MINISTRY PARTNERS,

2012 HAS BEEN an action-packed journey of territorial expansion. God has been moving, both in our personal experiences and in our ministry pursuits. We can’t wait to tell you about it. Hence, the Yearend Report you hold in your hands. In the pages that follow you’ll find a mix of theological insights and frontline ministry reports.

The theological material has blessed us immensely. These are biblical perspectives that heighten our awareness of God’s love and open our minds to what He’s seeking to accomplish in our world, our territory. We see God’s specific passion for every individual person. So, get a pen for underlining, and get ready for some serious impact upon your thinking.

Additionally, you’ll find thrilling reports from around the world, Zambia, Jamaica, Guatemala, Australia, and more.

Our world is filled with trapped, hurting people. You can see the great controversy in their eyes, a sense of desire and desperation glinting through. There are countless men and women and children (Oh, God help the children!) who need liberation from the haunting lies regarding God, lies which hold them in bondage to shame and fear. They’re not closed to the Good News; they simply haven’t heard it. Somebody needs to place the message within their reach.

As disciples of Jesus, this is our calling.

Light Bearers exists for the sole purpose of bringing the light of the gospel to as many as possible, as fast as possible, and with your help we are seeing it happen one territory at a time, one heart at a time. We do this by preaching, training, publishing and creating resources for sharing. Please, rejoice with us as you read this Yearend Report.

On behalf of the entire Light Bearers team, thank you for partnering with us.

Ty, James, and David
OuR  WORLD  Is many things.
It’s a not-quite-perfectly round sphere, weighing in at about 6.6 sextillion tons, suspended in space with no solid physical supports.
It’s fast—really fast, in fact—rotating around the sun at 67,000 miles per hour.
It’s the third planet from the sun, precisely positioned to support life at just the exact distance from its blazing energy source.
According to the late and wildly popular astronomer Carl Sagan, it’s a “mite of dust suspended in a sunbeam.”
And from one who stood on the moon and looked back, Neil Armstrong, it’s a “tiny pea, pretty and blue.”
But our world is something else, as well, that so few realize.
Our world is a territory under dispute.
When we piece the picture together, drawing upon the biblical data at our disposal, it looks something like this.

SCENE ONE: DOMINION

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...” (Genesis 1:1).

“God is love” (1 John 4:8). Love is other-centered, outward in its focus, desirous of fellowship. Therefore “God said, ‘Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” (Genesis 1:26). Humankind was brought into existence for the express purpose of sharing in God’s love.

And since love is God’s purpose, freedom had to be intrinsic to His creation.

Therefore, God gave “dominion” of the earth to Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:26). As free moral agents, made for love, they were given agency over the world. Earth would be the environment, the space, in which their love for God and for one another could flourish.

The planet was theirs by divine delegation. “The heavens, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; but the earth He has given to the children of men” (Psalm 115:16).

Now the stage was set for an eternity of relational bliss—such is the potential that lies within the wonder of creation.

But liberty/volition, for all its glorious possibilities, possesses, of necessity, a potential danger. Humanity’s “dominion” was fraught with both promise and threat.

SCENE TWO: ABDICATION

Since God gave Adam and Eve the earth, it was theirs to do with as they pleased. The Creator’s intent, of course, was that they would be pleased to be fruitful and multiply and fulfill a global society of benevolence.

Tragically, our first parents abdicated their position of authority over the earth by yielding allegiance to a foreign lord, to the fallen angel once called Lucifer (the luminous one), now called Satan (the adversary). Yes, the fall of humanity was of a moral character, but it also involved a legal and territorial dimension, as well. Dominion was lost.

By the exercise of human free will, Satan became the “ruler of this world” (John 12:31), “the god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4), “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2).

And yet, Satan’s rule does not constitute a rightful authority. He is not earth’s appointed or legitimate king. His triumph over humanity was an act of war based on deception. Therefore, it may be overthrown by means of a full-disclosure process.

Our world is a territory under dispute

In response to Satan’s authority grab, God immediately began to orchestrate a counterattack by means of which Planet Earth would be redeemed, the deceived human race reformed, and the usurper “cast out.” This counter maneuver would not be implemented by the same principles upon which Satan’s kingdom operates—deception and force—but rather by means of truth and love.

Which is to say, by the peculiar power of the cross of Christ.
SCENE THREE: A WARRIOR PROMISED

Both sides of the cosmic war immediately want about organizing their forces and setting their principles in motion. The Creator initiated His counter-offensive by declaring His intent and making a promise. Speaking to Satan in the hearing of the fallen humans, God said:

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel” (Genesis 3:15, nIV).

Scene Four: Organized Forces

In tactical response to Satan's hostile takeover and to the widespread human cooperation with the satanic regime, God did something remarkable, inglorious, and necessary. He staked out a small territory on earth, and, thereby laid claim to the human race. By so doing, He manifested His intent to take the earth and its inhabitants back from demonic dominion.

