

Rushmore Newsletter

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World Evangelism



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Louis Rushmore
Gospel Gazette Online, Editor
Voice of Truth International,
Associate Editor

By the Numbers

Louis Rushmore

The numbers pertaining to Bonnie and my 8-week excursion this fall into Asia quantify our time abroad. Combined, Bonnie and I taught about 200 hours to around 6,500 people between Myanmar, India and Sri Lanka. We taught from two to 600 at a time, from a hotel room to open air settings to huts to meetinghouses. Among those to whom we spoke were Christian Church, Baptists, Assembly of God, Methodists, Hindus, Buddhists, Animists and Christians. Among the Christians we taught often were preachers and their wives, providing them encouragement and additional edification from Scripture.

Between the two of us, we taught men, women and children; sometimes the group to whom Bonnie spoke (e.g., 300 women or 100 children) far outnumbered the men that I taught at the same time. We had about 79 occasions to speak while



(Continued on page 8)

The Strangest Things Happened on the Way To!

Bonnie Rushmore

Transportation

We left Memphis, TN airport early Thursday, September 29th for Yangon, Myanmar – our first stop on an 8-week trip to three Asian countries. Our first flight landed in Los Angeles, CA in the domestic terminal, but our departure was to be from the international terminal. Normally, this is not a problem, however, at LAX the two terminals are not connected, and one needs to take a bus from one terminal to another. After asking several people and much frustration, we found the location to board the bus for the international terminal and boarded the bus that stopped in front of us. A few blocks later, we discovered that we managed to get on the **wrong bus!** We disembarked from that bus and finally found the correct bus to take us to the international terminal, arriving in plenty of time to board our plane for Yangon via Tokyo and Singapore.



Transportation in Asia is always interesting. One can find buses, taxis, motorcycles, rickshaws (motorized or peddled), ox carts and horse carts on the same street at the same

time. However, this trip brought a new conveyance to our attention. In my mind it was a unique contraption similar to the auto rickshaw we see everywhere. Only, this vehicle is a motorcycle cut in half and a small pickup bed was attached to it. Bench seats lined both sides. It is bigger than the auto rickshaw, thus holding more passengers. Motorcycles and these motorcycle trucks are everywhere in northern Myanmar (and elsewhere we are told).

On one of our many flights, security did not like the power cords for our computers and made Louis pull his. Fortunately, our checked bags were still there with us, so we put them in one of them. Oddly, they did not pull my power cord even though we have the exact same computers and computer bags.

Teaching and Preaching

At one location in India, while Louis was preaching out at a village, I stayed behind to teach a children's class later in the afternoon. Before leaving for the village, Anil asked if I could ride on the back of a motorcycle, and I said yes – with a little reservation. Louis objected, but I said I could handle it. My escort picked me up, though, in an auto rickshaw.

In Kakinada, we met a former Hindu lady who listened to Joshua Gootam's preaching on the radio and TV. She traveled some distance to Kakinada to be baptized, and then returned to her home and converted her mother and sister. Although her husband was antagonistic toward her after her conversion, now he is open to the church and allows it to meet in their home. He accompanied her to the lectureship program in which we were participating.

During the offering aspect of the worship services in Kakinada, several individuals walked to the front of the building and emptied

rice into a bucket. We asked Joshua and Ricky about that during lunch. We were told there is a leper colony in a village not far from Kakinada. It was suggested that if the women would measure out the rice for their meal then remove one handful, it could be given to the leper colony. Since rice is cooked twice a day, that is 14 handfuls of rice per week per family. The rice is then emptied into the bucket on the Lord's Day and later taken to the leper colony. This is Christians showing benevolence to others in their own communities.

At each opportunity, I taught lessons from my book *Living Principles*. These lessons were very well received and several requested a copy. Unfortunately, I did not have room in the suitcase to bring a lot of extras, but I left one copy at each location. When we saw Peter, the preacher in Mandalay, at the Hmawbi Bible School a week after our visit to Mandalay, he informed me that he had to stop translating Louis' book *Church Divine* to translate my book because the women there wanted more of my lessons. Joshua and one of the sisters that translated for me said they wanted to translate my book into Telegu. I never thought about my book being translated into other languages and felt somewhat humbled that they think it is worthy of such. These brethren cannot afford the cost to print literature, and we will need to help fund the printing of these two books as well as several of Louis' tracts they are translating into their languages.

