Rushmore

Min-ga-la-bar (greetings)! After three trips to Myanmar, I can greet our brethren in their native language. Only time will tell if I will remember this word upon our return to Myanmar in October.

Friday, June 18th, Louis and I mowed grass before packing clothes, stopping at the office to pick-up books for distribution in Myanmar, then headed for Collierville, TN. As we left Winona, I wondered what we forgot since we hurriedly packed, hoping to arrive in Collierville before 7:00 p.m. in time for the last night of VBS. We arrived a few minutes late. Saturday morning, we finalized the packing of our suitcases in preparation for our 4:00 p.m. departure to Memphis International Airport from Rebecca's home. Yes, we did forget a few items, so a trip to Wal-Mart entered the picture as well as lunch at a restaurant of something other than chicken and rice (the mainstay of our diet for the next two weeks).

With the political unrest in Myanmar a few months ago, we opted to wait to purchase the airline tickets upon the approval of our visas. I mistakenly printed the wrong forms for our visas, which delayed a timely approval of our trip. Our tickets did not arrive until the Wednesday before our scheduled departure, too late to choose our seats on the airplane.

This trip was extra special as Rebecca travelled with us along with Randy Gaddy, a member at the Collierville Church of Christ. Brother Don Robertson from the Collierville congregation volunteered to transport the four of us to the airport. He arrived at Rebecca's a little before 4:00 p.m., about thirty minutes after Randy. When we checked in at the ticket counter to retrieve our boarding passes, Delta Airline representatives had already assigned our seats with each of us sitting separately and scattered throughout the

plane. At Louis' request, we managed to sit two and two to San Francisco, CA, our first stop. Upon arri-



val in San Francisco, we immediately checked in to receive our boarding passes for China Air and our flights to Taipei, then another plane to Yangon. Again, the seats were already assigned, with me sitting in the front of the plane and the other three sitting together toward the back. Louis requested they seat us together, and we managed to get my seat moved to the next row over from the other three. After boarding, Randy volunteered to switch seats with me so that I could sit with Louis and Rebecca while he sat in the middle aisle with three women. The flight from Taipei to Yangon had Louis and me sitting together with Randy and Rebecca sitting a few rows away.

Another slight snag in our plans was the Gem Emporium meeting in Yangon June 24 through July 3. This program filled the two hotels in which we typically lodge. Our first choice for hotels was booked solid, while the other one agreed to let us have two rooms. When we arrived, we discovered they prepared two couple's rooms. Louis explained to the hotel staff that we needed three rooms, as Rebecca and Randy are not a couple. The hotel manager agreed to let us have three rooms until the 24, then we would need to make other arrangements. Fortunately for us, they let us keep all three rooms for the duration of our stay. Otherwise, Louis and Randy would have had to bunk together while Rebecca and I shared a room. I am sure someone was disappointed when he tried to check-in later in the week.

Tuesday morning brother Ptay arrived with a pick-up taxi to take us to a village a few miles beyond Hwambi for the first day of classes. The end of June is the beginning of the monsoon season. Heavy rains would prohibit our using the school facilities for this session. Special permission was granted by government officials to hold classes elsewhere. They

choose a government licensed private preschool about five miles beyond Hwambi.



When we arrived, brother Kway Sein informed Rebecca and me that we would be teaching the preschool class upstairs while Louis and Randy taught the young adults. I took four “teacher activity bags” with me to distribute while in Myanmar, but left them at the hotel. When will I learn? Always be prepared for whatever may be asked of you on the foreign field!



I had in my possession the six Apologetics Press preschool books that I brought to give to the

Sein Taung children. We spent the next two and a half hours teaching them some Bible songs in English, some English words and I read two of the books to them. Much to my surprise, as I read a sentence, they repeated the sentence back to me. This is the procedure for learning in their schools.

The 22 two-, three- and four-year-olds quickly won our hearts. One little girl repeatedly gave Rebecca kisses on both cheeks. Our teaching duties ended at 11:30 a.m. with lunch and a nap for the little ones. However, I suspect our presence in the building disrupted their sleep as chattering continued throughout the afternoon. When we loaded into the truck to return to the hotel about 2:00 p.m., the little ones shouted goodbye from the balcony. Throughout the next two weeks, whenever the children saw Rebecca they shouted “Sayama” “Sayama” (teacher teacher).

Wednesday morning, we arrived with Bible story cards on creation and again taught the children’s class in the morning. The balance of our time at the school, we opted not to teach the little ones since Mary, the owner and principle of the school, was interested in attending the young adult classes. She stayed with us in the mornings and attended the other classes in the afternoon. By our not teaching, she was able to attend all the young adult classes since she had two helpers tending to the children upstairs. She is Catholic and one of her helpers is a faithful Christian. I left her a “teacher’s bag,” which she seemed to appreciate.

One of the English exercises was for the students to interview us on a one on one basis. However, the girls seemed more comfortable interviewing in a group. One of the young ladies asked when I was going to teach them Bible. So, three days of the second week of classes, we divided the women from the men for the hour before lunch. I taught a lesson on the Ten Plagues from Exodus, with an



emphasis on the power of God, comparing each of the plagues with the false gods of Egypt; and we looked at verses in Proverbs dealing with developing strong relationships between husbands and wives. Rebecca taught “Fulfilling Your Purpose in Life” from Ecclesiastes 12:13.

Saturday, we went shopping at Scott’s Market. Rebecca purchased three longjis to wear the balance of our time in Myanmar. She also purchased some jade elephants with which to bribe her school students this fall, a couple of wall charts with the Burmese alphabet for school and some gift items for a few special people at home. We purchased a few similar items as well.