“When the Most High divided the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the bounds of the nations according to the number of the angle of God. And His people, each became the portion of the Lord, Israel was the line of His inheritance. He maintained Him in the wilderness, in burning thirst and a dry land. He led him about and instructed him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle would watch over his brood, and青年 once your young, receive them having spread his wings, and takes them up on his back: the Lord alone kindles them, there are no strange gods with them” (Deuteronomy 32:10-11, Septuagint).

In retrospect, pondering God’s mode of operation, Moses informed the children of Israel that He divided the nations “according to the number of the angle of God.” Taking some interpretive liberty, but harmonizing with the apparent intent of the passage, the Living Bible renders the text, “When God divided up the world among the nations, He gave each of them a supervision angel.” As national borders were established, God placed guardian angels over each of the people groups while at the same time selecting Israel as His “portion” to become the “seed” through which the promised Warrior would come to reclaim humanity from satanic control.

Satan organized his forces, as well. He puts various ones of the fallen angels, new demons, in position of authority over each of the nations God was endeavoring to protect by the ministry of guardian angels. These demons became known as “gods” to the nations, employing deception and dominion to divert the nations by fear into heretical practices such as human sacrifice. With this state of affairs set among Moses declared that Israel, having been chosen by God as His “portion” from among the nations, was engaged in the worship of these false “gods” and practicing human sacrifice like the Canaanite nations (Deuteronomy 32:15-17, Psalms 106:36-39).

Still, faithful to His promise with the nation of Israel, God had staked out a territory on earth among the prevailing hostile forces of the enemy. Israel became the divine stronghold in the world and the linage of promise.

SCENE FIVE: THE UNARMED WARRIOR

The promised Warrior landed on earthly soil as a helpless, dependent humble baby in arms. Raised to manhood by humble Israeli peasants, He launched His attack against the kingdom of darkness and proceeded to systematically crush the head of the serpent without ever taking a weapon of violence in His hand.

He is, in fact, an unarmed Warrior.

He wielded truth and love like a sword that cut deep into minds and hearts, into the human soul where the battle really rages.

Satan recognized Him for Who He was. They have history, after all. This One who now has come in the very One, formerly bearing the name Michael, who had disposed Satan’s initial claims against the Father and supplanted him and his angels from the heavenly realm (Revelation 12:7-12).

With a self-assured arrogance developed by thousands of years of victory, Satan had staked claim to his domain and offered it to Jesus in exchange for worship: “I will give You all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, All this authority will I give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. Therefore, if you desire, worship me, and I will be Your Lord” (Luke 4:5-7).

Jesus refused, of course, knowing that Satan cannot possibly win what’s coming. namely, that a kind of power, a spiritual authority, completely foreign to His divine nature, is about to pounce upon His dark empire.

Announcing His warrior identity and mission, Jesus explained to the people what was going down before their very eyes:

“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his goods are in peace, But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils” (Luke 11:21-22).

The strong man is Satan. The one stronger than he is Jesus. Clearly, a battle is underway and a final showdown is about to erupt. And nobody is expecting the move that the righteous King of heaven and earth is about to make.

No carnal weapon will be taken in hand.

No bloodshedding army will be commanded.

One act alone will be sufficient power to reclaim what was lost.

Pointing to the sacrifice He is about make at Calvary, Jesus spells out the triumph He is about to achieve over the enemy.

“Noe is the judgment of this world, now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself” (John 12:32).

By His incarnation, His life of perfect love, and self-sacrificing death on the cross, Jesus was taking from Satan “all his armor in which he trusted.” All His lies about God were completely gutted of their potency by the illuminating revelation of God’s love in Christ. “Hearing disarmed the powers and authorities,” Paul declared, “Jesus made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Colossians 2:15, NIV).

In principle, the war between good and evil was won in Christ. Now that victory must be taken to “all the nations” (Matthew 28:19). The war must be won within the human kingdoms of hearts, person by person, home by home, village by village, territory by territory the world over.

Enter, the church.

SCENE SIX: THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

It’s not merely the terra firma under our feet that’s under fire, but also our hearts, person by person, home by home, village by village, territory by territory the world over.

Who can you reclaim for the kingdom of God?

Who can you impact for Christ?

Who can you touch with your words and deeds?

Our world is a territory under dispute. You, as an earthling, are yourself a territory under dispute. Everyone, man and woman, child and adult, know it and accepts it. On the other hand, the very enemy of God and man is also seeking enslavement in the human heart. He is in the business of taking up mental and emotional territory within our souls. He is a roaming warrior to fill our heart and minds with shame where there ought to be innocence, moral defilement where there ought to be purity, humility where there ought to be pride.

