

Events Schedule

- **January 12-13, 2007**
Clarksburg, SDA Church, WV
Herb Montgomery—☎(304)645-7139
- **January 19-28, 2007**
Pullman, SDA Church, WA
Herb Montgomery—☎(509)332-8782
- **January 19-20, 2007**
Greenville SDA Church, SC
James Rafferty—☎(864)220-9332
- **February 1, 2007**
3ABN Live
James & Risë Rafferty
- **February 2-3, 2007**
Tacoma Southside SDA Church, WA
James Rafferty—☎(253)537-2555
- **February 7-8, 2007**
Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism
James Rafferty—☎(916)434-3880 x3049
- **February 9-10, 2007**
Paris SDA Church, TX
Ty Gibson—☎(903)784-0910
- **February 9-10, 2007**
Penn Valley SDA Church, CA
Herb Montgomery—☎(530)432-2479
- **February 11-21, 2007**
Mission College, Thailand
James Rafferty—☎66 (36)34-1627
- **February 16-17, 2007**
Mosaic Christian Fellowship SDA Church, TX
Herb Montgomery—☎(972)880-9269
- **February 19-24, 2007**
Laurelbrook Academy, Dayton, TN
Ty Gibson—☎(423)775-3339

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LIGHT BEARERS

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

... Soulsi Report *continued from page 3*

students experienced that Sabbath morning during the question and answer time:

“To tell the truth, I hated these meetings, because I felt like this man was insulting my church and the Pope, but then he explained from the Bible that the Sabbath was Saturday. Everything was right there in the Bible! Now I am so thankful that this man came all the way from America to explain this truth to us. I am going to keep the Sabbath.”

In reflection, Solusi University is a place where many souls, coming to find an education to better their situation in this world, can find the truths of God’s Word and better their eternal situation. Light Bearers has been invited by the pastor and the University chaplain to make Solusi a center for literature outreach. We have already shipped 3,500 Steps to Christ, one for each student. We have also purchased about 1,400 Bibles that are ready to be sent, hopefully in a container of literature. Solusi is the oldest Seventh-day Adventist Mission in Africa, founded in 1894 through land donated by the government. Today Solusi is the second highest rated University in the country of Zimbabwe, drawing many students from various faiths and affording a powerful opportunity to share God’s message. One of the best ways to take advantage of this opportunity is through supplying literature like the leaves of autumn. Let’s do it!

Dear Elder Rafferty:

On behalf of the Solusi University Church we would like to express our gratitude and thanks to what you have done for us. Thanks to the present truth that you have shared with us; it really opened the eyes of so many students. May God richly bless you in your ministry and in your Christian walk with God.

God bless,
Yousry, Assistant Chaplain

LIFT HIM UP

3ABN Schedule

Tuesday—4:30 pm (PST)
Monday—12:30 am (PST)
Monday—12:30 pm (PST)
Thursday—7:00 am (PST)
Saturday—12:00 pm (PST)

MISSION UPDATE

The Newsletter of Light Bearers Ministry

The Power of the Gospel

By Ty Gibson

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. . . . For in it the righteousness of God is revealed” (Romans 1:16-17).

When the true gospel is preached, saving power is released into the hearts of those who by faith internalize what the gospel reveals about God. But what kind of power is this exactly? Scripture bears out that the power contained in the gospel is the non-coercive attraction of God’s righteous character, by which we who are naturally self-centered voluntarily turn away from sin of our own free will. Non-coercive love is the power exerted by the gospel.

Jesus told Paul that the gospel would have specific effects upon the hearts of sinners: “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to

light, and from the power of Satan to God” (Acts 26:18). Peter explained the effect of the gospel like this: “God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities” (Acts 3:26). Notice that the turning action happens within the sinner himself, within his free soul, and is not externally imposed upon him. Notice also that the catalyst that ignites this voluntary turning away from sin is the opening of the sinner’s eyes to the light of God’s true character in contrast to the dark conceptions of God he once believed. “The power of Satan,” which has held our hearts captive, is broken by the illuminating light of the gospel. Willingly, we now turn from sin, empowered by new realizations about God that have penetrated our hearts. “You shall know the truth,” the Savior declared, “and the truth shall make

you free” (John 8:32). Jesus specifically spoke these words regarding “the truth” of the Father’s character He Himself revealed in His life and death (John 8:28-29).

The goal of the gospel is to establish in the human heart the internal rule of love, not to impose the external rule of force. A forced obedience is no obedience at all, but rather slavery. A manipulated obedience is no obedience at all, but deception. A purchased obedience is no obedience at all, but bribery. An obedience rendered in fear of adverse consequences is no obedience at all, but self-preservation. Jesus never said, “If you don’t want to burn in Hell, keep My commandments.” Nor did He ever say, “If you want to go to Heaven, keep My commandments.” What He did say was, “If you love Me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

CONSIDER THIS . . .

