



TERRITORY

Light Bearers 2012 Yearend Report

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

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PHOTO BY KATE HOLT

TERRITORIAL FORCES

by Ty Gibson

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 “mote 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). Humanity 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 regency 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 heaven, 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 freewill.

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 build a global society of benevolence.

But right here the story goes dark.

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 freewill, 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 reclaimed, the deceived human race redeemed, 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 went 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).

A singular Warrior would be coming to earth to crush Satan’s head, as it were, while being wounded by the enemy in the process of His victory. A lineage of “offspring,” therefore, must be established through which the Deliverer

could enter the human race. A people, in other words, must be carved out from among the nations and claimed for the divine purpose/strategy.

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, ingenious, 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 dominance:

“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 angels of God. And His people Jacob 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, and kept him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle would watch over his brood, and yearns over his young, receives them having spread his wings, and takes them up on his back: the Lord alone led them; there was no strange god with them” (Deuteronomy 32:8-12, 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 angels 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 “line” through which the promised Warrior would come to reclaim humanity from satanic control.

Satan organized his forces, as well. He put various ones of the fallen angels, now demons, in positions 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 dominance to drive the nations by fear into heinous practices such as human sacrifice. With this state of affairs in mind, Moses decried the fact that Israel, having been chosen by God as His “portion” from among the nations, was engaging in the worship of these false “gods” and practicing human sacrifice like the Canaanite nations (Deuteronomy 32:15-17; Psalm 106:37-38).

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 lineage of promise.

SCENE FIVE: THE UNARMED WARRIOR

The promised Warrior landed on earthly soil as a helpless, dependent babe 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 usurper without ever taking a weapon of violence in 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 has now come is the very One, formerly bearing the name Michael, who had disputed Satan’s initial claims against the Father and expelled him and his angels from the heavenly realm (Revelation 12:7-12).

With a self-assured arrogance developed by thousands of years of apparent victory, Satan laid claim to earth as his domain and offered it to Jesus in exchange for worship:

“Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours’” (Luke 4:5-7).

Jesus refused, of course, knowing that Satan cannot possibly see what’s coming: namely, that a kind of power, a quality of authority, completely foreign to his demonic nature, is about to pounce upon his dark empire.



PHOTO BY KATE HOLT

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 palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he 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 rightful King of heaven and earth is about to make.

No carnal weapon will be taken in hand.

No blood-shedding army will be commanded.

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

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

“Now 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 peoples to Myself” (John 12:31-32).

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. “Having 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 realm of human 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 dispute. The real war rages over the 3-pound plot of ground

that resides behind our eyes and occupies our skulls.

On the one hand, God makes no secret about the fact that He’s after our “foreheads” (Revelation 14:1)—or, more precisely, the mental, emotional and volitional territory that resides within our foreheads. The apostle John rather matter-of-factly states that it is there, in the human forehead, that God wants to deeply inscribe “His name,” to indicate, at very least, His ownership and presence within the realm of our characters.

THE WARFARE WE FIGHT OCCURS WITHIN THE REALM OF THE MIND, WHERE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ARE FORMED

Human beings are, astoundingly, permeable creatures. Outside influences, and even entities, get into us. We are, in fact, designed to be inhabited, preferably as “an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:22, KJV).

Each human heart is:

a citadel of kingly enthronement,

a precinct of eternal truth,

a chamber of sacred romance.

On the other hand, the great enemy of God and man is also seeking enthronement in the human heart. He is in the business of taking up mental and emotional territory within our souls. He is on a mad warrior quest to fill our hearts and minds with shame where there ought to be innocence, moral defilement where there ought to be purity, hostility where there ought to be love, and demons masquerading as gods where there ought to be the Holy Spirit.

The language Paul uses to describe the nature of our warfare is extremely insightful:

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing

every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

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 (distorted conceptions 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’s 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 human souls, Jesus laid claim to the territory stolen 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, laboring to set 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. You, as an earthling, are yourself a territory under dispute. Every man, woman and child you know, and all the ones you don’t know, are territories under dispute. Scan the faces that circulate in your little 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 reclaim for the kingdom of God?

SCENE SEVEN: THE EARTH RECLAIMED

“Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power” (1 Corinthians 15:24).

Paul would have us understand that history is



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ultimately rushing toward the demise of all systems of coercion, domination, oppression and war, and to the establishment of a forever flourishing love based on liberty.

In the words of Micah's epic prophecy, "In 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 unto 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 thee shall it come, even the first dominion" (Micah 4:1-8, KJV).

What amazing and reassuring insight into the character of God!

He is anti-war and pro-peace, anti-force and pro-love. It is His ultimate goal to bring a complete end to all coercive regimes and to establish an eternal reign of freedom. "The first dominion," the one lost by Adam and

Eve, will be reestablished. And when it is, God says, "they shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9).

First, the inner territory that lies within hearts is reclaimed.

Then, the territory of earth itself is reclaimed and made forever new.

"Behold," says the One seated on the throne, "I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5). And when that day comes, God's city, the New Jerusalem, will be transferred here to earth as the new capital planet of the universe:


"Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall

be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away'" (Revelation 21:2-4).

"In the place where sin abounded, God's grace much more abounds. The earth itself, the very field that Satan claims as his, is to be not only ransomed, but exalted. Our little world, under the curse of sin the one dark blot in His glorious creation, will be honored above all other worlds in the universe of God. Here, where the Son of God tabernacled in humanity; where the King of glory lived and suffered and died—here, when He shall make all things new, the tabernacle of God shall be with men" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 26).

That's where this story is going.

By God's grace, I intend to go with it, safely delivered by Jesus to the new earth as an eternal citizen of that fully restored "first dominion."

You too? 