The warfare we fight occurs within the realm of the mind, where thoughts and feelings are formed, where knowledge resides. The enemy is waging his battle against us by formulating “arguments” that are calculated to run contrary to the true “knowledge of God.” To the degree that his theological lies (dubbed concepts of God’s character) occupy our minds, he holds defensive “strongholds” within us. Conversely, to the degree that his arguments are effectively “cast down” and replaced with truth, he is defeated and the human soul is liberated.

This is the church mission.

We are called to mobilize our talents, energies and resources to the singular task of reclaiming territory for Christ within individuals, homes, cities and nations.

Within the mental, emotional and volitional realm of individual humans, Jesus laid claim to the territory staked out by Satan. We, as His church, are to do the same. By forgiveness, compassion, gospel proclamation, literature distribution, medical ministry, feeding and clothing the poor, loving and so free the captives of the human slave trade, and mostly and always by loving people the way Jesus loved them, we are to win the war in practice that Jesus won for us in principle.

Our world is a territory under dispute. Yes, an earthing, you are a territory under dispute. Everyone, man and woman, child and adult, know it and the all the ones we don’t, know it are territories under dispute. Shape the forces in this world, and imagine the faces of the bigger world at large.

Who can you touch with your words and deeds?

Who can you impact for Christ?

Who can you redeem for the kingdom of God?

The warfare we fight occurs within the realm of the mind, where thoughts and feelings are formed, where knowledge resides. The enemy is waging his battle against us by formulating “arguments” that are calculated to run contrary to the true “knowledge of God.” To the degree that his theological lies (dubbed concepts of God’s character) occupy our minds, he holds defensive “strongholds” within us. Conversely, to the degree that his arguments are effectively “cast down” and replaced with truth, he is defeated and the human soul is liberated.

This is the church mission.

We are called to mobilize our talents, energies and resources to the singular task of reclaiming territory for Christ within individuals, homes, cities and nations.

Within the mental, emotional and volitional realm of individual humans, Jesus laid claim to the territory staked out by Satan. We, as His church, are to do the same. By forgiveness, compassion, gospel proclamation, literature distribution, medical ministry, feeding and clothing the poor, loving and so free the captives of the human slave trade, and mostly and always by loving people the way Jesus loved them, we are to win the war in practice that Jesus won for us in principle.

Our world is a territory under dispute. Yes, an earthing, you are a territory under dispute. Everyone, man and woman, child and adult, know it and the all the ones we don’t, know it are territories under dispute. Shape the forces in this world, and imagine the faces of the bigger world at large.

Who can you touch with your words and deeds?

Who can you impact for Christ?

Who can you redeem for the kingdom of God?
ultimately moving toward the demise of all systems of coercion, domination, oppression and war, and to the establishment of a forever-fleeting peace based on liberty.

The words of Isaiah’s epic prophecy: “To the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills, and people shall flow into it. . . . They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. . . . And the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even forever. . . . Unto them shall it come, even the first dominion” (Micah 4:1-8, KJV).

This is the ultimate goal to bring a complete end to war, hatred of sin is as strong as death, his love for the most sinful, the most needy, the most oppressed race.

The savior would have passed through the earth, the love of God was flowing from him in loving interest in men, and shed about him the better traits of her character.

When he saw men refuse the message of peace, his tender compassion fell with a touch of healing look and tone expressed such earnest love.

He manifested a patience that nothing could disturb, and a triumphfulness that would never sacrifice integrity.

He drew the sympathy of all hearts by showing himself capable of sympathizing with all.

But not to any class is Christ’s love restricted.

He spoke with such a sympathy here and a word there, as he saw men weary, yet compelled to bear heavy burdens. He shared their burdens.

Christ spoke with such solemn dignity, and both look and tone expressed such earnest love.

He identifies himself with every child of God, and despised, may find access to the Father.

When he saw the loveless heart, he looked away and said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

“He was able in all the world to present the sacrifice of himself to God for the living saints” (Romans 5:21). He drew the sympathy of all hearts by showing himself capable of sympathizing with all.

The gift of Christ . . . declares that while God’s grace is ever flowing from him, the love of God was flowing from him in loving interest in men, and shed about him the better traits of her character.

(74)

(86)

(98)

(57)

(25)

(387)

(568)

(353)

(401)

(356)

(385)

(367)

(297)

(25)

(74)

(25)

(533)

(57)

(735)

(403)

(90)

(638)

(29)

(354)

(98)

(218)

(55)

(35)
A preacher once approached the pulpit on a Sabbath morning and, before he began his remarks, glanced down to see a note that read, “Him, we would see Jesus” (John 1:19, KJV). It was the congregation’s way of getting their point across. Too many sermons had been dry and lifeless, utterly devoid of the beauty of Christ.

The note could not be ignored. For several weeks he went to his knees begging God for personal revival.

And, as it always does in answer to such heartfelt pleading, revival came.

He’d had a fresh encounter with the living Christ of Scriptures, and his sermons thereafter bore witness to it.

Sometimes later, the pastor approached that same pulpit and saw a second note. This one read: “When they saw him, all the people were greatly amazed” (Mark 9:15, NKJV).