Louis prepared several lessons for our trip with the various audiences in mind. At Skinners Garden each day where the venue changed routinely, Louis asked John who the audience would be so that he could try to present lessons for that audience. With the regular classes over and special classes on Friday for just the preacher students, Louis asked John what lesson to give. John chose a topic totally different from anything Louis had prepared for this trip. This happened repeatedly the balance of our visit at Skinners Garden. However, with a little thought, Louis was capable of preparing and

presenting lessons on a wide variety of subjects with little notice.

Customs and Culture

One day for lunch, we had a traditional Burmese sack lunch purchased at a local shop. It consisted of a half serving of rice wrapped in a banana leaf (times 2) and a serving of spicy shredded beef wrapped in a banana leaf. To eat, one unwraps the banana leaf and it becomes your plate, from which then one eats with his fingers (typical for Burma and most Asian countries to which we go). We only had this one day as the beef was too spicy and our host cooked our noon meal the rest of the week. The hostess cooked our meals on an open fire – as is common throughout the area. However, rather than



go outside and stoop over the wood fired pit, the stove was moved inside to a small kitchen area consisting of a small table and a wooden platform filled with dirt. An open fire was built on the dirt, and the cooking was completed at waist level.

At each meal we were served in Myanmar, our plates were heaped with rice. Repeatedly we asked for less food as we simply cannot eat as much as was placed on our plates. One day Amos told us that Burmese culture mandates that the plate be filled. We kindly requested less food in the future, explaining that we understand their culture and do not want to offend, but we cannot eat that much and do not want to

waste food.

During the lunch break one afternoon, we asked Amos to walk with us a short distance down the road so I could take pictures of some weaving looms. Culture mandates that shoes are removed before entering a home, and we honor that by removing our shoes upon arrival. When we left for our walk, Amos could not find his shoes. He checked both entry doors, and they were gone. He borrowed someone's shoes so we could go get pictures. Fortunately, when we finished for the day, whoever borrowed Amos' shoes had returned them.

Since we enter Myanmar on a tourist visa, we took a couple of days to visit Inle Lake – a popular tourist destination. Inle Lake is a body of water in a valley surrounded by mountains. Various tribes within the Shan Tribe built villages in the water closer to land but still surrounded by water. About 3,000,000 people live on the water, just like Venice, Italy. On this lake is a vegetable garden – boats are filled with dirt from under the water, and then vegetables are planted in the dirt. Also located on the lake is the Golden Kite restaurant, one of the best Italian restaurants in which I have ever eaten, where we stopped for lunch. Since Winsome had not had rice for the last four meals, she ordered sweet and sour chicken only to be informed that the staff had not arrived from the mainland with the chickens; she settled on sweet and sour pork.

In India, babies are not named until they are about one month old. Frequently when we are in India, following the worship service parents will ask Louis to pray for and name their child. In the past, the parents have informed Louis the name they wanted given to their child. On one occasion following the services, Louis was asked to name and pray for a baby. This time he was to pick the child's name. He named her **Bonnie Sue**; afterwards he said if he had had time to think he would have chosen a biblical name.

Indian custom has the person observing a birthday take gifts to others; so on Mary Beth's (daughter of John Dean and Vani) fifth birth-

day, she brought Louis and me a small chocolate bar. For one's birthday, cake is fed to the birthday celebrant like cake fed to new spouses at weddings.

Wildlife Everywhere

One Sunday morning, just as Louis got up to speak, a snake crawled across the metal roof just above his head, which caught the attention of the children and a few others. Services stopped, and we all watched it exit the building where the roof meets the wall. Then, Louis began his lesson again. Moments later, the snake slithered back into the building and started down the wall just behind Louis' head. **It appeared as though the snake was after him!**

Once again services were stopped. We were assured that the snake was non-venomous and harmless. However, Louis assured the brethren that if it dropped on him, it would not be harmless as he would die of a heart attack. Three of the men knocked the snake from the wall, killed it and took its body outside. We were also told that if the snake made it to the floor, everyone would have left the building, and worship services would be over. (Most attendees were sitting on the floor.)