THE CHARACTER OF THE RECLAIMER

A portrait of Jesus from The Desire of Ages

- » Jesus did not count heaven a place to be desired while we were lost. (416)
- » The Savior would have passed through the agony of Calvary that one might be saved in His kingdom. (480)
- » Instead of destroying the world, God sent His Son to save it. (37)
- » Through every age, through every hour, the love of God had been exercised toward the fallen race. (37)
- » Our Redeemer has opened the way so that the most sinful, the most needy, the most oppressed and despised, may find access to the Father. (113)
- » Every soul was precious in His eyes In all men He saw fallen souls whom it was His mission to save. (353)
- » When to human eyes her case appeared hopeless, Christ saw in Mary capabilities for good. He saw the better traits of her character. (568)
- » At all times and in all places He manifested a loving interest in men, and shed about Him the light of a cheerful piety. (86)
- » During every hour of Christ's sojourn upon the earth, the love of God was flowing from Him in irrepressible streams. (678)
- » The healing power of love went out from Him to the sick and distressed. (92)
- » He was moved by human sorrow. His tender, pitying heart is ever awakened to sympathy by suffering. (533)
- » His life flowed out in currents of sympathy and tenderness. (74)

- » He manifested a patience that nothing could disturb, and a truthfulness that would never sacrifice integrity. (68)
- » He drew the sympathy of all hearts by showing Himself capable of sympathizing with all. (74)
- » But not to any class is Christ's love restricted. He identifies Himself with every child of humanity. (638)
- » He spoke a word of sympathy here and a word there, as he saw men weary, yet compelled to bear heavy burdens. He shared their burdens. (90)
- » Christ spoke with such solemn dignity, and both look and tone expressed such earnest love. (173)
- » His tender compassion fell with a touch of healing upon weary and troubled hearts. (254)
- » His every feature expressed gentleness, and resignation and the tenderest pity for His cruel foes. (735)
- » When He saw men refuse the message of peace, His heart was pierced to the very depths. (255)
- » The gift of Christ . . . declares that while God's hatred of sin is as strong as death, His love for the sinner is stronger than death. (57)
- » Having undertaken our redemption, He will spare nothing, however dear, which is necessary to the completion of His work. (57)
- » He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin . . . and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself. (690)
- » At the cross of Calvary, love and selfishness stood face to face. (57)

- » It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. (25)
- » In taking our nature, the Savior has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. (25)
- » However imperfect and sinful we may be, the Lord holds out to us the offer of partnership with Himself, of apprenticeship to Christ. (297)
- » God is drawing all hearts unto Him, and only those who resist His drawing will refuse to come to Christ. (387)
- » He does not leave us alone to struggle with temptation, to battle with evil, and be finally crushed with burdens and sorrow. (483)
- » Jesus knows the griefs that lie too deep to be breathed into any human ear. (483)
- » He will never abandon one for whom He has died. (480)
- » Not a sigh is breathed, not a pain felt, not a grief pierces the soul, but the throb vibrates to the Father's heart. (356)
- » The price of heaven is Jesus. The way to heaven is through faith in "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). (385)
- » Confessing our helplessness and bitter need, we are to trust ourselves wholly to His love. (200)



A FIRSTHAND WITNESS

by Kyle Vincent, Gospel Connections

FOR THOSE OF us in the Western world, sometimes it's hard to fathom the enormity of the task God has put before us. We are very familiar with the words of Christ when He said that the "gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14). But it's only reasonable to wonder how this will actually happen. With the world's population continuing to skyrocket, how it is that we are to take the gospel to a world that is becoming harder to reach by the day?

Well, on a recent trip to Kenya, I witnessed firsthand how this huge job can and will be done.

As a part of a lay evangelistic team, Gospel Connections, I had the privilege of joining Rui Coelho and my brother Jared Vincent on what was the third evangelistic series we have run across the nation of Kenya. As a group that does not have the funds for big stages or expensive television advertisements, we simply throw our faith on God and the power of His word to reach the hearts of the people. And every time we have preached in Kenya we have encountered and relied on a resource that is simply invaluable—the *Discover Guides* (developed and translated by the Voice of Prophecy). These are a twenty-six part Bible study series that walk readers through all of our beliefs and teachings in preparation for baptism. What's incredible is

that these power-packed study guides are provided by Light Bearers, free-of-charge, by the millions, to be used in the mission field.

The preaching we do is dependent upon this Light Bearers' literature.


Night after night we proclaim the gospel, revealing God's character through the truths outlined in the scriptures. And as important as these nightly presentations are, we rely on the *Discover Guides* to drive home what is said from the pulpit. Our job as evangelists is to provide people with the opportunity to make well thought out, logical decisions for Christ. Light Bearers' literature helps make that a reality.

THE PREACHING WE DO IS DEPENDENT UPON THIS LIGHT BEARERS' LITERATURE

Our most recent evangelistic campaign was held in Kisii, Kenya. We conducted meetings at four main sites, in areas that are considered "unentered" by the Adventist Church. Whilst we battled with constant difficulties and challenges, we had the joy of seeing 2,229 people baptized

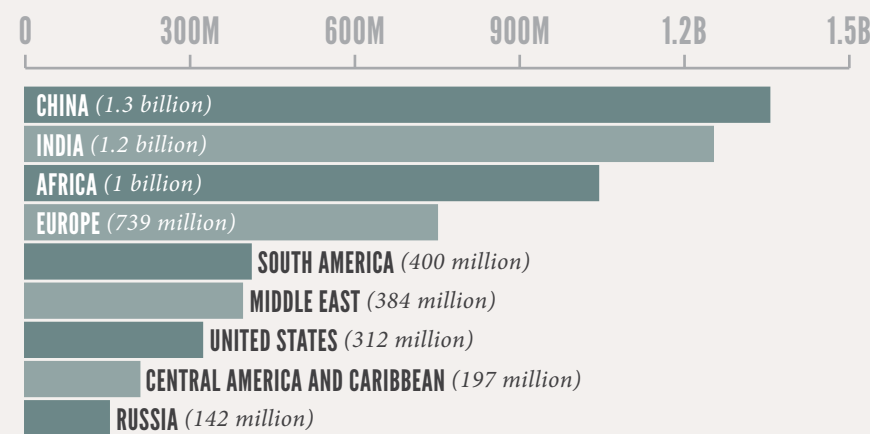
as a result of the two-week campaign. This incredible experience was significantly aided by the use of the *Discover Guides*.

