

SYNERGY

syn·er·gy / 'sɪnərjē /

noun

the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.



MINISTRY PARTNERS,

Probably you've noticed, the world is moving faster than ever. Are we, the church, keeping pace or lagging behind? We pray the former, but fear it's the latter. If ever there was a time for Christ's followers to throw all their energies, skills, plans, and resources into the fray, that time is now.

One year ago, a conversation began between two ministries. That conversation led to a question, an important question, an eternal question: Could we accomplish more together in the furtherance of the Kingdom of God on earth than we can separately? It was a question that hung in the air, and refused to go away.

So we thought and prayed and sought counsel. Our answer came in the form of a resounding "yes." And the reason was so simple: we can do more and do it better *together*. The answer in a single word was *synergy*. From *sun*, meaning together, and *ergon*, meaning to work, *synergy* is what this merger and this new ministry is all about.

This synergy involves more than just Light Bearers and ARISE. It's about you, our ministry partners, and, most crucially, about God. For we are nothing and are going nowhere without the superintending and guiding presence of His Spirit. Everything we dream and do is to bring the everlasting gospel more prominently before the world. We do this through preaching, training, printing, and resourcing. This is who we are. It's what gets us up the morning, and it's what we think about as we fall asleep.

So, though the world is moving faster than ever, we are convinced that God is moving faster still. That we will not lag behind Him and His opening providences is our earnest prayer and studied effort. This Light Bearers 2011 Year-end Report isn't about self congratulation; it's about synergizing with you so together we can do more and do it better.

Advancing with Him,



David, Ty, and James,
on behalf of the Light Bearers team



THIS IS LIGHT BEARERS

PREACH

We tell the gospel story in person to many thousands every year. *"Can I get an Amen?"*

TRAIN

We train believers to be disciples, and disciples to be disciple-makers. *"Here I am, Lord. Send me!"*

PRINT

We harness the power of the press for the advancement of God's kingdom. *"Thank you, Guttenberg!"*

RESOURCE

We create relevant resources as tools for the sharing of the gospel. *"Where can I get that stuff?"*

5

speakers

604

sermons preached

12

evangelistic series

81

revival seminars

11

countries

PREACH

by David Asscherick

Terms like “great controversy” and “cosmic conflict” can get tossed around too casually, especially in North America and other “first world” lands. Our affluence and security can insulate us from deeper, and sometimes darker, spiritual realities. Christchurch, New Zealand might typically fit this mold, but recent events have rendered it an epicenter, literally, for the revealing of these very realities.

It was there, in February 2011, that I had the privileged responsibility of preaching a series titled, almost prophetically, *What Does the Future Hold?* at a well-known venue, the Aurora Center. The program opened on Tuesday, February 8th to a packed house of more than 500—a number that could be considered near miraculous in New Zealand. As the meetings progressed, interest strengthened and attendance held.

Exactly two weeks later, on February 22, everything changed.

A deadly earthquake rocked the city shortly after noon. I’ll never forget that moment. I was right in the center of the quake’s deadliest and most powerful footprint. My heart raced. My building pitched. The ground heaved. It was an experience words cannot adequately capture. I ran outside and saw devastation and panicked people everywhere. Quaint and tidy Christchurch had given way to a jumbled,

dusty war zone, the kind seen on nightly news images from far, far away.