As we were sitting outside one evening, a wild monkey jumped up on the cement wall, and then climbed its way to the top of the building. The camera was upstairs in our room, so I went to get it when three of the boys told me to stay downstairs as monkeys scratch and bite. I think they thought I was going to



touch it because when I explained I was going after the camera, they accompanied me to our room. Unfortunately, by then it was too far away for a good picture. The boys explained that many wild monkeys roam through here in the evenings and kept a watch for more monkeys so we could take pictures. We did see several a little later, most too far away for pictures.

As I sat on the bed leaning against the headboard reading, I heard a thump beside me. Needless to say, I made a startled noise. Then, I saw the green gecko scurry across the bed onto the floor and under the luggage. Louis was sitting with his back to me working on the laptop, using a shelf as a desk. He responded with his own startled noise, and then turned to ask what was wrong, and I explained. He then reminded me that earlier in the day two geckos were wedged between the screen and window above our bed, and we discovered that the screen does not meet the edge of the window in one corner.

Who Am I?

At the Yangon City Hotel, Louis asked at the front desk for an additional light in the bathroom as he could not see to shave. Shortly after returning to our room, someone brought a battery operated 2-bulb fluorescent light with only one working light. The next morning, I held the light so Louis could see to shave. It helped somewhat, but it was still not ideal. After breakfast while Louis was brushing his teeth the doorbell rang. I answered the door to see three maintenance men, one holding what appeared to be packaged light bulbs. One of the men began speaking to me in Burmese, and I gave him a bewildered look as I had no idea what he was saying. Louis stepped out of the bathroom about that time, and the man spoke in English. He apologized for speaking in Burmese and said he thought I was Burmese. I was wearing an embroidered blouse and longi - traditional Burmese clothing. When we returned to the room later that day, a new light had been installed in the bathroom. Louis felt obligated to make sure that he shaved each day since the

hotel had made a capital improvement so he could see better while shaving.

When we saw Vinay David (from New Delhi) at the lectureship program in Kakinada, he commented on my sari - amazed that I was wearing one. Each day he commented on my Indian clothing, so Friday when I came in a skirt and blouse (no Indian clothing clean), he commented on my lack of Indian clothing. During lunch he told me that in my skirt and blouse I looked Hawaiian. I am beginning to wonder who I am. On our first trip to India, Vinay's father suggested I could easily pass for an Indian from one of the northeastern states, and each trip to Myanmar someone thinks I am Burmese. Who am I? I do not know as I have little information about my paternal mother's background.

This and That

Cell phones are everywhere, and even in India brethren need to be told to turn off their cell phones during meetings.

The people of Yangon are true entrepreneurs. As we walked to supper one evening, we observed a man sitting on the curb with a bathroom scale. A sign stated that one could weigh himself for a fee. I do not know the charge as I do not read Burmese. Winsome said the fee was about 50 cents.

Myanmar is changing and we notice subtle changes each visit we make. On the downside, the younger generation is adopting too much of the western dress, often becoming immodest in the zeal to change from the traditional wardrobe to something new. Also, a Gospel music festival took place at the sports complex while we were in Yangon. On the other hand, all the hotels in Yangon received a letter from the government stating that it is illegal to rent rooms for any religious activity (including Buddhist).

Following the afternoon program in Bangalore, India and on the way to the Douglas home, we stopped at a hardware store to purchase a new showerhead for our bathroom. The one there was clogged and almost useless. Upon arrival Louis replaced the showerhead and the

screens in the faucets in our bathroom. It was a minor investment for us to make compared to the cost of a hotel for the several days in Bangalore. Shelia was astounded that Louis was capable of such endeavors. It would take at least two weeks for a plumber to come, and Douglas does not know how to do such things.