Over the eighteen months that Gospel Connections has existed, we have seen 4,380 people commit their lives to Christ through baptism. And as momentous as this is, many more have gone on to be baptized after the campaigns are over because, even in our absence, they have gone on to complete the Bible lessons that are readily available by the ongoing supply chain of Light Bearers. The legacy that this literature has left across the nation of Kenya, and many other nations, truly will not be realized this side of heaven.

In contemplation of the great gospel commission before us, it is clear how this great work will be done. God's word has power that cannot be described. Our time in Kenya has shown me that when the light of the glorious gospel illuminates the dark hearts of men and women, lives are radically changed. The generosity of Light Bearers in assisting Gospel Connections by providing the truths of God's word in written form is resulting in literally thousands making decisions for Christ that otherwise would go to Christless graves. What an honor it is to proclaim Christ and Him crucified! 

THE TERRITORY

TOTAL POPULATION: **7,044,221,847**



42 MILLION:
babies aborted
this year

38 MILLION:
population of
California

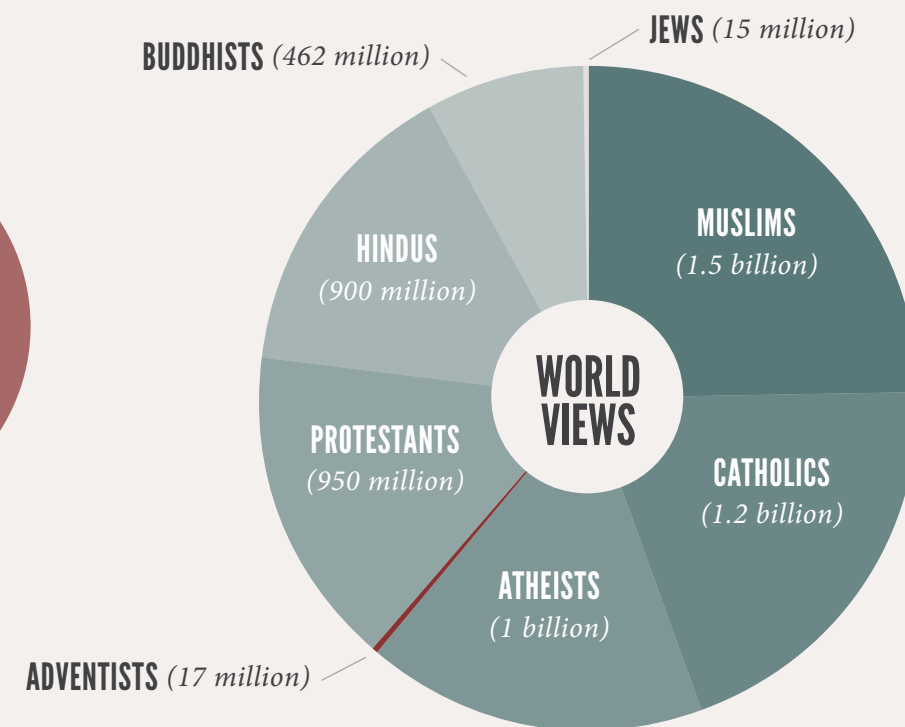
27 MILLION:
estimated number
of slaves in the
world today

55 MILLION:
people who
died today

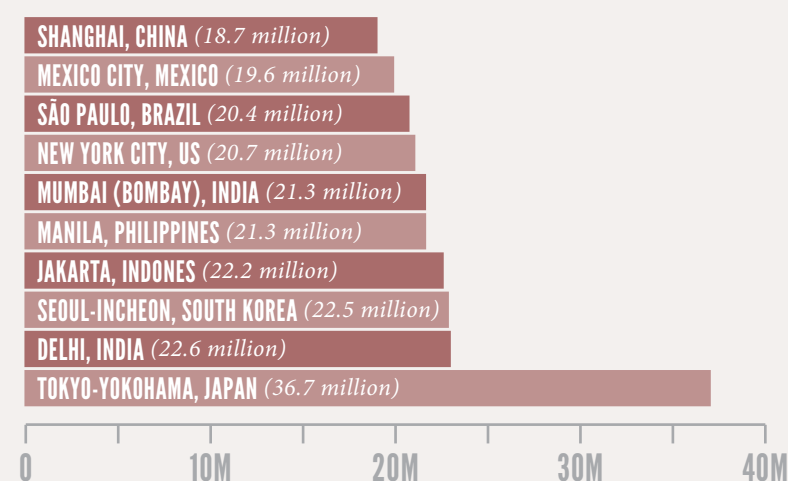
131 MILLION:
people born
today

70 DOLLARS:
US average
daily wage

2 DOLLARS:
average daily wage
for 56% of the world



MOST POPULATED URBAN AREAS



2.7 BILLION (NEARLY 2 OUT OF 5)

the number of people who have never heard the gospel



1 BILLION (1 OUT OF 7)

the number of people who have never even heard the name of Jesus



*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world
for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

- JESUS

WE SAW JESUS

by Jeffrey Rosario

A PREACHER ONCE approached the pulpit on a Sabbath morning and, before his opening remarks, glanced down to see a note that read: "Sir, we would see Jesus" (John 12:21, 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 Scripture, and his sermons thereafter bore witness to it.

Sometime 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 convocation, or a conference or a convention.

It was an encounter.