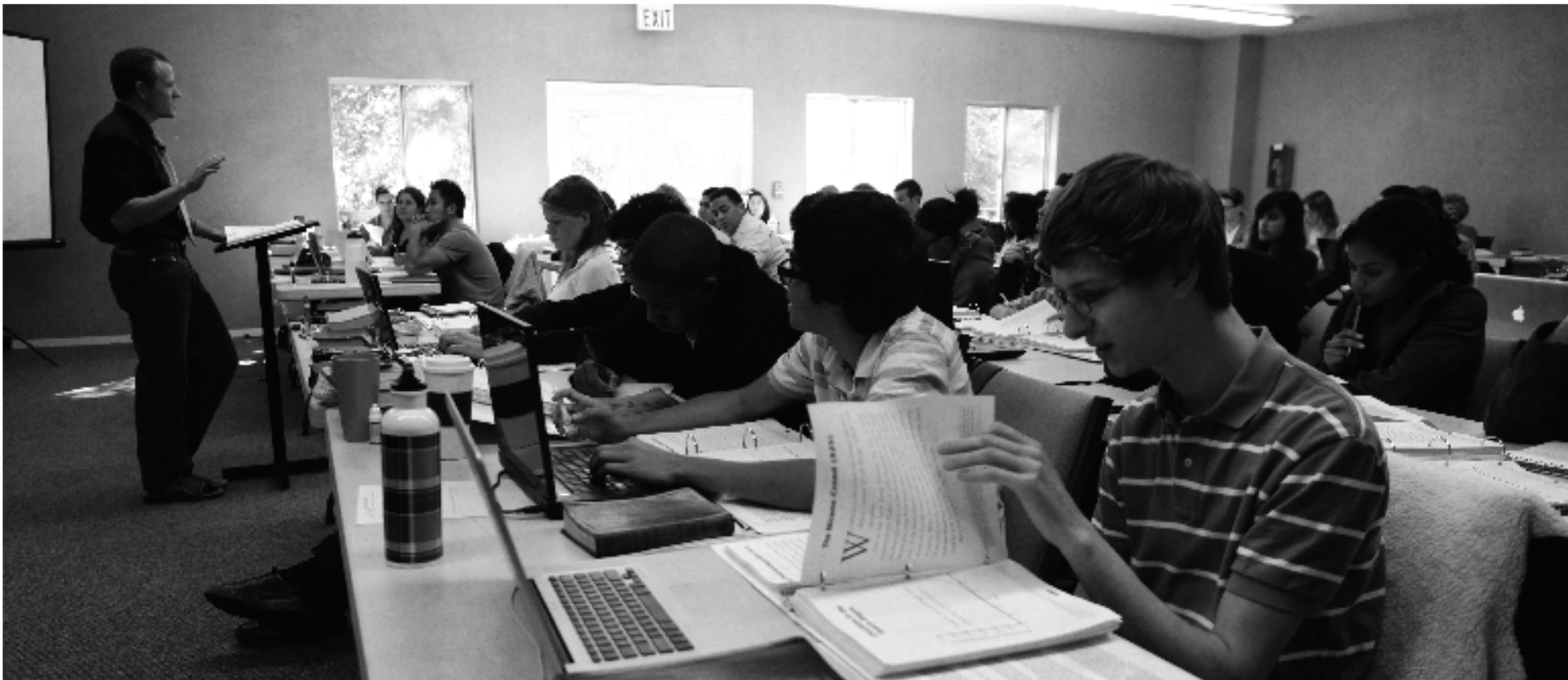
The meetings stopped, because everything stopped. For two weeks we anxiously waited, prayed, and were glued to the television. The death count rose, and as it grew, despair and confusion grew with it. As an evangelist, I sensed we had to resume the meetings at our earliest opportunity.

And resume we did! With the city still reeling, we re-opened with a program titled *In the Wake of the Quake: Where is God When it Hurts?* Attendance, of course, was impacted. We still had hundreds, but fewer than before. So, like Mary in Mark 14:8, we “did what [we] could” with what we had. We prayed. We preached. We invited. We cried. We counseled. We ministered.

And when it was all done, we baptized! To date, 25 persons have been baptized into Christ and His remnant fold, with more still preparing and studying. After 15 years of evangelistic preaching, I can say with perfect confidence that *though meetings don’t come more difficult, neither do they come more rewarding.*

Truly, the controversy is great. Please pray for Christ’s church in Christchurch.





