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2007 Light Bearers' Convocation Messages

—James Rafferty, Ty Gibson, Paul Ratsara, Dr. Phil Mills &amp; Jay Rosario—

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## OPEN DOORS AND GREAT NEEDS

Light Bearers Ministry exists for the purpose of placing truth-filled literature in the hands of men and women in the most needy and receptive areas of the world. We accomplish this ministry with the utmost economy, stretching every dollar to its maximum potential for the advancement of God's kingdom. We buy large amounts of paper and negotiate the best possible price. We then print, box, palletize and ship the literature by container-load over land and sea. Once at its destination, the precious gospel cargo is freely distributed in the villages and on the streets of cities into the hands of those for whom Jesus died.

There are basically two categories of financial givers that enable us to carry forth this mission. Those few wealthy individuals who are able to give occasional large gifts. And then there are the many who are not wealthy but their combined monthly giving can swell to exceed the giving of the wealthy few. It is this kind of consistent monthly giving that keeps us operational and makes it possible for us to target more and more areas with the gospel. We need many partners who can give whatever is possible on a monthly basis. A thousand people giving \$25 per month is \$25,000, which can place in circulation 1,250,000 truth-filled publications. Even \$10 a month can produce 500 pieces of literature and pay for shipping it to where it will be read and make a major difference in some precious people's lives.

There are many people who receive this monthly newsletter but do not share in the mission this ministry carries forth. May we take this opportunity to ask you to join us in this great work of gospel proclamation. Please prayerfully consider what commitment of monthly support you might be able to make to Light Bearers Ministry. Thank you on behalf of the many who will be blessed by your giving.

## Events Schedule

- **August 25**  
Eugene, OR Areawide Event  
Ty Gibson—☎(541)688-5081
- **August 31–September 1**  
Grants Pass SDA Church, OR  
Ty Gibson—☎(541)476-6313
- **September 8**  
Pleasant Hill SDA Church, OR  
Herb Montgomery—☎(541)746-1750
- **September 14-22**  
Eugene Fairgrounds, OR—Evangelistic Series  
Ty Gibson—☎(541)688-5081
- **September 27-29**  
3ABN Camp Meeting, West Frankfort, IL  
Ty Gibson—☎(618)627-4651
- **September 28-30**  
Montana Conference Men's Summit,  
Rollins, MT  
James Rafferty—☎(406)752-5300
- **October 3-6**  
Wahroonga SDA Church, NSW  
Ty Gibson—☎(02)9487 1374
- **October 12-20**  
Papatoetoe SDA Church, Papatoetoe, Auckland  
Ty Gibson—[info@papasda.co.nz](mailto:info@papasda.co.nz)
- **October 19-20**  
Rest Haven SDA Church, Sidney BC  
James Rafferty—☎(406)587-3101
- **October 26-28**  
New Jersey Conference Singles Retreat—Shawnee  
Inn & Golf Resort, Shawnee on Delaware, PA  
James Rafferty—☎(908)672-5533

PUBLISHED BY

## LIGHT BEARERS

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

## MISSION UPDATE

*The Newsletter of Light Bearers Ministry*

## Stand Out!

By Ty Gibson

“Why are you trying so hard to fit in when you were born to stand out?”

I don't know who asked that question, or where I heard it, but I like it so well I wish it were a Bible verse. We humans suffer from the constant temptation to try and be like everyone around us. Especially are we in danger as Seventh-day Adventists if we see ourselves as merely one Christian denomination among the others, who simply go to church on a different day and have some dietary restrictions.

No!

Adventism was “born to stand out.” The fact is, God has called us as a people to present a distinctive message and life-testimony to the world, unlike what they are hearing and seeing in popular Christianity. The whole world is running scared from

God precisely because there is such a consistently distorted picture of His character being presented by so-called “Christianity.” Consider this startling assessment:

“When we consider in what false colors Satan has painted the character of God, can we wonder that our merciful Creator is feared, dreaded and even hated? The appalling views of God which have spread over the world from the teachings of the pulpit have made millions of skeptics and infidels” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 536).

Satan has pulled off an astounding smear campaign against the character of God, and what makes it so damaging is the fact that he has done so by hijacking much of “Christianity” as his medium of communication. Daniel 7 and 8, Revelation 13 and 2 Thessalonians 2:3-7 warned us in advance what the world would be

up against a colossal system of false religion claiming to represent God while actually blaspheming his name. The Advent Movement was brought into existence for the specific purpose of standing in the world in bold advocacy of God's character over against the false portrayals of God Satan has advanced through false religion.