Last fall, we went to the cultural dinner theater. We enjoyed the show so much that we decided to take Rebecca and Randy this trip. Randy especially enjoyed sampling the various food dishes on the buffet. Rebecca tolerated the food, but thoroughly enjoyed the show; the dancing elephant (two individuals inside a costume) was top on her list. Of course, the first visit to Myanmar requires a trip to at least one Pagoda. Before our dinner, we stopped at the Schwadagon Pagoda downtown. The number of idols in this multi-block facility is mind-



boggling. Randy had a hard time looking at the idols and the idolatrous worship we observed while there. We reminded him that seeing this activity firsthand makes this type of worship a reality and is the reason we travel halfway around the world to teach the Gospel to a lost and dying society.

Our two-week trip flew by, and before we knew it, the time for our departure was upon us. The trip back routed us to Taipei, then to Los Angeles, CA before landing in Memphis, TN. On the flight to Los Angeles, Rebecca and Randy were seated in the front of the plane while Louis and I were seated about 30 rows further back. This necessitated Louis and me to board first. After landing, Rebecca remembered to tell us that she almost did make it on the flight. Apparently, when the flight attendant at the gate scanned her boarding pass, the scanner indicated that she had already boarded. After researching the computer, confirming her identity with her passport, she was asked if she was traveling alone. She told them there were four people in her party traveling together, so they let her board. The barcode on her boarding pass must have been confused perhaps with mine when the boarding passes were printed. Our plane into Memphis landed a half hour early, and brother Robertson was there to pick us as we exited the building with our luggage.

The trip was a success. The four of us planted the seed of the Word of God in the hearts of 20 young adults, most of whom are Buddhist. Rebecca and I taught 22 precious young children that there is a God in heaven who loves them. We visited, en-



couraged and worshipped with brethren from three congregations meeting in the Yangon area. The local brethren will continue to water the souls of those we taught. We pray that one day God will

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**Rushmore Evangelism Fund:
April 1, 2010—July 3, 2010**

Beginning Available Balance	\$12,012.76
Beginning Foreign Travel Balance	\$2,614.69
Tracts/Literature Balance	\$0.00
Beginning Bible Fund Balance	\$150.00
Income	
Contributions	\$12,012.99
Printing/Book Sales	\$375.80
Foreign Travel	\$6,065.00
Stateside Travel	\$2,650.00
Literature	\$3,800.00
Bible Fund	<u>\$150.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$25,053.79
Expenses	
Auto Expenses	\$1,955.27
Stateside Travel	\$1,608.49
Foreign Travel	\$10,828.30
Teacher Activity Bags	\$129.84
Literature	\$1,243.41
Office	\$466.93
Postage & Shipping	\$515.71
Internet (Gospel Gazette)	\$349.50
Printing Expenses	\$818.24
Office Telephone/Email	\$422.92
Medical Treatment	\$188.00
Bank Fees	\$36.65
Medical Insurance	\$1,462.00
Life Insurance	\$50.29
Housing	\$889.26
Salary	<u>\$4,500.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$25,464.81
MONTHLY NET	-\$411.02
Available Balance	\$11,024.88
Foreign Travel Balance	-\$1,773.61
Bible Fund	\$300.00
Tracts/Literature Balance	\$3,056.59

**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).
- 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
 - 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.

Name _____
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give the increase, that someday these souls will obey the Gospel and be faithful children of God.

Mary, one the students, told us a Burmese proverb. I thought you might find it amusing. "Man is a kite in the sky. Woman is the guide for the kite in the sky." To make sure we understood the proverb she explained, "Louis you are the kite, Bonnie is your guide."

Louis and I return to Myanmar the end of October for three weeks. Once again, we will be privileged to teach Christians God's Word, encouraging them to reach out to their friends and neighbors with the Gospel. The brethren there as well as Louis and I look forward to our return.

Saturday evening, July 3, we gathered with others from the Collierville, TN congregation for a picnic and to watch the city fireworks display from the church parking lot. A four-hour nap in the afternoon provided enough rest to remain awake that long. However, it also helped to prolong the feeling of still being twelve time zones away. Thus, it was not the lesson from the pulpit, but the feeling that it was the middle of the night that caused me to struggle to stay awake during worship services Sunday morning. We returned to Winona Monday as Louis and I were too tired to drive home Sunday afternoon. (See pictures of our trip to Myanmar at: <http://www.gospelgazette.com/Blog/2010/jun.html>)

Louis also learned a phrase to ward off vendors who pestered him. However, he pronounced it wrong, and instead of saying, "No take," he told some bewildered hawkers, "No love!" 📖

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\$11,300 for the four of us in this good work.

In summary, we broke new ground in conducting a summer school primarily among non-Christians in Burma. If this summer session repeats itself next year, we will improve where we can to make it even more effective. Two new team members were introduced to the ongoing evangelism in Myanmar, though they are already experienced missionaries in Guyana, South America.

The four of us were **42+ hours in the air**, 20½ hours waiting for airplanes in airports and 17½ hours in taxis. We taught a combined 146 man-hours. Further, we gave away hundreds of pieces of literature and books, Bibles, four Teacher Activity Bags and supplemental teaching materials for teaching children. We encouraged the brethren of the Yangon region (including the three congregations with which we worshipped on Sunday). After a little reflection, we realize that we made a modest investment in priceless souls (Matthew 16:26). We went to plant and water the "seed of the kingdom" (Luke 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:6), and we did just that. Tentatively, Bonnie and I will return in the fall, prefaced with mission trips elsewhere in Asia (e.g., perhaps India, Sri Lanka, etc.).

Thank you for your prayers and financial participation, without which we could do nothing. As long as you continue to **send the light** (Psalm 43:3), Bonnie and I will continue to **take the light.** 📖

Please send address changes
to Louis Rushmore, 705 Devine St.,
Winona, MS 38967, or call (662) 739-3035.