TRAIN

2011 began with the exciting news that ARISE would be heading “down under” for a two-week Bible Boot Camp in Australia. It would be the first time the program was conducted overseas so, naturally, we had no idea what to expect. How many people would register? 40? Maybe 50? All we could do was guess . . . and pray.

Then God did what He does best: He exceeded, far exceeded our expectations. By March, registration had already passed 100. We literally shouted our praises to God! But He wasn't finished yet.

To everyone's astonishment (except God's!), the opening day found 241 enthusiastic “recruits” seated expectantly at the Kingscliff Church! They were in for 15 days of intense instruction from David Asscherick, Matt Parra, and Jeffrey Rosario. Of the 241, half were local members; the rest arrived from all over Australia, New Zealand, and even Papua New Guinea. God was moving.

The sessions were held in the evenings and on weekends to make the training as accessible as possible. On the first Sabbath, the church was bursting at the seams with more than 1100 people instead of the usual 250. Visitors flocked to catch a glimpse of what was happening. It was a high

Sabbath as the Spirit moved through the singing, testimonies, and preaching, culminating in 16 decisions for baptism!

Working with the saints at Kingscliff was a grand and special experience. Their commitment, enthusiasm, and hard work was just plain inspiring. Although the training lasted only two weeks, the nationwide impact has far transcended that. Before we'd left, we had already been invited back for 2012. And how could we say anything but *yes*?

If our first Sabbath was a high Sabbath, then our last Sabbath was a higher Sabbath, as ten souls followed Christ into the waters of baptism. Days don't come better.

It's difficult to imagine how 2011's experience could be exceeded. But then again, God has a good track record of exceeding our expectations. And we're already getting hints: next year's effort will consist of not one program, but two, one in the north and one in the south. And this time we'll also be launching a full-scale evangelistic campaign and field school.

As we look forward to 2012, we're remembering this is God's work, and we're just along for the ride. And what a ride it is!

301
trained in Bible Boot Camp

40
trained in
Cornerstone Program

562
hours of classes taught

7200
hours of evangelistic outreach

A BRIEF HISTORY

We praise God for how he has lead *ARISE* and *Light Bearers* in the past, and we are full-on ecstatic about what He's going to do in the days ahead. "Two are better than one. . . And a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9, 12).

ARISE

- 2002** — **DAVID ASSCHERICK AND NATHAN RENNER FORM ARISE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE**
"We were in the 'hang of it' by now and the programs were getting easier and better with every passing class." - David
- 2003** — **ARISE GRADUATES ITS FIRST CLASS IN TROY, MICHIGAN**
"It was complete and utter chaos, but somehow the program turned out fantastic." - Nathan
- 2005** — **ARISE GRADUATES 100 STUDENTS**
"After three programs we had graduated exactly 100 students. It was a great milestone for us." - David
- 2005** — **FIRST BIBLE BOOT CAMP CLASS**
"We brainstormed for hours on how to best present our doctrines in a Christ-centered and evangelistically compelling way." - David
- 2005** — **MATT PARRA JOINS ARISE AND FOUNDS THE ARISE BIBLEWORKER MINISTRY TEAM**
"Where the rubber meets the road." - Matt
- 2007** — **ARISE GRADUATES 200 STUDENTS**
"We were in the 'hang of it' by now and the programs were getting easier and better with every passing class." - David
- 2008** — **OUR LARGEST CLASS EVER: 57 STUDENTS**
"Every year we try to set a cap on the class, but it is so hard to turn people away. So we took as many as we could cram into the classroom." - Randy
- 2009** — **ARISE RELOCATES TO CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE**
"We'd been in Michigan for seven years and didn't want to leave, but we were all convinced that God had opened a door and a new chapter for us in California." - David
- 2009** — **ARISE BEGINS RECORDING CLASSES**
"It feels nice to no longer reply to all those emails saying, "No, we do not have any classes available on DVD." - Randy
- 2009** — **ARISE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GYC, LAUNCHES CROSSTRAINING**
"GYC shared our exact vision: an intensive summer training program geared toward college students." - David
- 2010** — **ARISE GRADUATES 300 STUDENTS**
"I can't believe our little ministry has impacted 300 lives for the Kingdom of God." - Randy
- 2010** — **JEFFREY ROSARIO JOINS ARISE**
"Time to add some Latin flavor!" - Jeffrey
- 2011** — **FIRST INTERNATIONAL TRAINING IN AUSTRALIA, ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 240 REGISTRANTS**
"We were way up, down under." - Randy
- 2011** — **ARISE GRADUATES 400 STUDENTS**
"The devil is mad!" - Matt
- 2011** — **ARISE MERGES WITH LIGHT BEARERS**
"This started as an idea, then moved to a conversation, and is now a God-ordained reality. It's an absolutely perfect fit; we couldn't be happier." - David