Skidders Garden compound, which houses 106 orphans, several widows, 15 young men in a two-year Bible School/trade program and 15 women in a one-year Bible School/sewing program, is a beautiful garden. Inside the compound are plants and trees galore, complete with walking paths and benches. I have seen several different beautiful butterflies. Unlike most places in India the area is clean and litter free. Each child has a job to do. One day, the youngest boys were watering the trees and plants. To accomplish this, a stout tree branch was placed through the bail of the bucket of water, and then with a boy on each side of the branch, the two of them carried the bucket teamwork style throughout the area, watering the plants as they came to them. Others swept the walks and ground, cleaning up the trash. It is hard to believe that 106 children live there. They are well behaved and everything is done in an orderly manner. We could learn some lessons from this group of youngsters!

On a Sad Note

On August 8th my mother passed into eternity. While in Chilakaluripet, Steve Hogan, our companion for the next week, received an emergency phone call that his mother-in-law was dying. As Steve made arrangements for his immediate return home, only two days after arriving in India, I was reminded of the emergency phone call I received while in Guyana, South America concerning my mother. I certainly understood his pain. Steve did not make it 6

home in time to see his mother-in-law before she passed away (and neither did I make it to my mother's bedside before she died).

Later that week while in Tiruvuru, Elizabeth Babu informed us that she would be leaving that evening to travel to her grandmother's home, as she was dying. A few hours later, she received a phone call informing her that her grandmother had died. Elizabeth had not returned home earlier in the week because we were there holding a three-day seminar. As I tried to comfort Elizabeth, I again felt the pain of losing a loved one, and I understood the pain she felt. I delayed returning to Pennsylvania to see my mother before she died in part because I felt a responsibility to the appointments we had scheduled, and in my mind, my mother was going to recover.

A day or two before we returned to the states from our two month trip to Asia, Theola Burton (mother of Betty Chocate) fell and broke her leg. After landing in Los Angeles, I called the office to discover that Theola was moved to ICU and not doing well. While in Dallas Tuesday morning waiting for our connecting flight,

we received a call that the family had been called home. After some reflection, we decided to continue with our scheduled drive to North Carolina with our daughter to visit our son for Thanksgiving, as he had requested of us before our departure overseas. Wednesday morning while in route to North Carolina, we received a call that Theola passed into eternity. Theola will be missed, especially her good natured chastisement for not helping her weed her flower beds.

Each of the three deaths the last two months has taken a toll on my emotions, and I certainly understand the pain these families feel. Please keep each of us in your prayers, and be reminded that no one knows when his or her life on this earth will end. We must be ready at all times to face God on the Judgment Day!📖



***Rushmore Evangelism Fund:
August- November, 2011***

Beginning Literature & Bible Balance	\$944.09
Beginning Foreign Balance	\$4,086.16
Beginning Available Balance	\$7,292.77
Income	
Contributions	\$13,768.32
Stateside Travel	\$1,518.00
Literature & Bibles	\$1,425.00
Foreign Travel	\$10,814.60
Lectureship/Workshop/Seminar	\$400.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$27,925.92
Expenses	
Auto Expenses	\$3,377.08
Stateside Travel	\$1,428.44
Bank Fees	\$4.00
Internet	\$120.00
Literature & Bibles	\$3,582.85
Office & Misc.	\$699.47
Postage/Shipping	\$150.32
Medical Treatment & Insurance	\$3,353.29
Housing	\$1,198.11
Salary	\$6,045.45
Foreign Travel (Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka)	\$14,397.42
Printing	\$23.58
Business Telephone (4 months)	\$794.08
Lectureship/Workshop/Seminar	\$160.57
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$35,334.66
Statement Period Balance	-\$7,408.74
Ending Literature & Bible Balance	-\$1,213.76
Ending Foreign Travel Balance	\$503.34
Ending Available Balance	\$3,197.18

Please continue to participate financially with us in world evangelism, and increase your investment in the Lord's work with us if you can. Thank you.

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Yes, we want to help Louis & Bonnie Rushmore in their publishing of Gospel literature and foreign evangelism.