This is what happens when Christ is preached: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32, KJV). Heaven knows that too many of our churches are languishing in thirsting need of Christ-centered preaching.

Even we ourselves, here at Light Bearers, are hungering for more of Him in our own preaching ministries!

As we began planning for the 28th Annual Light Bearers’ Convocation, held from July 3–7, we decided to try something different. Instead of choosing a general theme and presenting sermons on uncorrelated passages, we decided to focus all 21 presentations on a single book—the Gospel of John. We, along with our invited guest speakers, preached on each chapter, from 1, right through to 21, over the course of the four-day event.

The theme was, We Would see Jesus.

This was the request the Greeks put to Philip in chapter 12. It was a request both ancient and modern. It’s what they wanted then, and what we want now!

Looking back, I can honestly say that, both in my own studies and in listening to the other speakers, I got a fresh, deep, and compelling glimpse of Jesus during that gathering! The narrative of the life and teachings of Christ came alive in a new way. I saw revelations and insights in the text of Scripture that I’d never seen before.

My eyes were opened. I saw Jesus.

I was reminded of this statement from the book Education:

“The Bible has a fullness, a strength, a depth of meaning, that is inexhaustible” (Ellen White, Education, p. 188).

That’s an important and deep word there: inexhaustible. And the reason is simple: God is inexhaustible. Jesus is inexhaustible. Thus, the word is inexhaustible!

From sunrise until sunset, we gathered, more than 400 of us, to sit at John’s feet as he, through his Gospel, took us to Jesus’ feet! It was more than a camp meeting, more than a conference or a convention. It was an encounter.

And we saw Jesus

Plan to join us next year from July 2–6 for our 2013 Convocation!
NO BOUNDARIES

The gospel knows no walls, fences, or limits . . . neither does our work.

2012 HIGHLIGHTS

LITERATURE DISTRIBUTED (IN MILLIONS)

ORIGINS OF CORNERSTONE STUDENTS

PREACHING/TRAINING LOCATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

ARISE interns make inroads on the University of Oregon with health events, a Justice Conference, Bible studies and small groups.

PILLARS OF PROPHECY

James Rafferty helps focus on the center of prophecy at 3ABN, which then broadcasts the sermons around the world!

GOD ON TRIAL

Ty Gibson addresses the three most difficult questions unbelievers ask about God on the campus of University of Central Florida.

GUATEMALA

James Rafferty preaches an evangelistic series, just as a container of literature arrives from Light Bearers. The local area was flooded with truth-filled literature, and commitments to Christ and baptisms followed! (page 18)

UGANDA

The Uganda Union Mission’s plan is to win one million people for Christ through the efforts of church members who give themselves “whole heartedly to the work of soul winning.” A container of literature (2.5 million pieces) lasts about four months. They have requested four more containers.

KENYA

An evangelistic team from Australia travels to Kenya and discovers that Light Bearers’ literature has already prepared the way for them. 2,229 people are baptized! (page 7)

ARISE AUSTRALIA

After conducting multiple large-scale training events in Australia, Light Bearers, in partnership with the North New South Wales Conference, establishes its first-ever international Cornerstone program, set to launch in 2013. (page 16)

GYC EUROPE

David Asscherick and Jeffrey Rosario preach at the first-ever GYC Europe. Organized in cooperation with the Austrian Union, more than 1,300 young people were drawn from across Europe.

GUAM

Risë Rafferty speaks on the topic of forgiveness at the 2012 Guam-Micronesia Mission women’s retreat.

PILLARS OF PROPHECY

James Rafferty helps focus on the center of prophecy at 3ABN, which then broadcasts the sermons around the world!

GOD ON TRIAL

Ty Gibson addresses the three most difficult questions unbelievers ask about God on the campus of University of Central Florida.

GUATEMALA

James Rafferty preaches an evangelistic series, just as a container of literature arrives from Light Bearers. The local area was flooded with truth-filled literature, and commitments to Christ and baptisms followed! (page 18)

UGANDA

The Uganda Union Mission’s plan is to win one million people for Christ through the efforts of church members who give themselves “whole heartedly to the work of soul winning.” A container of literature (2.5 million pieces) lasts about four months. They have requested four more containers.

KENYA

An evangelistic team from Australia travels to Kenya and discovers that Light Bearers’ literature has already prepared the way for them. 2,229 people are baptized! (page 7)

ARISE AUSTRALIA

After conducting multiple large-scale training events in Australia, Light Bearers, in partnership with the North New South Wales Conference, establishes its first-ever international Cornerstone program, set to launch in 2013. (page 16)
THE HAND OF A KING

by David Asscherick

JESUS’ LIFE, MINISTRY, and death, to be apprehended accurately, must, I am convinced, be seen against the backdrop of this word: reclamation.

The root word here is claim, which derives from a Latin word meaning “call out.” The prefix re means “back.” Thus, etymologically speaking, means “call back.”