2012 AND BEYOND . . .
Here we go, please join us!

LIGHT BEARERS

- 1984** — **TY AND JAMES MEET AS NEW CHRISTIANS AND BEGIN WORKING TOGETHER IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON**
- 1985** — **FIRST CONVOCATION HELD IN MALO, WASHINGTON**
"There we were in a pole barn preaching our hearts out. I can still smell the wooden benches and see the tears in their eyes." - Ty
- 1986** — **LIGHT BEARERS OFFICIALLY FORMED**
"We read where Ellen White described God's end-time followers as Light Bearers, and we said, 'That's what we are and that's a great name for a ministry.'" - James
- 1987** — **FIRST PRINTING PRESS PURCHASED**
"We stayed up all night trying to get ink to stick to paper. By morning we were certain of two things: God was calling us to publish, and we needed to hire someone else to run the press." - Ty
- 1987** — **FIRST STEP FAST BIBLE SCHOOL**
"Sheer intensity. Back-to-back classes every day for two weeks, with power walks in between to refresh the brain so we could take in the maximum amount of information at the most rapid pace." - Ty
- 1988** — **FIRST LIGHT BEARERS PUBLISHING HOUSE WAS BUILT**
"Yes! We get to move out of the garlick-drying shed!" - James
- 1988** — **FIRST CONTAINER OF LITERATURE SENT TO AFRICA**
"This was a total faith venture. We had no idea what we were doing, but we knew God wanted us to do it." - Ty
- 1990** — **INSTALLED FIRST WEB PRESS, CAPABLE OF PRINTING 30,000 TRACTS AN HOUR**
"We nicknamed this press 'the workhorse.'" - James
- 1991** — **WE MOVED INTO THE NEW, LARGER PUBLISHING HOUSE BUILT BY MINISTRY STAFF**
"We debated over how big the building should be. In the end, at 118'x'40', it was still too small!" - Ty
- 1992** — **HIDDEN WISDOM TRACTS PRINTED**
"Bitesize Ellen White. The goal here was to give to the world key chapters from the Conflict Series. We still publish them." - Ty
- 1992** — **FIRST LITERATURE CONTAINER SENT TO EUROPE (ROMANIA)**
"Bulgaria, Albania and Russia would quickly follow." - James
- 1996** — **TRUTH-FILLED PUBLICATION NUMBER 100 MILLION FLIES OFF THE PRESS**
"Doxology please! Do you have any idea how big that number is? Start counting now." - Ty
- 1998** — **NEW, FASTER SIX-TOWER WEB PRINTING PRESS PURCHASED**
"Now we might be able to keep up with the calls from around the world for gospel literature. On second thought, no, but we're sure gonna try." - James
- 2000** — **200 MILLION PUBLICATIONS NOW IN CIRCULATION**
"Oh, wait, you're still counting." - Ty
- 2000** — **MARANATHA AND THE WEEKLY BROTHERS FROM OREGON HELP BUILD AN ADDITIONAL WING ONTO THE PUBLISHING HOUSE TO INCREASE PRODUCTION**
- 2002** — **22 CONTAINERS SENT IN ONE YEAR, TO THAT POINT OUR HIGHEST ANNUAL OUTPUT**
- 2004** — **A NEW SIX-TOWER WEB-PRESS WAS INSTALLED, A 1.5 MILLION-DOLLAR MACHINE, DEBT-FREE**
"We could now print more truth-filled publications in a day than we could previously print in a week." - Ty
- 2005** — **RELOCATION TO OREGON**
"Scary! What next? That's how I felt. But God was in it and I'm soooo glad we made the move. We are far more strategically located now. Come visit us and see." - Ty
- 2008** — **26 CONTAINERS SENT, SURPASSING OUR 2002 RECORD**
"Let's do it again!" - Ty
- 2009** — **500 MILLION TRUTH-FILLED PUBLICATIONS IN CIRCULATION**
"Keep counting, and faster." - James
- 2010** — **ONE MILLION SETS OF BIBLE STUDIES SENT TO LUSAKA, ZAMBIA FOR AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES BY JAMES AND TY IN THE CITY CENTER. MORE THAN 10,000 IN ATTENDANCE!**
- 2010** — **50 CONTAINERS SENT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION SINCE 2005**
"Multiplied millions of gospel publications! That part of the world will never be the same." - Ty
- 2010** — **OUR 26TH ANNUAL LIGHT BEARERS CONVOCATION**
"Too many convocations, although I love every one of them, Come, Lord Jesus!" - Ty
- 2010** — **SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION MAKES REQUEST FOR 100 CONTAINERS**
"Please help us fulfill this enormous request!" - James
- 2011** — **IN MAY, DAVID AND TY BEGIN TALKING ABOUT THE IDEA OF THE TWO MINISTRIES BECOMING ONE, AND AN EXCITING VISION STARTS TO TAKE SHAPE**
- 2011** — **LIGHT BEARERS MERGES WITH ARISE**
"Welcome guys! We love working with you." - Ty and James.