- Here is a onetime gift of \$_____.
- I (we) plan to send a monthly gift of \$_____, beginning _____ (month).
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- Here is my gift of \$_____ toward the overseas travel fund.

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overseas this trip. Clearly, there is much for a sister in Christ to do in foreign missions, and a husband and wife team can nearly double the effectiveness over only a husband, for instance, going on a mission trip.

Coming and going around Asia, we flew 18 airplanes and were airborne 68 hours, besides numerous hours for layovers in airports. Ground transportation included automobiles, a minibus and auto rickshaws. Roads ranged from good, modern highways to ribbons of badly rutted mud trails; most of the time, travel was painfully slow. Many times, faster travel was impeded with trying to dodge herds of goats, cows and water buffalos, plus other vehicles and people, on the thoroughfares. The most danger-

ous time to travel on the ground is at night when any moment an unseen beast, person or other obstruction may suddenly appear in the roadway.

In addition to teaching as much as possible nearly every waking moment when we were not traveling, Bonnie and I directed funds to a number of preachers for the translation, printing and distribution of tracts in various languages of Myanmar and India; consequently, tens of thousands of tracts will soon be printed and given to souls anxious to learn about Jesus Christ and the one true church of the Bible. We also provided the funds for one of our translators to purchase a new laptop and printer to aid him in that ongoing work. Of course, this money is not ours but the Lord's, and it was provided by Christian families and congregations of the Lord's church in America. Funds also were spent for hall rental, travel for attendees from afar, their lodging and food, video and photography in the production of videos for distribution and promotion of the cause of Christ. Bonnie and I spent ourselves to literal exhaustion, and we handled many thousands of dollars in preparation for and over those eight weeks, money well invested in the Lord's work on foreign shores. You made all of this possible. Thank you!

Finally, there were 20 baptisms observed these eight weeks. We do not count them as especially connected with our visits, because brethren worked with these new converts prior to our arrival. Our presence merely provided additional



Pure Religion

Louis Rushmore

There are many good works throughout the world that are worthy of financial consideration when congregations of the Lord's church and its members entertain investing the Lord's money outside their local area. Although Bonnie and I primarily direct our attention and expend funds with which we are provided by brethren for teaching and printing literature abroad, we are aware of good works more of a physical nature than purely of a spiritual nature. Further, some of these material circumstances rouse tender hearts more quickly to funnel money in a certain direction than often occurs respecting immaterial and intangible opportunities to invest the Lord's money (e.g., calamities and human needs).

Along these lines, Bonnie and I recently familiarized ourselves with three children's homes



in India, each of which is a good work. Practice of "pure religion" includes responding to the needs of indigent children and widows (James 1:27). **(1)** The Satyanai Church of Christ in Kakinada, India tends to 80 children – boys and girls. Several of them have neither shoes (i.e., **9**

flip-flops) nor mats to lay on the floor at night on which to sleep; either of these items represent comparatively small investments well within the financial reach of many American Christian families and congregations (e.g., less than \$2 per pair of flip-flops). Can you picture small children going to public school barefoot because they have no shoes and at night lying on the bare floor because there are not enough mats to go around?

(2) The Skinners Garden Church of Christ (India) cares for 106 children – boys and girls, and several widows. Each year, they too need to replace their plastic flip-flops. Skinners Garden though has a wish list that includes a \$500 ma-



chine to grind vegetables to make an Indian dish, a \$700 cooler to keep vegetables from spoiling and a shelter for a kitchen in which they also could place an oven that uses refuse from the rice harvest for fuel (much of the world cooks outdoors over an open fire).

(3) The Lord's church meets in the home of Vijay and Elizabeth Babu in Tiruvuru, India, and he preaches for the congregation while supporting his family as a schoolteacher. Previously, this outstanding couple cared for 15 children until the money ran out; they continue to care for two children besides their own two boys. It



was our good pleasure to meet the children that they had been rearing as well as some that they had helped into adulthood, university and good jobs. The most remarkable aspect of the Babu's labors is that each child is thoroughly in-

doctrinated in true Christianity, even those who are too young yet to obey the Gospel, and those

youngsters are as put off by denominationalism as they are by Hinduism. These young ones know more Bible facts than most adult Christians with whom I have been acquainted over the past 40 years in America. The elder son of Vijay and Elizabeth is just 13-years-old and recently obeyed the Gospel; while we were there, he preached a flawless sermon (i.e., in content and delivery) that rivaled what any Christian 15 to 20 years his senior and with that many years of experience might do. Given the financial wherewith to do so, the Babu's would resume caring for up to 15 children (i.e., it costs \$30 a month per child to care for them).

