

liked studying very much. I scanned through the magazine and I was thinking, 'this is interesting.'

"When the lady returned later I regretted ever promising her the picture because now I wanted to read the magazine. I had to look for a page that had pictures on both sides so that I would not lose any of the written articles. That evening I cancelled all my programs and concentrated on reading that magazine. It was then that I found the truth I had been spent so many years looking for.

"After reading your magazine the church issue [the division between the SDA and the ASDA churches] did not matter. From that day on I knew the Seventh-day Adventist Church was the only true church of God. In less than a year I was baptized at a camp meeting in my rural hometown.

"I want to thank you, Light Bearers Ministry, for the work you are doing sending free literature to our country to reach the hearts and minds of so many people. We are currently working on a project to carry out literature evangelism and opening a Christian library, for we know that people need the Lord as much as I did.

"Thank you!"

Events Schedule

- **January 11-12**
Shady Point SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty—☎(541)878-3495
- **January 11-12**
Tacoma Central SDA Church, WA
Ty Gibson—☎(253)307-9614
- **January 17**
Bible Study, Franktown, CO
Ty Gibson—☎(303)517-1414
- **January 25-31**
General Conference Literature Summit, South Africa
Ty Gibson
- **January 26**
Valley View SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty—☎(541)570-9705
- **February 7**
3ABN Live
James Rafferty—☎(618)627-4651
- **February 15-16**
Men's Summit—Upper Columbia Conference
Camp Mivoden, Hayden Lake, ID
James Rafferty—☎(509)953-9091
- **February 27—March 9**
Riverside Farm Institute—Zambia, Africa
James Rafferty—☎260-9778-8472
rfi@zamnet.zm
- **February 28**
3ABN Live—Why Suffering?
Ty Gibson—☎(618)627-4651
- **February 29—March 2**
Kansas-Nebraska Conference Camp Meeting
Ty Gibson—☎(913)209-4455
- **March 3**
Midland Adventist Academy—Shawnee, KS
Ty Gibson—☎(913)268-7400

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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



People Pearls

By James Rafferty

Did you know that the pearls people love to wear as jewelry are made by oysters dealing with irritants introduced into their shells? The irritant is treated as a foreign invader by the living creature inside. This animal works hard and long to wrap the irritant with nacre, also known as mother of pearl (the iridescent, rainbow colored substance on the inside of the oyster shell). The entire process takes at least ten years, and then has a 50-60 percent chance of failure. Even when this process is complete, only a small percentage of the pearls will have a gem-like quality to them.

Keeping this in mind, I find it very interesting to consider the description of the New Jerusalem found in Revelation:

"He carried me away in the Spirit to

a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. . . . And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl" (Revelation 21:10-12, 21, NASB).

This city is the bride of Christ because it is the place He has gone to prepare for His redeemed people (Revelation 21:9; John 14:1-3). All the dwellers in this city will walk through one of the twelve gates named after the twelve tribes of Israel (Revelation 7:4; James 1:1). There are many parallels

between the formation of pearls and the formation of the redeemed people of God who will enter the pearly gates. Consider a few:

Like the formation of pearls in oysters, as we mature in life we encounter irritants in the form of trials, difficult and even traumatic experiences, as well as our own character defects and sins. These irritants will bring death unless they are layered with the "nacre" of God's love. Through the work of God's Spirit we are changed into something beautiful. Many will be slain by sin, but all who receive Christ will truly bear a gem-like quality of character for eternity. For all who enter into the joy of salvation in Jesus Christ, the gates of Jerusalem represent the foreign invader of sin met and conquered by the "nacre" of God's grace.

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NOW HIRING

Light Bearers is accepting resumés for the following positions (Job description available upon request):

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

Resumés may be submitted to Don Otis by email, don@lbn.org, or send to, Light Bearers Ministry, 37457 Jasper Lowell Rd., Jasper, Oregon 97438.

CONSIDER THIS . . .

