

MISSION UPDATE

The Newsletter of Light Bearers Ministry

Who Do I Love? All or None!

By Ty Gibson

The following two Scriptures are so staggering we can hardly bear to read them:

“I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh” (Romans 9:1-3).

“Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written” (Exodus 32:31-32).

Amazing! Paul is basically saying in Romans that he wishes he could exchange his own eternal salvation for the salvation of his fellow Israelites. These are not his close family and friends, but the very ones who were opposing his every effort to preach the gospel. These were people who had beaten and stoned him more than once. They hated him and were continually plotting his death. And yet, Paul was willing to come under the curse of eternal death, if by so doing

he could secure their eternal life.

Moses had the same heart toward the complaining, stubborn, idolatrous, licentious mob of slaves who rebelled against his leadership as he sought to lead them through the wilderness to the Promised Land. When God offered to destroy them and start a new and great nation with him, Moses



essentially told the Lord that he would rather be eternally lost with them than to be saved without them.

I have heard it said, “You only love God as much as you love the person you love least.” Who is that for you? Who is the most offensive individual in your life right now? Who is the most obnoxious person you know? Who arouses your strongest feelings

of aversion? Picture his face. Hear her voice. Here is where your Christian faith is most seriously challenged.

“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?” (1 John 4:20). It would seem that if I don’t love everyone, I don’t really love anyone, least of all God. The idea of giving my own salvation for people I regard with deep affection is a high enough standard to drop me to my knees in humility. But to be willing to do so for those who hate me, now that’s a love I can only long for at present, knowing I do not possess it.

This is the very love we see in Christ. “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:7-8). Here lies the deep mainspring, the sole source from which such love is to be had. The only way I will ever love others with the same love He has lavished on me is to really know and believe what I see at the cross.

FEBRUARY 2005



James' Health

We appreciate all the inquiries concerning Brother James Rafferty's battle with cancer. It brings us great pleasure to announce that God has restored his health. As most of you know, James was diagnosed with papillary carcinoma (thyroid cancer) in September of 2003. In October of the same year he underwent a successful surgery to remove his thyroid. Following the surgery there was a single iodine radiation treatment to ensure that there were no remaining thyroid cells (potential cancer cells) in his body. That treatment was followed by an examination one year later (November 2004) to determine if the desired result was achieved. At this point James is all clear and the cancer is conquered. We praise God for His merciful care and thank each one of you for the medical, personal, and spiritual support you have given to James during this time.

Audio Messages on lbm.org

All seventeen of Ty's new evangelistic messages are now available on our website. You can either listen online or download them for later use. Also available are the sermon outlines (PDF format) for easy printing. This is a wealth of free material. Not only is it a great resource for your own spiritual growth, but also an excellent outreach tool. You can direct your family and friends to the messages on our website. Or for an interactive approach, email them a message and get their feedback and share yours. Go to lbm.org. You will find the *See With New Eyes* Seminar on the first page.

TO WITH

Haiti is a French-speaking country situated on the western third of an island called Hispaniola between the North Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. The eastern two-thirds of the island is the Spanish-speaking Dominican Republic. Haiti's population is about 7.7 million, all crammed into a mere 10,641 square miles.

As gospel-commissioned disciples of Christ, we should take special interest in this segment of the human race, for Haiti is the absolute poorest nation in all the Western Hemisphere, and our precious Savior commissioned us to minister to the poor in His place. Unemployment has fluctuated over the last ten years between fifty to seventy percent. Even those who do have work are poor. Eighty percent of the people live in severe, abject poverty. While, as a general rule, the rich nations of our world manifest little interest in their own eternal salvation,

BY TY GIBSON

HAITI LOVE



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those who are in poverty tend to feel the reality of their need with acuity. Although poor, they are human beings of equal value to the wealthy. The shed blood of Jesus tells their great worth. If our goal is to bring salvation to as many men, women and children as possible as we look for the coming of Christ, then the poor call for the best of our resources and efforts and will yield the richest harvest of souls.