555,505,341
printed to date

29,292,809
publications printed in 2011

1440
printed per day

60
printed per minute

1
printed per second

PRINT

It's Monday morning. Any Monday. In fact, *every* Monday. The lights flip on in our 15,000-square-foot publishing house. The seventy-foot-long press begins to hum, then escalates to a scream. The sonorous thumping of the folding machines join the chorus. Robert, Brent, and Jason begin cranking out paper gold—the gospel of Christ in printed form.

The process is beautiful in its simplicity and power:

- 1 A country is selected, and literature is translated into the local language.
- 2 The publications are graphically designed and sent to press.
- 3 The steel container is packed tightly with 2 to 3 million pieces of truth-filled literature. Then, off it goes, first on the highway, then on the high seas.
- 4 The precious cargo arrives and is cleared through customs. It is transported to a local Conference or Union. Invariably, the place is soon stormed by pastors, evangelists, and lay members.
- 5 The literature filters out to people. People with names and faces. People known and loved by God. Minds open. Hearts receive. Souls rejoice.

This is the ever-unfolding story. And it's happening every day, in one or more of these phases.

In 2011, Samuel Lumwe, Eastern African Union Missions Director, led a huge team in Nairobi to execute an expansive mission called the Gideonite Project. Thousands—motivated by Gideon and his courageous 300—were mobilized. Armed with 2 million(!) full-message Bible study guides, these modern “Gideonites” enrolled nearly 40,000 students (that's not a typo!) into personal Bible studies with trained gospel workers. At the culmination of the evangelistic reaping series, more than 6,000 made decisions for Jesus Christ.