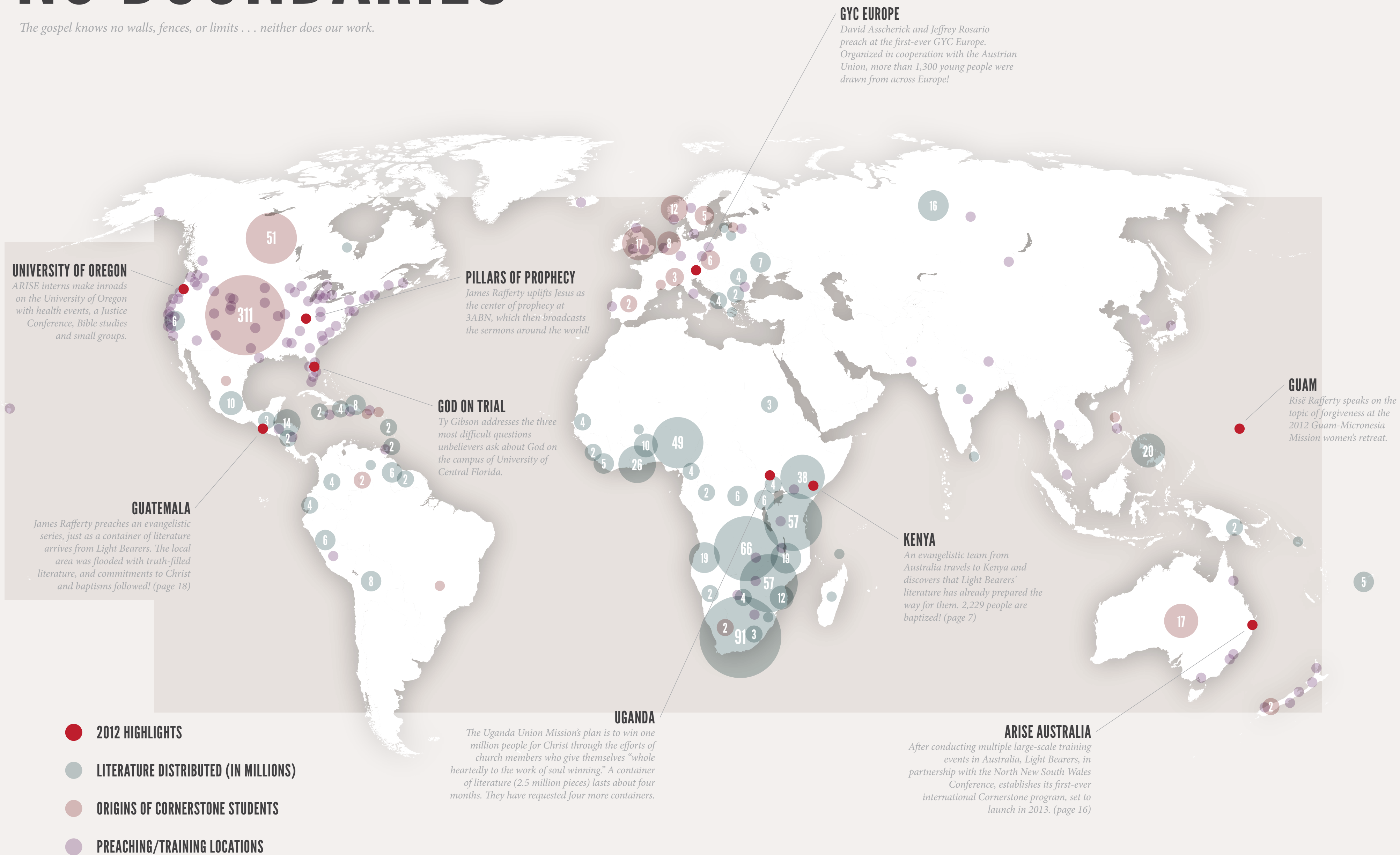
And we saw Jesus!

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.



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 to "call out." The prefix re means "back." Thus, reclaim, etymologically speaking, means to "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 reclaim 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 other-worldly 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, Caesar the new Pharaoh,

and the hand of God is expected to appear with similar force and results as accompanied it in Moses' day. God's new Moses, but mightier 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.

JESUS CALLS, AND THE WAYWARD SOUL RETURNS TO THE HAND, HIS HAND

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. 824). 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 diseased and disfigured 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 a



claim on her. She was, by Jesus’ own evaluation, under the evil one’s jurisdiction.

But that jurisdiction was coming to a fast, full and final end!

“[He] said to her, ‘Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.’ And He laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight and glorified God” (verses 12-13). Note that word, immediately. This is how God reclaims, immediately!

This healing, this reclamation, like so many others was greeted, by most, with joyous celebration. “All the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him” (verse 17). With every healing, every miracle, every insightful sermon or parable, and every polemical victory, momentum was gaining. The crowds were increasingly certain that they knew where all this momentum was headed. Jesus was on a crash course with Rome itself. And they were right!

But not in the way they imagined.

Because Jesus wasn’t after the throne of Caesar. Or Herod, the self-described “King of the Jews.” He was after the thrones of individual human hearts which would, He knew, lead to His rightful throne, the throne of God! Jesus couldn’t be bothered with earthly boundaries and thrones. He was after a lasting territory and an eternal throne.

This woman was now His. And He was hers, the King of her heart.

THE DEMONIAK OF GADARENES

Not long before this, Jesus had sailed, with His disciples, across the Sea of Galilee. A storm had risen, but Jesus rebuked the elements, and to the disciples’ amazement sailed safely to the shore of Gadarenes. One storm had passed at His word, but now, as He steps to shore, another, of a different sort, rushes upon Him. It is a man under Satan’s own jurisdiction and control. Where the woman had a “spirit of infirmity,” this poor man has demons lodged deep within him. They have settled in and taken up a lasting and rather comfortable residence.

Jesus is repulsed by the site. How far has man fallen? How far have angels fallen? Jesus’ pain of mind is visible to all, but that pain must increase immeasurably when one of the demons makes his request known: “Jesus . . . I beg You, do not torment me” (Luke 8:28, NKJV).

JESUS IS PLUNDERING THE ENEMY’S HOUSE

What an insight this is into the great controversy! What must this demon (which is but a fallen angel) believe about God’s character if the first thing he does is “begs” (begs!) that Jesus will not torture him? What is his picture of God? Whose lies has he been imbibing?