Again, Bonnie and I are primarily teachers (i.e., teaching this last trip from two persons to 600 people at a time) and promoters of literature (i.e., Bible study books and tracts) in foreign lands. However, these works are worthy and may inspire individuals or congregations to respond to their needs. If these are something to which you feel compelled to respond, Bonnie and I will ensure that 100% of your monetary gift arrives at the work of your choice for precisely what you specify. Just send the funds to Siwell Rd. Church of Christ, Rushmore Evangelism Fund, 4075 Siwell Rd., Jackson, MS 39212; be sure to indicate on the memo line of the check or in separate correspondence your wishes for its application. Each gift will be acknowledged, both by us and the overseas recipient. 📖



opportunity and confirmation of what they had already been taught. Unlike some other spectacular reports by some American and Indian brethren, Bonnie and I as well as those with whom we labor abroad concentrate on teaching God's Word and conversions, rather than placing an inordinate emphasis on baptism itself. God did not send me to baptize (1 Corinthians 1:17), but He sends me to teach people His Word, which in the process to true conversion they will insist on being immersed in water for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-5). We and those with whom we labor do not trade in either impulsive responses or suspect motivations to entice persons to go through the motions of being baptized.

Bonnie and I primarily teach Christians God's Word more thoroughly and equip them to better evangelize their own nations. Due to the nature of the work that Bonnie and I do, fewer baptisms could be attributed to us from among those to whom we speak. Nationals are better prepared to evangelize their own nations since they have neither the cultural nor language barriers that we foreigners have. Besides, it is the responsibility of nationals to evangelize their own nations, and they can evangelize their own countries if we equip them with knowledge and tools of mass evangelism. 📖



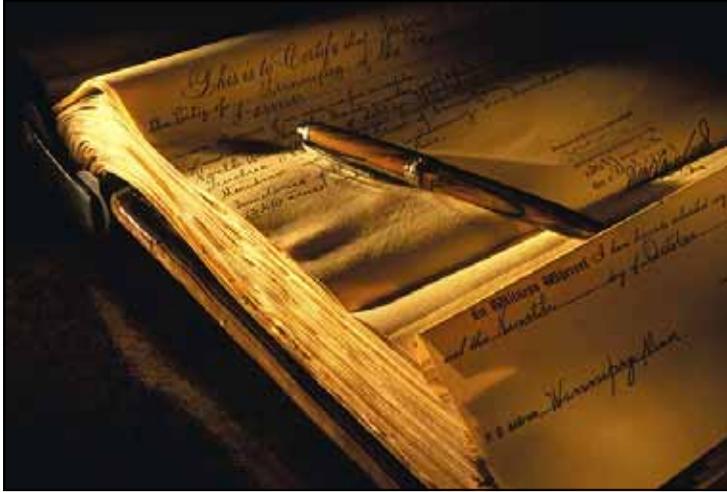
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Will You?

Louis Rushmore

Many of you participate financially with us in the Lord's work in Guyana, Myanmar, India and Sri Lanka. Contributions range from \$10 to hundreds of dollars monthly or periodically. Most of you would like to help more than what you can, and we appreciate your tender hearts. There is a way in which you may be able to make a larger financial impact on

our labors for Christ. Consider putting the Rushmore Evangelism Fund (under the oversight of the elders of the Siwell Road Church of Christ) in your will. Characteristically, people are able to make a much larger contribution and financial investment in the Lord's work through including it in their final will and testaments. Life insurance policies and conversion of real estate to cash upon one's passing afford the deceased an opportunity that far exceeds what he or she typically could do while yet living. Will you? 📖



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