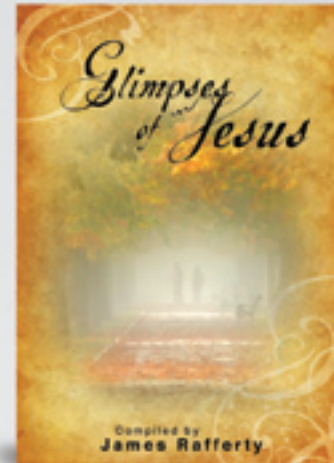
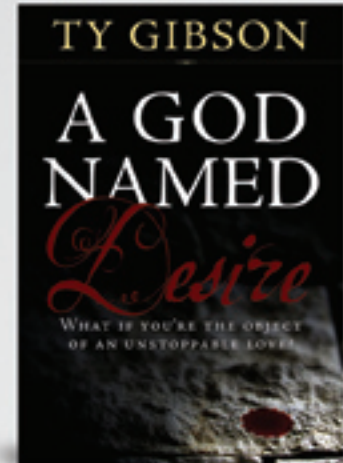
This is but one example of the many soulwinning partnerships Light Bearers engages in every year.

This year, four containers of gospel literature were shipped to Zambia, three to Mozambique, three to Angola, two to Tanzania, and one to Guatemala. Millions and millions of publications dreamed, produced, packaged, shipped, distributed, and received. Millions of faces, names and hearts.

Twenty-four years and counting.

It's Monday morning. The lights in the publishing house come on. . .





grow. learn. share.



lightbearers.org

RESOURCE

As disciples of Christ, we are all essentially engaged in a massive communications quest. The gospel of God's grace is to be proclaimed *to* and lived out *before* the world as a global phenomenon. "Then the end will come," Jesus said. It is evident, therefore, that powerful, creative, and usable resources must be placed in our hands as tools for the execution of our joyous task. Light Bearers exists to meet this vital need. At our website you will find a growing lineup of audio, video, and print media designed for sharing.

One of our current cutting-edge resources is the digma.com video series and website. The videos are designed to speak to the mind and open the heart with regards to the paradigm-level issues of life. Where did I come from? Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? Does God really exist? If He does, what is He like? If God is good, why is this world saturated with evil and suffering?

The genius of digma.com is that the videos are short, just 6-8 minutes each. But while short, they are carefully crafted to communicate intelligently on matters of huge significance in a winning manner. And check this out: you can email the videos to your friends and family and even post them to your Facebook account.

Here's what people are saying about the digma videos:

"Absolutely a home run! Brilliant. Heaven-inspired. What next?"
- Herb

"This is an amazing combination of spiritual truth, simple logic, and stunning video tech. I see great things to come!" - Don

"I would share these without hesitation with anybody. Other Christians. Non-Christians. Totally non-threatening, but really powerful." - Matt

"So engaging. I will email these videos to all my friends."
- Cheryl

"I can't believe you effectively explained why there's sin and suffering in six minutes, and I got it." - Stan

"People will eat these up because they will find themselves understanding really important truths in a matter of a few minutes." - Rob

digma.com.

The Shift is On!

190,720
website visits

96,222
online visitors

1,012,291
webpage views

243,319
sermons downloaded

161
countries

2011 CONVOCAATION

This year's Light Bearers Convocation was over the top!

What made the event such an extreme blessing was the combination of two complimentary factors: the fellowship with like-minded lovers of Christ was sweet, and the Word of God was preached with extraordinary clarity and power. In both, the influence of God's Spirit was abundantly evident.

Speakers were Ty Gibson, David Asscherick, James Rafferty, Matt Parra, Angelo Grasso, and David DeRose, MD. Our theme was *Open Arms*, calling attention to God's inviting, wooing, drawing posture toward sinners.