So, to recapitulate our opening sentence: Jesus’ life, ministry and death, to be apprehended accurately, must, I am convinced, be seen against the backdrop: his calling people back.

Back to what? A better question is, back to whom? And the answer is, himself! Concomitant with the idea of reclamation is the idea of a fall, or demise. Something has been lost, it has gone astray, and it needs to be called back. The original usage of the word reclaims is rooted in the ancient practice of falconry, in which falcons and hawks, sleek and stupendously fast birds, were domesticated and harnessed by man for hunting. Birds, being birds, were not naturally inclined to return to their master’s hand. If the bird was slow or unwilling to return, it had to be called back—reclaimed.

Sometimes the bird would not return. Reclamation is the proper biblical backdrop for Jesus’ incarnation and death. His loved ones have left His hand and have flown off and away into what they have imagined as freedom.

The New Testament is filled with vignettes of reclamation. Jesus calls, and the wayward soul returns to the hand, His hand. Two such vignettes come forcibly to mind: the crooked woman and the demoniac of the Gadarenes.

THE CROOKED WOMAN

First, the woman. It’s the Sabbath, and Jesus, per His custom, is teaching in a local synagogue. There was a crowd there, not only because it was Sabbath, but because by this point in Jesus’ ministry there is nearly always a crowd around Him. He is an intriguing and mysterious personality, at once otherworldly and yet entirely approachable. He is a healer, a miracle worker and a kind of revolutionary. The latter, in particular, is what many are looking for and what endears Him to the first century Jew.

Rome is the new Egypt, Caesarea the new Pharaoh, and the hand of God is expected to appear with similar force and results as accommodated it in Moses’ day. Gods now Moses, but mighty still, will be the long anticipated Messiah. Hadn’t Moses promised it? “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.” (Deuteronomy 18:15, NKJV).

The number who believed Jesus was the One, increased daily. Surely, Rome would be dealt a death blow, and God would intervene decidedly on behalf of His scattered and downcast people, Israel. Jesus was just the Messiah the people were looking for.

The problem was, that He wasn’t. Yes, He was the Messiah, but not the kind the people were looking and hoping for. Jesus came, not to restore Israel’s territory and national sovereignty, but to reclaim and restore the hearts of His people, His wandering, flighty and lost birds. “The very essence of the gospel is restoration,” Ellen White writes (The Desire of Ages, p. 526). Israel wants her land and pride restored, but Jesus wants something else. He wants people, all people, including—and this will come as a tectonic surprise to many—non-Jews, to come to Him.

On this day, it is a woman, but not just any woman. It’s a disfigured and disdained woman. A woman, in keeping with the prevailing theology and thinking of the day, clearly abandoned or cursed, or both, by God. “But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him” (Luke 13:12, NKJV). Almost everything you need to know about Jesus is contained in that sentence right there. He called her to Himself.

Like the falconer of old, He’s calling her back. He’s reclaiming her.

For 18 long years, this woman has suffered under disfigurement and, likely, desertion. With her health gone, and her family and friends along with it, she endured “a spirit of infirmity” (verse 11) and was bound by Satan himself (verse 16). Satan had laid His hand on her...
"But they were afraid, saying, ‘What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?’ (verse 39)."
ELEVEN YEARS AGO, I was in my twenties. Eleven years ago, ARISE didn’t exist. Today, I am 40, and ARISE has welcomed and graduated 110 classes of students.

Tob. It’s an important number, a milestone. Biblically speaking, there’s significance there too. Ten commandments. Ten plagues. Ten virgin. Ten heirs. It’s a number with meaning and substance attached to it, and for myself, honestly, it’s a number I did not expect will see with regards to ARISE. Yet Simple. Jesus was “supposed” to have returned by now.

And yet, here we are. ARISE was founded in Michigan—To be precise. In the intervening years, we’ve had two additional homes: Somers, California and, now, Jasper, Obregon. Every year and every class has been amazing in its own special way. Each has had its joys and highlights, as well as its challenges. Each has become a part of my own personal history, and of God’s sacred history.

As co-founder, it’s hard not to feel both dated and progant about ARISE’s tenth class. Elation over the many hundreds (nearly 500!) that have been taught, mentored, trained and sent forth, and yet poignancy over the reality of ARISE’s tenth class. elation over the many more ARISE graduates! The world still needs a lot more changing. and, we believe, a lot more ARISE graduates.

Perhaps I was naive and idealistic, but when ARISE was supposed to have returned by now. still working. still waiting. still watching. The story is, as they say, history. That’s the story! Light Bearers is honored by the opportunity to partner with visionary church leaders in creating ARISE Australia. Dates are set. Facilities are secured. Staff and instructors are confirmed. It’s all happened with near-dazzling speed. And more than just speed, it’s happened with openness, energy, excitement, organization and passion.