How is our light to shine forth to the world unless it be by our consistent Christian life? How is the world to know that we belong to Christ, if we do nothing for Him? Said our Savior: "Ye shall know them by their fruits." And again: "He that is not with Me is against Me." There is no neutral ground between those who work to the utmost of their ability for Christ and those who work for the adversary of souls. Everyone who stands as an idler in the vineyard of the Lord is not merely doing nothing himself, but he is a hindrance to those who are trying to work. Satan finds employment for all who are not earnestly striving to secure their own salvation and the salvation of others.

The church of Christ may be fitly compared to an army. The life of every soldier is one of toil, hardship, and danger. On every hand are vigilant foes, led on by the prince of the powers of darkness, who never slumbers and never deserts his post. Whenever a Christian is off his guard, this powerful adversary makes a sudden and violent attack. Unless the members of the church are active and vigilant, they will be overcome by his devices.

What if half the soldiers in an army were idling or asleep when ordered to be on duty; the result would be defeat, captivity, or death. Should any escape

from the hands of the enemy, would they be thought worthy of a reward? No; they would speedily receive the sentence of death. And is the church of Christ careless or unfaithful, far more important consequences are involved. A sleeping army of Christian soldiers—what could be more terrible! What advance could be made against the world, who are under the control of the prince of darkness? Those who stand back indifferently in the day of battle, as though they had no interest and felt no responsibility as to the issue of the contest, might better change their course or leave the ranks at once.

The Master calls for gospel workers. Who will respond? All who enter the army are not to be generals, captains, sergeants, or even corporals. All have not the care and responsibility of leaders. There is hard work of other kinds to be done. Some must dig trenches and build fortifications; some are to stand as sentinels, some to carry messages. While there are but few officers, it requires many soldiers to form the rank and file of the army; yet its success depends upon the fidelity of every soldier. One man's cowardice or treachery may bring disaster upon the entire army.

Ellen G. White,
Testimonies for the Church,
vol. 5, pp. 393-395

MISSION UPDATE

SOLUSI REPORT



BY JAMES RAFFERTY

I am so thankful that this man came all the way from America to explain this truth to us. I am going to keep the Sabbath.

Before I knew what had happened the entire university campus was astir. In nearly every class there was earnest discussion about the message of Revelation 14. Some studied and talked together until 4 o'clock in the morning.

The intensity of the situation did not dawn upon my mind with any real understanding until Thursday afternoon. I had by this time moved from the message of the second angel of Revelation 14 to the third, identifying beasts in Bible prophecy as kingdoms and the one being spoken of there as Papal Rome.

That morning's meeting was followed by breakfast after which I went to the library to counsel with students. There were four female students waiting for me. I thought perhaps they might be nervous to meet alone, but the real meaning behind this united session was soon very clear. "We are meeting with you together," said the spokesperson among them, "because we all have the same issue to discuss. We are Catholic and we don't like what you are saying and we want you to stop!" I wish I could convey the

intensity in this young ladies voice and manner. It seemed as if she was ready to pick up the very chair on which she sat and throw it at me, which she later confessed she felt like doing. That meeting continued for an hour and a half, interrupted occasionally by other waiting students, and ended with a marked demonstration of the power of God's Spirit.

In was in this meeting with these four Catholic students that God brought forth from His Word the verses that would calm and convert the intense opposition that was rising among the students of other faiths to the three angels' messages.

In my own recollection of the events, it was an experience similar to what Martin Luther penned in the following words:

"I am ready to preach, argue, write—but I will not constrain any one; for faith is a voluntary act. I stood up against pope, indulgences, and papists; but without violence

or tumult. I brought forward God's Word; I preached and wrote, and there I stopped. And while I laid me down and slept, or chatted with Ansdorff and Melanchthon, . . . the word I had preached brought down the power of the Pope to the ground, so that never prince or emperor had dealt it such a blow. For my part I did next to nothing; the power of the Word did the whole business" (*D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation*, book 9, chapter II).

From that meeting where four angry Catholics became four convicted Catholics (one a Sabbath keeper), I realized what was taking place among the 2,000 listening students, 80 percent of whom were not Seventh-day Adventists, the majority of which were Catholic. Two days later, on Sabbath morning, after having finished the message of the third angel and presenting the mark of the beast, I turned again to the very Scriptures God had led us to in the library that day. The atmosphere was still very

much charged. I had the night before read through dozens of questions seeking to sort out and answer the most pressing ones. Some of the questions contained thanks, stating that these meetings were an answer to their prayers. Others boldly stated that they couldn't wait for me to leave so that my insults against their church and the Pope would end.

The following testimony is a summary of what many



Pastoral prayer for the students

continued on page 4 . . .