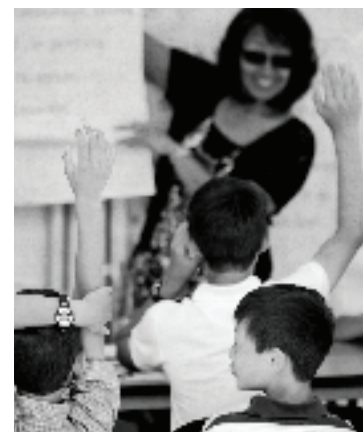
While the range of subject matter was broad, one common thread was evident—the matchless love of God manifested in Christ for every member of the human race. The beauty of God's character was magnified with such lucidity that those in attendance were visibly impacted. One person after another bore testimony to the movings of God's Spirit upon their hearts.

Of course this report doesn't even come close to describing the spiritual feast we enjoyed.

No problem!

You can listen to the audio recordings online at lightbearers.org. But even listening to the messages will fall short of the immense blessing that came to those who were present for the event. Let this serve as motivation for you to clear your calendars for July 3-7, 2012, when we will gather again to "stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

See you next year!



NEW

LIGHTBEARERS.ORG

MEDIA

Access our growing library of print, audio, and video resources.

BLOG

Ancient truth, current events, and everyday happenings from the team.

EVENTS

Where we are and when we are. A searchable database of every appointment far and near.

GIVE

So simple and so needed. Thank you!





OUR FINANCIAL PHILOSOPHY

We believe that the manner in which a non-profit organization utilizes the financial resources entrusted by its supporters reflects the essential character and ethics of that organization. When supporters give of their means—whether millions, thousands, hundreds, or less—they do so with the reasonable expectation that those means will be responsibly maximized for the greatest influence and good.

Every dollar we receive is ultimately God's, and we recognize this and treat it as such. As stewards we are bound by the strictest standards of financial integrity; therefore, we are immovably committed to using the contributions we receive conservatively, prayerfully, and with total accountability.

We issue tax-deductible receipts for all gifts to the ministry. We receive genuine and transparent financial accountability from our

Board of Directors, which includes non-employee members and representation from our local conference. We strive to plan and to operate in such a manner as to be efficient, never extravagant, and without incurring unnecessary debt.

Light Bearers is audited every year by an outside auditor with no vested interest in the ministry. We do not and will not resort to questionable methods of fundraising or to high pressure appeals or emotional solicitations. Our policy is to simply inform our ministry partners of our projects, plans, and needs, then leave the impressing with God.

We are committed to a posture of genuine gratitude, and to anonymity where it is specially requested. We view our supporters as partners in ministry, not just as persons with means.



IT TAKES A TEAM

More coaches than not have said it: "There is no 'I' in team." And while we're not a sports team, we affirm this sentiment wholeheartedly. Here at Light Bearers we're building a team, and Jesus is our Captain (Hebrews 2:10). Will you join this ministry team? Will you join us so together we can "carry out great exploits" (Daniel 11:32) for God and His Kingdom? We more than want you, we need you.

These are not just words. They are both the truth of the matter and the longing of our heart. As a team we can do more. And, let's be honest, as the people of God we *need* to be doing more. The world will not slow down or change its ways for us. We shouldn't expect this or, worse yet, wait for it. We need to believe, to move, to innovate, and to do.

What does this look like in 2012 and beyond? For us it looks like doubling our publishing output, increasing the effectiveness and extent of our evangelistic preaching, producing relevant, cutting edge video resources, expanding our national and international training events, creating a top-notch media resource website, casting a whole new publishing vision that will generate fresh tracts, studies, and books for the searching millions of humanity.

And this is just the beginning. We're revisioning and revisiting everything. How can we reach the world for Jesus? More relevantly? More creatively? And more faithfully?

These are the questions we're asking everyday here at Light Bearers.

We don't have all the answers, and we freely admit that, but we are persuaded that these are the right questions!

One thing's for certain—it's going to take a team.

And you, our ministry partner, are an absolutely essential part of this team. Consider this an invitation—no, an appeal—to partner with us in any way you are able.

Synergy:

the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.



See. Feel. Engage. The shift is on!



www.digma.com