We need to be bringing all our powers of intellect and skills of communication, guided by the Holy Spirit, to the awesome and urgent task of proclaiming the truth in distinct contrast to “the appalling views of God which have spread over the world from the teachings of the pulpit.” As we do, the dark veil of distortion will lift and God will be seen in all His irresistible beauty. As our Lord foretold, “I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to Me” (John 12:32).

# CONSIDER THIS . . .

The truth that we are to proclaim is that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. This truth is to be developed in the closing scenes of this earth's history—that the Crucified One, though unto the Jews a stumbling block and unto the supposedly wise men foolishness, is nevertheless the power of God and the wisdom of God. Those who receive Christ as a personal Savior, will stand the test of trial in these last days.

Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 8, p.187

Lead them to behold the One 'altogether lovely.' When once the gaze is fixed upon Him, the life finds its center. The enthusiasm, the generous devotion, the passionate ardor, . . . find here their true object. Duty becomes a delight and sacrifice a pleasure. To honor Christ, to become like Him, to work for Him, is life's highest ambition and its greatest joy. 'The love of Christ constraineth.' 2 Corinthians 5:14.

Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 297

At the cross of Calvary, love and selfishness stood face to face. Here was their crowning manifestation. Christ had lived only to comfort and bless, and

in putting Him to death, Satan manifested the malignity of his hatred against God. He made it evident that the real purpose of his rebellion was to dethrone God, and to destroy Him through whom the love of God was shown.

Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 57

The atonement of Christ was not made in order to induce God to love those whom He otherwise hated; it was not made to produce a love that was not in existence; but it was made as a manifestation of the love that was already in God's heart, an exponent of the divine favor in the sight of heavenly intelligences, in the sight of worlds unfallen, and in sight of a fallen race. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). We are not to entertain the idea that God loves us because Christ has died for us, but that He so loved us that He gave His only-begotten Son to die for us. The death of Christ was expedient in order that mercy might reach us with its full pardoning power, and at the same time that justice might be satisfied in the righteous substitute.

Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, May 30, 1895

# A SPIRITUAL FEAST



*The overall mix of subject matter and the spirit that pervaded the meetings was spiritually powerful.*

This year's Light Bearers Convocation was an "off the charts blessing," said one attendee. A number of individuals who have attended the annual event for years testified that they thought this was the "best year ever." The overall mix of subject matter and the spirit that pervaded the meetings was spiritually powerful. One sermon after another exalted Christ with clarity and urged greater passion in serving Him.

Jay Rosario, from the Radiant Living Team in British Columbia, brought us a series of heart-moving presentations on the Laodicean message. We felt both reproof and healing as Jay allowed the word of God to diagnose our sleepy, lukewarm condition and then applied the medicine we so desperately need for restoration.



Paul Ratsara, the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division president, shared powerful insights from God's word to increase our faith and motivate us to aim high and achieve more than is humanly possible for God in these last days. His sermons were filled with a contagious passion for Jesus that we were all glad to catch.

Ty Gibson presented a series of messages designed to illuminate our understanding of God's beautiful character of love and move us into a deeper and more empowered walk with God. As special highlight in his series was the Sabbath message, entitled, "A Lingering Fragrance," which paralleled

the spiritual experience of Mary Magdalene to the experience of God's end-time people.

Dr. Phil Mills brought us a very informative series of meetings called "Physicians of the Soul," in which he showed how the diagnostic and treatment processes used to identify and treat physical diseases reveal how we can identify and treat spiritual maladies as well. He presented a wealth of material from both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy that would take years for any student to gather and organize.

James Rafferty delivered an extremely cogent and spiritually motivating set of talks through the book of Daniel. He demonstrated how Daniel's experience with God holds much vital insight for the experience of God's end-time people, and how God's character of selfless love shown through in His dealing with both the captive Jews and their Babylonian captors.

In addition to the various presentations, each day all the speakers and the congregation engaged together in an open forum Bible study time, during which specific portions of Scripture were probed into. Day one dealt with Revelation 18. Day two, Revelation 13. Day three, Daniel 7 and 8. Day four, Revelation 4 and 5. This provided opportunity for many valuable insights from God's word to emerge from the congregation as well as from the speakers. For many this was the most enjoyable and helpful part of the entire event.

There is nothing so rejuvenating as getting together with God's people for a concentrated and focused period of time to study the Bible and pray. We wish all of you could have been with us for this "spiritual feast." If you missed this year's Light Bearers Convocation, may we encourage you to make it a point to attend next year. You will be blessed beyond measure.