

Malawi

Malawi is mostly composed of the Bantu, which means *people*, or more specifically, *humanness* or *the quality of being human*. The word carries the idea of dignity. The population of Malawi is about 13 million. Of that number, 300,000 are Seventh-day Adventists, many of whom are eager to grow in their faith and share the gospel with their fellow Bantu.

South Africa

Presently South Africa is being flooded with refugees who are fleeing from the crumbling economy of Zimbabwe in hope of finding food and shelter and hope for a future. Our final container for the 2007 is destined for South Africa. Church members will distribute the literature among these some three million refugees as well as among their fellow South Africans.

Included in these shipments were Discover Bible Lessons, tracts on key Bible truths, full-message magazine-style publications, a magazine version of *Steps To Christ*, the book *Desire of Ages*, Sabbath School lessons donated by Pacific Press, Bibles donated by Remnant Publications, as well as books, tapes, magazines and Bibles donated by individuals and churches. A big thanks to all who donated!

We are blessed to have Laurelwood Academy, located just across the street, partnering with us to assist in packing boxes, loading containers, working in the office and on the grounds. It has been wonderful to have these young people assisting us in ministry.

As we long for the soon return of Jesus, we are excited to enter 2008 with a holy vengeance of enthusiastic publishing and proclamation. Our goal is simple: print and preach as far and as fast as possible. We exist as a ministry for the single-minded purpose of spreading the good news of God's grace to all the world.

In November we will be at 3ABN doing a new series of television programs on the book of Hebrews. They will hopefully begin airing in early 2008.

Our seminar schedule will take us all over the world next year, including Africa and Asia.

Light Bearers' convocation this year was the 23rd Annual and appropriately reminded us of Psalm 23, "The Lord is our Shepherd." It was our second here in Jasper and the theme, "Prophetic Pictures of God," was based on the books of Daniel and Revelation. The messages are available free (downloads) on our website.

With the press running at top speed, and the urgency of the times before us, we believe that God will give us a double blessing in 2008 to make a difference for millions of people. We see the potential to double our production and ship 20 containers of gospel literature in the up-coming year. Imagine 20 shipments, almost two every month, bringing the light of the God's saving truth to multitudes that struggle for freedom against darkness and sin. Think of the lives changed, hearts comforted, people warned, tears of sorrow transformed to tears of joy. Can you see the burdens of guilt lifted when people grasp the reality of God's great love for them? Envision the surprise when, for the first time, thousands encounter the life-changing power of God's Word. It is going to be an exciting year, a monumental year, and by God's grace a year of ever-increasing triumph for the proclamation of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

"You, O God, sent a plentiful rain; whereby You confirmed Your inheritance when it was weary. Your congregation dwelt in it; You, O God, provided from Your goodness for the poor. The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it" (Psalm 68:9-11).

Events Schedule

- **November 9-10**
Immanuel SDA Church, Willowdale, ON
Canada
James Rafferty—☎(416)223-1992
- **November 9-10**
Upper Columbia Conference Family Fellowship,
Spangle, WA
Ty Gibson—☎(509)838-2761
- **December 6-8**
Franktown SDA Church, CO
Ty Gibson—☎(303)-688-8687
- **January 11-12**
Tacoma, WA SDA Church
Ty Gibson—☎(253)752-6637

NOW HIRING

Light Bearers is accepting resumés for the following positions:

- Administrative Secretary
- Publishing Director
- Press Operator
- Graphic Designer/Webmaster

(Job description available upon request).

Resumés may be submitted to Don Otis by email, Donald.Otis@Kellogg.com, or sent to Light Bearers Ministry, 37457 Jasper Lowell Rd., Jasper, Oregon 97438.

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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



The Nature of Our Warfare

By Ty Gibson

“The great dragon . . . deceives the whole world” (Revelation 12:9).

In this Scripture John gets to the heart of what's involved in the war between good and evil. We are born to a battlefield on which the enemy fights primarily with theological weapons wielded to create deception regarding the character of God. It follows that our only defense is to learn and believe the truth about God as it is revealed in Christ.

To the question, What does God look like?, the answer is, It depends on who's looking. Not everyone sees God the same, and most of us don't see Him as He is, because there is an artful character defamation campaign underway in our world aimed against God. We are engaged in a propaganda war and most of earth's inhabitants are in ideological captivity. Indeed, all of us at some point, and to some degree,

are caught in the snare of false notions about the God. We have been taken prisoner at the level of our thoughts and feelings concerning our Maker. We have been lied to regarding who and what manner of person God is, and so we imagine things to be true of Him that are not. Return to John's insightful words, which so clearly pinpoint the nature of the warfare in which we are engaged: "The great dragon . . . deceives the whole world." Deception is Satan's *modes operandi*. John would have us become aware that Satan's chief tactic in the conflict between good and evil is to misinform. He specializes in the art of "spin," placing a false coloring on God's reputation. In so doing it is his goal to lead men and women and children to either serve an untrue image of God in fear or to become so repulsed by a warped caricature that they deny the existence of God altogether.

There is a sense in which the gospel commission is spiritual warfare wages at the level of people's theology or picture of God. Paul says, "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, NIV). We are engaged in a war of ideas about who God really is. Our calling as believers in Christ is to demolish every argument and pretentious claim about the character of God. As deception is pushed back by the word of truth, we will see countless searching hearts drawn to their Creator.

CONSIDER THIS . . .