ARISE: TEN DOWN, ETERNITY TO GO

by David Asscherick

TWO VERY IMPORTANT WORDS

by David Asscherick

AUSTRALIA TO US seems so far away, at least to me, living, as I do, here in North America. But things have changed over the last seven years. Year after year you’ve found Australia on my calendar, and year after year I’ve sensed God’s leading and motion as I’ve manifested on these shores. Evangelistic meetings, revivals, trainings, AYCs (Australia Youth Conference) and camp meetings have all led to something really big and really exciting. Two words. ARISE Australia.

It’s hard to communicate, as a co-founder of ARISE, just how beautiful and thrilling those two words look to me. Just over a decade ago, ARISE was birthed from the enthusiasm of two young and on fire ministers (myself and Nathan Roman) and the willingness of the Michigan Conference. From the very beginning, wild dream about other campuses, particularly international ones. But that’s what ARISE is about. No longer.

I was present in the partnership with the North South Wales (NSNW) Conference. Light Bearers is launching its first ever international ARISE program! The program will run from February 25-May 18, on Australia’s incomparable Gold Coast, in local partnership with the Kingscliff Seventh-day Adventist Church. That church may well ring a bell for some of you, as it is the same church ARISE conducted its first ever international Bible Boot Camp at in 2011. In many ways, the amazing success of that program—268 registrants for the intensive two-week seminar!—land the ground work for the new ARISE Australia program.

LIGHT BEARS IS LAUNCHING ITS FIRST EVER INTERNATIONAL ARISE PROGRAM

But there were still several critical pieces that needed to fall into place in order for ARISE Australia to become a reality. The first was the openness and willingness of the NSNW Conference to explore the idea. President Justin Leaton and his leadership team embraced the idea and was willing to work to make it happen. When he extended the call to ARISE’s long time outreach coordinator, Matt Parra, to be the NSNW Evangelism Director, we were both thrilled and saddened. Yes, we were heartbroken to see Matt go, but already we could see all the possibilities!

As Matt prepared to leave, we essentially charged him with doing everything he could to pave the way for an ARISE Australia program. He was enthusiastic and optimistic about the potential, but there were so many questions and hurdles still beyond the horizon. Yes, he would try, but it could take years to pull off.

It took, not months, but years! It’s still hard to believe the reality with which things have happened. In May of 2012, Light Bearers conducted its second Australian Bible Boot Camp, this time at Avondale Memorial Church. The bad news is we didn’t have 250 participants this time; the good news is, we had 50! And who was one of the main point men responsible for making it such a tremendous success? Matt Parra, acting in his new role (in a new country, no less!). Justin Leaton attended the Boot Camp training session, and immediately use the potential. By week’s end I was sitting in his office with Ty Gibson, Randy San, Matt Parra and Paul Goodin (NSNW General Secretary). The energy was high, and the agenda was short: ARISE Australia.

That’s it, as they say, history. That’s the story! Light Bearers is honored by the opportunity to partner with visionary church leaders in creating ARISE Australia. Dates are set. Facilities are secured. Staff and instructors are confirmed. It’s all happened with near-dazzling speed. And more than just speed, it’s happened with openness, energy, excitement, organization and passion.

The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God.

ELLEN G. WHITE

TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH

VOLUME 7, PAGE 19

THE STORY

ARISE

for more information visit lightbearers.org/training

LIGHT BEARS

PRE CREATION

CREATION

FALL

COVENANT

LAW

TESTAMENT

CHURCH

RE CREATION
PUBLISH OR PERISH
by James Rafferty

IN THE WORLD of academia, “publish or perish” is an agonized maximation used by university professors to indicate the pressure they feel to “publish and continuously publish academic work to sustain or further one’s career.” In the world of Light Bearers, “publish or perish” is a battle cry that describes the urgency we feel to rapidly and continuously publish gospel literature for the world so that all who read the message and believe in Jesus might not perish, but have eternal life.

As of September 2012, Light Bearers has printed and shipped 6 containers of literature, delivering over 11.8 million tracts and publications to human beings longing for the Savior. As you receive this yearend report and we come to the close of 2012, 6 additional containers will have begun their journey across land and sea to reclaim territory for the kingdom of God. Receiving countries for this year are:

- Jamaica (English)
- Zambia (English)
- Uganda (1 in Luganda and 1 in English)
- Zimbabwe (English)
- Kenya (1 in Swahili and English)
- Tanzania (Swahili)
- Angola (3 in Portuguese)
- Mauritius (1 French and English)
- Madagascar (1 French and English)

"Here are some highlights from Zambia and Guatemala, both shipped in 2011 but having their ongoing impact in 2012. These reports from the frontlines will thrill your heart, as they have ours.

ZAMBIA

We have been shipping at least one container of literature to Riverside Farm Institute in Zambia (an Outpost Centers Inc. subsidiary) every year in support of their Bible-pioneeer work. This program trains Bible workers, called “pioneers,” who then go into unentered or semi-entered areas in Zambia to teach, train, and conduct Bible studies. This is a very focused and successful base of lay ministers.