The truth is this: Jesus did not come to torture, but to be tortured!

And then, just as Jesus had commanded the elements the night before, He “commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man” (verse 29). The demons gave up their formerly comfortable residence, and, strangely, made their way into a nearby herd of swine. The swine, startled, “ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned” (verse 33).

By this time, predictably, a crowd had gathered. Because where Jesus was, crowds were.

Those who had tended to the now dead pigs ran and told the story to all who would listen. Intrigued,

many came to see this mysterious Man. But they found more than they’d bargained for. They found the formerly possessed man, “sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind” (verse 35).

Then Luke adds this sentence: “And they were afraid.”

And, really, that’s too bad, because Jesus hadn’t come to bring fear, but peace, restoration and wholeness. First, for the man and then for everyone else. But they weren’t having it, and in a strange and unpredictable twist, the people of the region actually asked Jesus to leave.

What a sad sight. Jesus’ ministry of reclamation had just graced their shores, but they were anxious to see it, and Him, go. Then the man, “begged Him, that he might be with Him” (verse 38). Don’t miss that. First, he’d “begged” Jesus to leave, and now, healed, he “begged” Him not to leave. Such is the power of the gospel, and the love of Jesus, that a man can be turned right around—180 degrees—in a single encounter!

A STRONGER MAN

Jesus was a healer of both soul and body. The restorative power of God was seen wherever He went. This was good news to most, but deeply threatening to others. Jesus, after healing a particularly pitiable man, so evinced a plainly supernatural power, that he was accused of doing it by Beelzebub, literally “the Lord of the Flies.” The accusation is helpful in an interesting way, since it confirms that even Jesus’ detractors were forced to confess the supernatural nature of His healings. In response to the suggestion, Jesus told a story.

“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house” (Matthew 12:25-29, NKJV, emphasis supplied by author).

Jesus is plundering the enemy’s house. To plunder means to rob, to steal. Jesus, then, is taking something out of Satan’s territory and jurisdiction, and relocating it into His own. This happened with every healing, whether of soul or body. And this was proof, Jesus said, that “the kingdom of God has come upon you” (verse 28). Jesus is reclaiming, restoring. God’s kingdom is not only coming, He’s saying, it has come, it is here.


Jesus was locked in hand-to-hand combat, not with Rome, but with a stronger and more fundamental power. And He was winning at every turn. Wholeness, joy and celebration followed Him nearly everywhere He went. No wonder the people were anxious for Him to be King! Can you blame them? Alas, he was not exactly the kind of King they wanted, but He was indeed the King they needed.

And here’s the good news, contained in a rather unexpected plot twist: Jesus had come to be declared King!

Not the King of Israel or the King over Rome, but a different kind of King. A better King, an eternal King. As King, He went about preaching and establishing His kingdom, what He called “the kingdom of God” (or “the kingdom of heaven”).

It was (and is!) a kingdom of the willing! Of the saved! Of the restored!

Of the reclaimed!

Do you hear His call? If so, return to His hand. It is a strong and safe hand; it is the hand of a King. 



NORTH AMERICA

by Ty Gibson

I SO LOVE preaching the gospel of God’s unparalleled love and immeasurable grace. My wife Sue says I’m addicted to preaching. Truth be told, I am. And, honestly, I can’t imagine living life without repeatedly attempting to articulate God’s good character to anyone who will listen.

Every time I do it I wonder at the effect that sweeps over the hearers. It’s a visible effect. I can literally see in faces a softening, subduing influence taking hold from the inside out. I can see the lights coming on in people’s eyes. I can see innocence being reconstituted, sensitivity recalibrated, and love restored.

In this yearend report we are talking about territories of the world. North America is a special territory for me (not better, just special). It is my home, after all. It is the “world” in this world I know best. And presently, I must confess, my heart is aching for the church in North America.

Allow me to speak straight. Our beloved church here in North America is, it seems to me, in a frightful condition. Yes, there are positive developments happening here and there, as well. But the general state of affairs looks to me to be something like this:

- » One little congregation after another is struggling to stay alive with dwindling attendance and the younger generation is largely missing.
- » Years of staunch, cold, formal legalism is now yielding a reactionary backlash of liberalism in which key Bible truths are ignored or even opposed, largely, I think, because we failed to find their relevance within the context of the gospel.
- » In many quarters, there are polarizing postures and attitudes with sharp pulls to the right and sharp pulls to the left with an issues-oriented focus, and the church even looks at times like it’s on the brink of fragmenting into special-interest groups.
- » Preachers and “special ministries” are urging upon the people this or that particular issue with

a “this-is-what-you-ought-to-be-concerned-about” vigor that has the poor flock of God reeling with questions as to what does, in fact, matter.

- » All around the edges of Adventism, like a battering ram, there are extremist groups, both of the conservative and the liberal bent, urging new interpretations of prophecy, demanding narrow dictates for music and worship styles, demanding anything-goes music and worship styles, leveling attacks on Ellen White’s prophetic ministry, offering up “new light” on the Sabbath (“it must be kept according to the lunar cycle”), new light on the feast days (“you ought to observe them”), new light on the latter rain (“it’s the 2520 prophecy”), etcetera, etcetera, the list goes on.

- » All the while—now think about this—we hear so little straightforward preaching of the glorious gospel of God’s saving grace, Jesus Christ and Him crucified, righteousness by faith, and God’s beautiful character of infinite love in the urgent context of the three angels’ messages.

While the North American church is busy polarizing over various issues that are being pressed upon us by strident voices to the right and to the left, the average person sitting in the pew is simply longing for a living encounter with the Savior, hungry for God’s transformative love to become vivid from the pulpit and experiential in the church.

Well, here’s the good news. There are a growing number of pastors and church leaders who discern that Jesus needs to take center stage, that the gospel of God’s grace needs to be preached with clarity and passion, and that the revival we so desperately need as a people can only emerge from a solid and steady focus on the message of Christ our righteousness. These leaders and pastors understand that we must resist the temptation to divide the church over non-essential, non-gospel, non-moral issues, and exalt Christ in

all His glorious beauty, as our only hope as a people, and as the only hope of the world.