To worsen matters for these precious people, Haiti was hit hard in 2004 by the series of hurricanes that swept through the Atlantic, barely touching Florida by comparison. At one point three to four feet of mud oozed in the streets. Countless people were left homeless and hungry. Their situation would be comparable to you and me being dropped off in a wilderness with nothing and expected to survive.

The people of Haiti desperately need our help. While ADRA and other church ministries are addressing their physical needs, you have enabled Light Bearers to step forward to meet their spiritual needs. On December 28 a shipment of gospel-laden cargo left our dock destined for the hurting hearts of Haiti. The container arrived on January 29 for immediate free distribution:

- 53,000 complete sets of Bible study lessons.
- 70,000 "Secrets of Peace" (*Steps to Christ*) magazines.
- 10,000 "To All the World, No. 1" (a full-message magazine).
- 10,000 miscellaneous truth-filled books.
- 8,280 sets of Unlocking Revelation Study Guides.
- 8,280 sets of Unsealing Daniel Study Guides.

- 73,000 La Sentinelle ("Signs of the Times" magazines).

That amounts to nearly two million publications in French, enough literature to impact every family on the Haitian side of the island.

Imagine what is happening right now as you read this report. Church members are out in the streets and villages with backpacks and briefcases filled with literature, giving it all away to be read by tearful eyes. Imagine the words of truth penetrating hearts, surrounding readers in a warm sense of God's love and leading them to their knees in repentance as they embrace the gift of eternal life. Please be praying that angels will attend each piece of literature and that the Holy Spirit will find access into every heart that reads the words of life.

A NEW TELEVISION SERIES

With the assistance of Better Life Television, Ty produced a new TV series in November unlike anything we have ever done. All of our programs to date have been studio productions, filmed in discussion format between Ty and James without an audience. While this format has been a blessing to many people, which is evidenced by the thousands of requests we receive for the study guides, it lacks the natural dynamics that occur when speaking to a live congregation. Consequently, Ty and James have long felt that the studio format somewhat stifles the communication of truth as clearly as they would like to present it. The new series was produced in a live teaching format with the congregation at the Grants Pass Church in Oregon. There is a total of seventeen one-hour programs in the series covering a wide range of biblical doctrines in the light of God's love. We hope the programs will begin airing on 3ABN and the Hope Channel by June.

Events Schedule

- **February 6-12**
Enterprise Academy, KS
Herb Montgomery—☎(785)263-8211
- **February 10**
3ABN Live
James & Risë Rafferty—☎(800)752-3226
- **February 11-12**
Seattle, WA
James Rafferty—☎(253)735-6269
- **February 18-19**
Seattle, WA
Herb Montgomery—☎(253)735-6269
- **March 3-5**
Stockton SDA Church, CA
Herb Montgomery—☎(209)462-4357
- **March 10**
3ABN Live
Ty Gibson & James Rafferty—☎(800)752-3226
- **March 18-19**
Northern New England Conference Youth Meetings
Herb Montgomery—☎(207)797-3760
- **March 20-26**
SOULS, Orlando, FL
James Rafferty—☎(352)551-4866
- **April 7-24**
NSW Australia Camp Meeting
Ty Gibson
- **April 8-10**
Post Falls SDA Church, ID
James Rafferty—☎(208)773-4471

ADDITIONAL STAFF NEEDED

Light Bearers is currently accepting resumés and actively scouting to fill the following positions:

- a skilled press operator
- a skilled graphics designer

Resumés and inquiries may be submitted to Ty Gibson by post (PO Box 1888, Malo, WA 99150) or email (ty@lbn.org).

NEW PRESS UPDATE

In the last *Mission Update* we announced that during the second and third weeks of November, 2004, our new \$1.5 million web press was installed. Due to the loss of a pressman and scheduling considerations, the training was delayed. We are happy to inform you that Sanden Corporation has now committed to begin our training on February 8, and not a minute too soon. As you read this update the training will be underway or completed. Now we need you to partner with us as we keep this dedicated missionary press fed with paper and ink. The impact for Christ around the world will be powerful.

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Light Bearers is a non-profit ministry based in the beautiful northeastern mountains of Washington State. Our purpose is to help proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through the spoken and published word.