From January to June of 2012, Riverside has sponsored 69 pioneers. They have worked in 13 unentered areas, 20 semi-entered areas, and two villages community in Zamb and one in Zimbabwe. To date, they have made over 11,700 contacts, conducted more than 3,500 Bible studies, handed out more than 14,800 sets of Discover Guides (printed in mass by Light Bearers), given away more than 23,000 additional pieces of literature, and trained 1,500 lay workers. All of this has resulted in more than 2,000 baptisms and an additional 5,100 decisions for baptism.

The following note of thanks is from Mbinge Protostair, President of Riverside Farm Institute: He expresses the pioneers and the literature outreach in Zambia. The thank you is followed by two testimonies from pioneers.

**Dear Light Bearers:**

Your continual support of our Bible pioneeers is highly appreciated. The evangelizing gospel needs to be preached and faithful workers are needed to take this message. We are thankful for the opportunity to work with you to finish God’s work. It is not always easy for these workers in remote areas, but our Father is blessing their efforts using one-to-one evangelism, Bible studies, literature, health, training, and evangelizing meetings. The one-day church and one-week school programs have contributed extensively to form new branches and companies and schools, furnishing the new congregations with a place of worship. What a privilege and blessing it is to be in God’s service! Some of us may never get to a foreign mission field, but by giving financial and prayer support, the work can be done in the unenterd parts of Zambia and Africa. This following story shows that even in a country like Zambia there are people who are ignorant about the true God of heaven and His salvation for them.

A testimony by Bupa Chinga:

I live in an area where our traditions have much power. Although some people are Christians, they still cling to the traditions. They worship ancestors in the form of grand images and shrines. People know little about God. They are not allowed to have Bibles, so that they can read for themselves. We are told by elderly people that if you read the Bible we may lose the importance of our traditions.

One day, in 2009, my brother and I were going to the market where we met a young man who was very friendly even though we did not know him. He asked us if we wanted something to read about God. We tried to ask him about this God. He told us: "If you will read these papers, they will tell you more about this God." We took the papers (Bible lessons) and started reading. We found them so interesting. We were so excited to be able to read and understand the God for ourselves. We discovered new things while reading these papers. We finished the study and handed them in for marking, after which we graduated in 2009. From 2009 to 2011 the Holy Spirit continued to me to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I have seen that there is power in the Bible lessons that contain God’s word. I am in the baptism class now, waiting to be baptized.

**Thank you for your support in publishing these lessons so that I can know more about the God whom I did not know. My God bless you all!**

From Enoch Chithala:

I went to conduct an evangelistic series in one of the branches that we had opened earlier in the year. I had taken many of the Discover Guides Bible lessons with me, and we recruited a student to study with us.

Day by day, the number of students kept increasing until the whole village was saturated with the lessons. The Lord blessed the effort and at the end of two weeks 27 souls were baptized.

GUATEMALA

Water for Life is a well-drilling ministry based in Spokane, Washington. They recruit people and gather equipment in the United States for drilling wells in remote villages, thus providing clean drinking water for thousands. Over the years, they have improved and even saved the lives of many hundreds. Their self-sustaining work has led to an outstanding relationship with local communities and the government of Guatemala.

**IF YOU WILL READ THESE PAPERS, THEY WILL TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THIS GOD.**

The people are overwhelmed with happiness and gratitude as the water gushes up from the earth. This is real life ministry of huge significance even if the well drillers have nothing more to offer. But large well drillers do have something more to offer, because that large metal container that carried the drilling equipment to Guatemala also carried hundreds of books filled with gospel literature. And because the well drillers have given the gift of literal water, the hearts of the people are all the more open to receive the water of life.

Here are letters of testimony from two local Guatemalan pastors:

**A pleasure to greet you and thank God for directing your ministry to the winning for many people here in western Guatemala. Through journals, magazines, and Bible studies we have received from you, we have been able to share the message with hundreds of people and make contact with them to give Bible studies. Results have been the baptism this year of around 1500 people.**

**Much appreciated is your support to send magazines, especially in the Sabbath day and the Signs of the Times, and our doctrines. Kindly send more Bible, study booklets in Spanish and any other material that can be a blessing to continue sharing the message in this part of the world. If you have the opportunity to contact evangelists who wish to support us in preaching the gospel, it would be a blessing to have with us.**

**Thank you very much for your support in the past and for your willingness to remain a blessing to us and the many people here in Guatemala.**

**We hereby request more of your kind heart and willingness in sending more of your good literature, Bibles and whatever good materials you can send in Spanish for continuing the Lord’s work here in Guatemala.**

Light Bearers is the greatest blessing to us because it gives us an opportunity to win for many people here in Guatemala.