Light Bearers shares this conviction.

We take inspired statements like these as our marching orders:

“Our churches are dying for the want of teaching on the subject of righteousness by faith in Christ, and on kindred truths” (*Gospel Workers*, p. 301).

“The enemy of God and man is not willing that this truth should be clearly presented; for he knows that if the people receive it fully, his power will be broken” (*Gospel Workers*, p. 161).

“There is one great central truth to be kept ever before the mind in the searching of the Scriptures—Christ and Him crucified. Every other truth is invested with influence and power corresponding to its relation to this theme” (*The Faith I Live By*, p. 50).

“One interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up every other—Christ our righteousness” (*Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890).

OUR CHURCHES ARE DYING FOR THE WANT OF TEACHING ON THE SUBJECT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH IN CHRIST

Know this: Light Bearers is determined to bring “meat in due season” to the famishing flock of God (Matthew 24:45). We feel compelled to preach Christ—Christ in Bible prophecy, Christ in all our doctrines, Christ in the three angels’ messages, Christ incarnate, living, teaching, healing, dying, rising, and ministering from the Most Holy Place—Christ, Christ, Christ in all His magnificent glory. We are deeply convicted that this is where the true light and power reside. When Jesus is lifted up, conservative and liberal extremes are corrected, fanatics are either converted or expelled, and the church is mobilized to action by the internal impetus of God’s love.

And we have seen, firsthand, the impact this message has upon hearts and lives, not only in various places around the world, but also right here in North America where the church seems so threatened by encroaching


right-wing and left-wing forces. In 2012 we had the privilege of conducting revival meetings in a number of places across North America.

On the campus of our beloved Andrews University we preached to a riveted congregation mostly composed of young adults who have been raised in Adventism. Many of them were (and are) accustomed to hearing about the various controversial issues currently boiling in the church. As the meeting came to a close, one of the on-campus student leaders said, “This is exactly what we needed. As young people who are trying to sort out all the voices vying for our attention, it’s easy to get into a lot of hot issues that generate heat but not light. This was so amazing to just focus our total attention on the character of God and the cross of Christ.”

Way up in Pugwash, Nova Scotia we had the privilege of delivering nine messages at the Maritime Conference camp meeting. On the final evening, church leaders invited anyone who might want to do so to offer a few words of testimony. One person after another spoke, not with tepid and formal words, but with enthusiasm, with gratitude to God, and some with tears.

In August, we held a 10-part series on the campus of Loma Linda University, at the Campus Hill Church. The pastoral staff is eager to advance the full-orbed Adventist message saturated in the gospel of Christ. We had a mix of both Adventist and non-Adventists in attendance. One woman introduced herself as a personal friend of Dr. James Dobson. Then she said, “This is wonderful. The things you’re preaching make God seem so beautiful. I will make sure Dr. Dobson hears this.”

I am convinced that the message God has given us, when preached in immediate relation to the gospel, will break down many prejudices and recommend itself to thinking people who have a hunch that God is better than He has been portrayed.

Within North America we also held meetings in various cities of New England, Florida, Texas, Illinois, British Columbia, Oklahoma, Georgia, Michigan, Washington and, of course, Oregon. And the collective testimony of Jeffrey, James, David and myself, as speakers for Light Bearers, along with the many pastors and church leaders who share this vision, is that wherever Christ is preached—Christ and not any other focus—the transformative power of God’s love moves into action. 



TWO VERY IMPORTANT WORDS

by David Asscherick

AUSTRALIA USED TO seem 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 I’ve found Australia on my calendar, and year after year I’ve sensed God’s leading and blessing as I’ve ministered on those shores. Evangelistic meetings, revivals, trainings, AYCs (Australia Youth Conferences) 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 Renner) and the willingness of the Michigan Conference. From the very beginning, we’d dreamed about other campuses, particularly international ones. But that’s what they were: dreams.

No longer.

In 2013, in partnership with the North New South Wales (NNSW) 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 session!—laid the ground work for the new ARISE Australia program.

LIGHT BEARERS 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 NNSW Conference to explore the idea. President Justin Lawman 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 NNSW Evangelism Director, we were both thrilled and saddened. Yes, we were heartbroken to see Matt go, but already we could all see 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 years, but *months*!

It’s still hard to believe the rapidity 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 registrants this time; the good news is, we had 350! And who was one of the main point men responsible for making it such a tremendous success? Matt Parra, acting in his new post (in a new country, no less!). Justin Lawman attended the Boot Camp training session, and immediately saw the potential. By week’s end I was sitting in his office with Ty Gibson, Randy Ban, Matt Parra and Paul Geelan (NNSW General Secretary). The energy was high, and the agenda was short: ARISE Australia.

The rest is, as they say, history. That is, His 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-dizzying speed. And

more than just speed, it’s happened with openness, energy, excitement, organization and passion.

ARISE Australia.

Just look at those two words, because they are brimming with Spirit-filled potential. Our prayer is that Down Under will be turned upside down by Jesus Christ and His Word. —✠—

For the latest about ARISE Australia, visit ariseaustralia.org.

*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**

ARISE: TEN DOWN, ETERNITY TO GO

by David Asscherick

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 10 classes of students.

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

And yet, here we are.

ARISE was founded in Michigan—Troy to be precise. In the intervening years, we’ve had two additional homes: Sonora, California and, now, Jasper, Oregon. 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 elated and poignant 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 that, well, we’re all still here. Still waiting. Still watching. Still working.

ARISE graduates are world changers, yes, but the world still needs a lot more changing. And, we believe, a lot more ARISE graduates!

Perhaps I was naïve and idealistic, but when ARISE was founded, I genuinely believed that Jesus would likely come before I reached 40 and ARISE reached 10. Nevertheless, my

enthusiasm for Jesus, His love, His Word and His church is entirely undimmed. And not only is it undimmed, it’s stronger than ever!