The Pharisees scoffed at Christ; they criticized the simplicity of his language, which was so plain that the child, the aged, the common people heard him gladly, and were charmed by his words. The Sadducees also derided him because his discourses were so unlike anything delivered by their rulers and scribes. Those Jewish teachers spoke in monotonous tones, and the plainest and most precious scriptures were made uninteresting and unintelligible, buried under such a mass of tradition and learned lore that after the Rabbis had spoken, the people knew less of the meaning of the Scriptures than before they listened. There were many souls starving for the Bread of Life, and Jesus fed them with pure, simple truth.

Ellen G. White,
Christian Education, p. 142

A faithful shepherd of the flock of God is more precious in the sight of heavenly intelligences than the golden wedge of Ophir. True watchmen on the walls of Zion are few. Men who set forth the pure truth unadulterated with error, who proclaim and practice in their own life the righteousness of Christ, are indeed scarce. How few can say, with Paul, "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power; that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." Those whose life is hid with Christ in God will in these last days of peril preach the truth as it is in Christ Jesus.

They will manifest devotion, benevolence, and love, and will set the truth forth boldly, faithfully, and uncompromisingly. The angels of heaven will not have to witness in them the painful exhibition of a vain show of intellect bidding for the applause of man. The Lord weighs actions. He is with those who preach the simple truth because the people are in need of truth.

Ellen G. White,
Sabbath-School Worker,
December 1, 1895

There is no safe armor for the Christian but truth. This will be our safeguard in our associations with our fellow men. Our convictions must be true, our feelings must be true. We need to make sure that we are on the Lord's side in the warfare that is going forward on this earth. Truth must become our personal property, a part of our individual selves, if we would fight manfully the good fight of faith. If God's truth is cherished as an abiding principle, it will keep watch over our souls, and will send an alarm if danger threatens, summoning us to action against every enemy. But no power but truth--steadfast, pure truth--can keep us loyal to God. The simple truth of God, as it is in Jesus, brought into the practical life, will elevate and refine; but if it is not rooted in the heart, we cannot stand against evil. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ alone can make us steadfast to true principles and keep us so.

Ellen G. White,
Review & Herald, January 26, 1897

2007 YEAR-END CONSUMMATION

*Our goal is simple: print and preach as far and as fast as possible.
We exist as a ministry for the single-minded purpose
of spreading the good news of God's grace to all the world.*

We are loving our new location here in Jasper, Oregon. It is perfectly suited for our work, both the publishing work and the seminar ministry. The new facility is in the country surrounded by beauty, and yet it is just 20 minutes from I-5. This gives incoming and outgoing trucks easy access. Receiving loads of paper and shipping out containers of literature is a smooth operation by comparison to our previous remote location in Northeastern Washington. And what a blessing it is to have an airport just 30 minutes away, rather than our previous three hours! When you fly often, the closer airport makes a major difference. Just the physical-health and family benefits are enormous, not to mention the savings in time and money.

Getting relocated here had its challenges, but they were well worth it. First, the new buildings had to be built, and that took longer than we anticipated; but now the new facility is done and, Praise God, it was all a generous donation to Light Bearers. We moved in with no financial burden to bear.

There was also the challenge of getting the whole operation moved and set up for operation. Just for the publishing house this involved seven 53-foot trucks full of equipment. Then came the office portion after that. It was a major job to say the least. Again, our eagerness and

optimism anticipated that we would make the physical move faster and more easily than we did, but we'd rather aim high and miss the mark by a bit than aim low and hit the mark. Once the move was done, we were able to begin by January getting the equipment in place and recalibrated. Of course we had to work through some mechanical issues that arise when you move such large, fine-tuned machines, but we have now covered that ground for the most part and are gaining rapid momentum. It is abundantly evident that God did indeed open this door and lead us here.

Even with the time required to accomplish our relocation and get set up, our publishing goal for 2007 was still 10 containers. By the time you read this report, six or seven of those projects will have been completed and the remaining three or four are underway as we push to have them done by year-end. Here are the 2007 projects:

Zimbabwe (3 shipments)

Big in world news right now, Zimbabwe is imploding financially and socially under the much-criticized leadership of its president, Robert Mugabe. This is a nation in desperate need of hope, and

what better way to offer that hope than presenting to them the gospel of Christ. The first container for Zimbabwe went to Solusi College, which eagerly received this literature for educating its large percentage of non-Adventist students and for evangelizing its surrounding communities. This was a follow-up to James Rafferty's week of prayer/evangelism at the college. The other two Zimbabwe shipments are for distribution under the trustworthy leadership of missionary, Dr. Lyn Lambertson, and will be shipped before year-end.

Zambia (2 shipments)

We are very blessed to work in concert with Riverside Farm Institute, which was the receiving organization for the first Zambia shipment. They are a highly organized team of international and indigenous missionaries who work diligently to minister the light of the gospel in Zambia and surrounding countries. The second container for Zambia is for general use by the local conference and churches.

Botswana

This smaller African nation is

home to the largest and most wealthy diamond mine in the world, and great spiritual poverty. This country suffers with the second highest percentage of AIDS victims in the world. One in three people suffer with the disease. At the request of Pastor Paul Ratsara, President of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, Botswana was the receiving nation of a much-needed container of literature this year.

Solomon Islands

This is a nation consisting of nearly 1000 islands in the South Pacific Ocean east of Papua New Guinea. These islands are home to eager missionaries, church workers and lay people who will make great soul-winning use of the container of truth-filled literature sent to them as a gift from Light Bearers Ministry with your assistance.

Tanzania/Congo

As is the case with Riverside Farm Institute in Zambia, we are always eager to work with Kibidula Farm in Tanzania. They will use the literature we send for public evangelism and house-to-house Bible work in both Tanzania and Congo.