**Dear Light Bearers:**

Poet of all we are thankful to the good Lord our great God for the Blessing He has sent to Guatemala by all of you, LIGHT BEARERS workers, with the preaching of Pr. James and also with the literature you sent. It was like hot bread. You have reached the hearts of the people here.

**Thank you again.**

Kingdom of God has been reclaimed for Christ. Every nation and every human soul belongs to Him by creation and by redemption. The need is great. The door is open. The time is now.

Let the press roll out millions of pieces of gospel literature into the world. In this way, the great commission will be accomplished! 

**Discover Guide**

had taken many of the branches that we had opened earlier in the year. I went to conduct an evangelistic series in one of the branches that we had opened earlier in the year. I had taken many of the Discover Guides Bible lessons with me, and we recruited a student to study with us. 

Day by day, the number of students kept increasing until the whole village was saturated with the lessons. The Lord blessed the effort and at the end of two weeks 27 souls were baptized.

**IF YOU WILL READ THESE PAPERS, THEY WILL TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THIS GOD.**

The people are overwhelmed with happiness and gratitude as the water gushes up from the earth. This is real life ministry of huge significance even if the well drillers have nothing more to offer. But large well drillers do have something more to offer, because that large metal container that carried the drilling equipment to Guatemala also carried hundreds of books filled with gospel literature. And because the well drillers have given the gift of literal water, the hearts of the people are all the more open to receive the water of life.

Here are letters of testimony from two local Guatemalan pastors:

**A pleasure to greet you and thank God for directing your ministry to the winning for many people here in western Guatemala. Through journals, magazines, and Bible studies we have received from you, we have been able to share the message with hundreds of people and make contact with them to give Bible studies. Results have been the baptism this year of around 1500 people.**

**Much appreciated is your support to send magazines, especially in the Sabbath day and the Signs of the Times, and our doctrines. Kindly send more Bible, study booklets in Spanish and any other material that can be a blessing to continue sharing the message in this part of the world. If you have the opportunity to contact evangelists who wish to support us in preaching the gospel, it would be a blessing to have with us.**

**Thank you very much for your support in the past and for your willingness to remain a blessing to us and the many people here in Guatemala.**

**We hereby request more of your kind heart and willingness in sending more of your good literature, Bibles and whatever good materials you can send in Spanish for continuing the Lord’s work here in Guatemala.**

Light Bearers is the greatest blessing to us because it gives us an opportunity to win for many people here in Guatemala.

**Dear Light Bearers:**

Poet of all we are thankful to the good Lord our great God for the Blessing He has sent to Guatemala by all of you, LIGHT BEARERS workers, with the preaching of Pr. James and also with the literature you sent. It was like hot bread. You have reached the hearts of the people here.

**Thank you again.**

Kingdom of God has been reclaimed for Christ. Every nation and every human soul belongs to Him by creation and by redemption. The need is great. The door is open. The time is now.

Let the press roll out millions of pieces of gospel literature into the world. In this way, the great commission will be accomplished!
“ATTEMPT SOMETHING LARGE enough that failure is guaranteed . . . unless God steps in” (Bruce Wilkinson).

That’s what the Great Commission is all about. And that’s what Light Bearers is all about. We’re passionate about a cause much greater than ourselves. Unless God steps in, failure is inevitable. From a human perspective, this is overwhelming. But how can we be satisfied with anything less?

Jabez, an earnest man, who we know little about, left us with a prayer that is both daring and inspiring:

and Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” so God granted him what he requested “1 Chronicles 4:10, n KJV”

This is a beautiful plea, and one that I’m sure God would like to hear more often. Jabez prayed that his territory would be enlarged. He was passionate and ambitious. And, when properly directed, God likes that. The desire to increase our sphere of influence for His glory is something that is pleasing to Him.

And the prayer is specific in its address. It’s to the “God of Israel”—the covenant-keeping God. Several generations before the time of Jabez, this same God led the Israelites right up to the borders of the Promised Land. He had pledged this territory to them. It was theirs for the taking, for God had already claimed the victory. He bade them simply, “Go get it!”

After a period of gradual progress, seeing the mighty hand of God work miraculous triumphs on their behalf, the people began to settle down and settle in. But God disrupted their complacency: “there remains very much land yet to be possessed” (Joshua 13:1, NKJV). In other words, “Don’t be satisfied, We’re just getting started. I’ve got more exciting victories in store. Don’t hang your hat on this. There is more territory for you. Press forward!”

That’s the God of Israel. That’s the Covenant Keeper that Jabez was addressing.

Here at Light Bearers we’ve seen some amazing things. God has been moving, undeniably so, through this ministry. But we’re not ready to settle down and settle in just yet. In fact, we know that we’ve barely scratched the surface of what God really wants to do with us and through us. We hear those words getting louder and louder, “There remains very much land yet to be possessed.”

There’s a world out there that’s ripe for the gospel of Jesus Christ. The victory is already won! The command is simple, “Go get it!”