I GENUINELY BELIEVED THAT JESUS WOULD LIKELY COME BEFORE I REACHED 40 AND ARISE REACHED 10

After all, what should we Adventists do, sulk? Hardly! There’s work to be done! There are people, thousands and millions, that need serving and saving. There’s a work to be done in my own heart too! And in yours! Sure, it’d be great to enter and enjoy that world where pain and death are no more, but we’re not there yet. So, in the meantime, we need to be busy about our Father’s business, just like our Savior always was. The Great Commission still beckons, calling as a clarion voice through the din of this world’s hustle and bustle:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20, NIV).

This is what ARISE is, and has always been about. Over the years, the program has changed and matured. From our

perspective, it’s gotten better with each passing program, and we’re committed to seeing that continue. As part of that commitment, we completely overhauled the program in preparation for the 2012 class. We added new classes and some great new instructors.

The new program is built completely around the meta-narrative (a fancy word for the big picture) of Scripture. It moves both chronologically and thematically through this big picture in seven “chapters:” Pre-Creation, Creation, the Fall, Covenant, Messiah, Church and Recreation. It’s the most well-thought and scripturally intentional program we’ve ever produced. We’re over the moon about it, as students now not only get the *what* and the *how*, but they also get very logical and biblically-grounded answers to the *why* and the *when*! The Seventh-day Adventist movement is seen in the context of the whole story and flow of Scripture’s narrative!

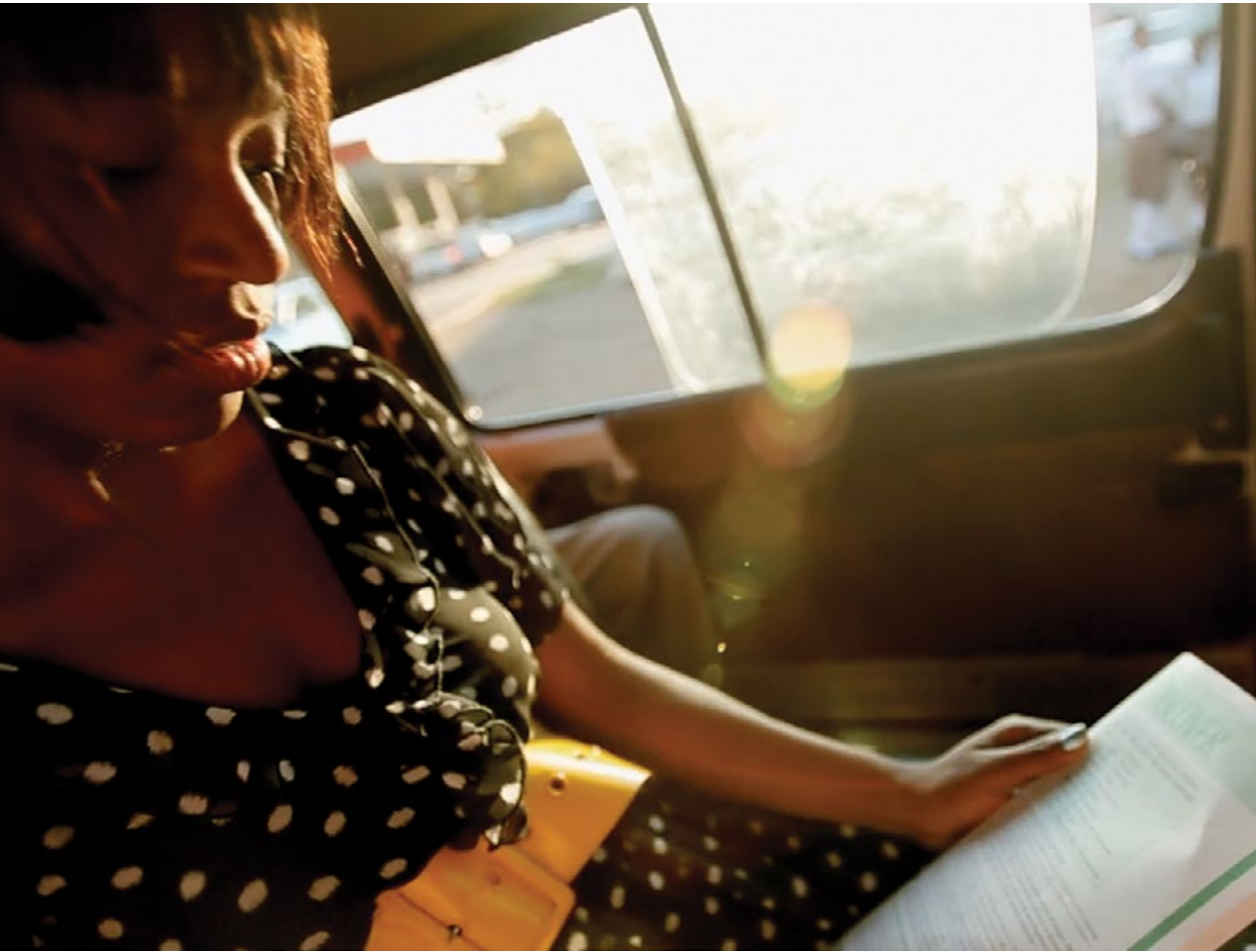
The program’s message is clear: We’re at the end of the story!

But, as Scripture makes beautifully and profoundly clear, *the end is just the beginning*!

So, what do the next ten years hold for Light Bearers and the ARISE program? Well, of course, we don’t know exactly. But at least one thing seems certain, given our first decade of ARISE: we’ll be doing it with Jesus by our side and with big smiles on our faces.

And maybe, with a few more gray hairs too!

Bring on the next ten years! And, better still, bring on eternity! The story’s only beginning. . . —✠—



PUBLISH OR PERISH

by James Rafferty

IN THE WORLD of academia, “publish or perish” is an agonized exclamation used by university professors to indicate the pressure they feel to “rapidly 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 truth-filled 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

Incorporated ministry) every year in support of their Bible pioneer 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 team 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 one refugee community in Zambia and one in Zimbabwe. To date, they have made over 11,700 contacts, conducted more than 5,500 Bible studies, handed out more than 14,800 sets of *Discover Guides* (printed in mass by Light Bearers), given away more than 33,000 additional pieces of literature, and trained 1,300 lay workers! All of this has resulted in more than 2,000 baptisms and an additional 3,100 decisions for baptism.

The following note of thanks is from Meiring Pretorius, President of Riverside Farm Institute. He oversees the pioneers and the literature outreach in Zambia. His thank you is followed by two testimonies from pioneers.

Dear Light Bearers:

Your continual support of our Bible pioneers is highly appreciated. The everlasting 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 evangelistic meetings. The one-day church and one-day 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 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 to the uttermost parts of Zambia and Africa. The 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.

Thank you!
Meiring Pretorius

A testimony by Bupe Chongo:

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 graven 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 we 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 this God for ourselves. We discovered new things while reading these papers. We finished the studies and handed them in for marking, after which we graduated in 2009. From 2009 to 2011 the Holy Spirit convinced 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 Chitalu:

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 Guide 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-sacrificing 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

Our first container of literature to Guatemala arrived on shore this year in partnership with Water for Life. And what a great marriage of ministries this is!

Imagine the power of this cooperative effort.

Picture a community composed of various adjacent villages. Thousands of people wake up each day and move through life. But there’s a problem—a big problem. The second most vital necessity of life (second only to oxygen) is unavailable: clean water. There is illness. There is thirst. Mothers feel desperate. Fathers feel powerless.

Then, out of nowhere, a group of hardworking, compassionate men and women arrive in the community. They unload a large metal container and assemble a big piece of equipment. They fire it up with a gas-powered generator while the people watch with expectation and hope.

And then, finally, cold, clean water begins to shoot up from the deep hole now drilled in the ground.

How exciting!
What a gift!

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 these well drillers do have something more to offer, because that large metal container that carried the drilling equipment to Guatemala also carried hundreds of boxes 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 be a blessing 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 baptizing this year of around 1500 people.

Much appreciated is your support to send magazines, especially on the Sabbath day and the Signs of the Times, and our doctrines. Kindly send more Bibles, 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 them 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.

Yours in the blessed hope,
Pr. Rudy Casiano
District Pastor, College Chaplain
Mission northwest of Guatemala

Dear Light Bearers:

First of all we are thankful to the good Lord our great God for the blessings He has sent to Guatemala by all of you, LIGHT BEARERS members, with the preaching of Pr. James and also with the literature you sent. It was like hot bread. You have received the

letters of thanks from the SDA Missions.

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.

The literature was given to three Missions and one association, most of it was given to the occident part of the country, prisons, etc. but all the material was not enough. They are requesting more and the people are hungry for the word of GOD.

Brethren, please take this as an urgent plea. Pastors are asking frequently for more material.

Thank you again.

God richly bless you all as you help in the preaching of the gospel.

Berny Leonardo, President
Agua Para La Vvida
Guatemala

It is impossible to exaggerate the value of simple pieces of paper with the words of eternal life printed on them. As the people drink that fresh, clean water, deeply impressed with the kindness of those foreign visitors who cared enough to sacrifice on their behalf, and then they read of the Savior’s love in the literature given as a gift, their hearts are impressionable, open and eager to know Jesus.

On behalf of the people of Guatemala, Zambia, Jamaica, and Kenya and all the other places of the world that receive this invaluable gospel cargo, thank you for enabling this vital work by your prayers and support.

There is much territory to be 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 field! ➡

RESOURCES FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN

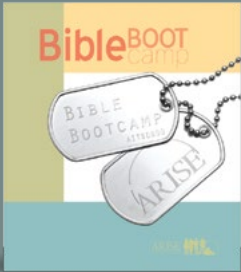
WWW.LIGHTBEARERS.ORG
1-877-585-1111



WE WOULD SEE JESUS

LIGHT BEARERS

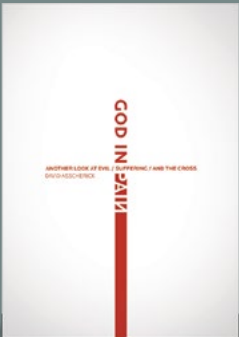
An unforgettable and transformative journey into the incarnation, life, teachings, death and resurrection of Christ as the radiant revelation of the Father.



BIBLE BOOT CAMP

ARISE INSTRUCTORS

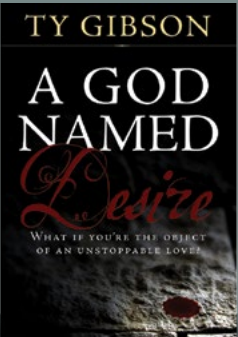
More than 20 biblical and doctrinal subjects, this DVD series has more than 50 hours of instruction and will teach you how to effectively share Bible studies.



GOD IN PAIN

DAVID ASSCHERICK

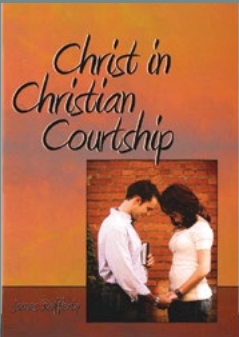
Pain is not easy. It never is. Can God relate to my pain? Can I relate to His?



A GOD NAMED DESIRE

TY GIBSON

This book is about God. It's not about people or religions, but about God Himself, as He has represented Himself in the one true portrait of His character.



CHRIST IN CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP

JAMES RAFFERTY

James and Risë Rafferty's insights on courtship and marriage from their own story.



PRODIGAL: THE JOURNEY HOME

MATT MINIKUS

There is an awakening that happens when we realize where our sins have taken us. This album is the confessions of a prodigal and the journey home.

ENLARGE OUR TERRITORY

by Jeffrey Rosario

“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, NKJV)

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!”