Do we truly wish our loved ones a happy new year? Then let us make it such to them by kindness, by sympathy, by cheerfulness, by unselfish devotion. If we connect with God, the source of peace, and light, and truth, his Spirit will flow through us as a channel, to refresh and bless all around us. This may be the last year of life to us. Shall we not enter upon it with thoughtful consideration? Shall not sincerity, respect, benevolence, mark our deportment toward all?

Ellen G. White,
Signs of the Times, January 5, 1882

The Lord calls for many more to engage in the canvassing work in the year opening before us. For Christ's sake, my brethren and sisters, make the most of the hours of this new year to place the light of present truth before those now in darkness. Jesus is calling for many missionaries, for men and women who will consecrate themselves to God, willing to spend and to be spent in His service. O, can we not remember there is a world to labor for? Shall we not move forward step by step, letting God use us as His helping hand? As we do this, the love of Christ will touch and transform us, making us willing for His sake to do and dare.

Ellen G. White,
Australasian Union Conference Record,
March 15, 1905

The most difficult sermon to preach and the hardest to practice is self-denial. The greedy sinner, self, closes the door to

the good which might be done, but which is not done because money is invested for selfish purposes. But it is impossible for any one to retain the favor of God and enjoy communion with the Saviour, and at the same time be indifferent to the interests of his fellow beings who have no life in Christ, who are perishing in their sins. Christ has left us a wonderful example of self-sacrifice. He pleased not himself, but spent his life in the service of others. He made sacrifices at every step, sacrifices which none of his followers can ever make, because they have never occupied the position he occupied before he came to this earth. He was commander of the heavenly host, but he came here to suffer for sinners. He was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, that through his poverty we might be made rich. Because he loved us, he laid aside his glory and took upon him the form of a servant. He gave his life for us. What are we giving for him? Shall we not, in the new year just before us, consecrate ourselves entirely to him? Shall we not make him a New-year's offering of a portion of the means he has given us? As we follow him in the path of self-denial, lifting the cross and bearing it after him to his Father's home, we shall reveal in our lives the beauty of the Christ-life. At the altar of self-sacrifice,—the appointed place of meeting between God and the soul,—we receive from the hand of God the celestial torch which searches the heart, revealing the need of an abiding Christ.

Ellen G. White,
Review & Herald, January 31, 1907

LIGHT BEARERS IN ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe is the home of the first mission established by Seventh-day Adventists in Africa. Now known as Solusi University, this educational facility was begun in 1895 with a grant of land from the government. Last year we sent a container of literature to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, directing a portion of the literature to the University. Solusi is presently the second most attended university in Zimbabwe due to its educational excellence. Of the thousands of students who attend Solusi each year, a large majority are not Seventh-day Adventists. The campus itself is a mission field with the chaplains, teachers, pastors, Adventist lay-people and students engaged in ongoing evangelism and Bible studies. Each year many of the students give their hearts to Jesus Christ and are baptized. Here is the latest report from Solusi in relation to the literature we sent in May of 2007:

“Once again I thank you for the support in the spiritual development of Solusi, especially the student body.

“On the 1st of December we had yet another colorful graduation which was made possible by the lessons

we received from you. A graduation of 326 students was followed by a baptism of 30 souls.”

The year 2007 saw not just one, or even two, but three containers of literature going to reach the hearts of people in Zimbabwe, which is currently facing one of the worst economic conditions in the world. In addition to this last report we also recently received the following personal testimony about the powerful effect of this literature to bring hearts out of darkness and into the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ:

“Dear Friends at Light Bearers Ministry,

“I wish to share my testimony with you in as far as what God did for me through the Light Bearers Ministry magazine entitled, ‘To All the World.’

“I was born in a Salvation Army family and I used to go to church with my cousins until I was seven years old. Later I read my Bible, especially the book of John and the Revelation,

“I was given a copy but I hated the magazine and I did not want to even see it anywhere near me.”

though I did not understand the latter.

“The area I lived in was ninety percent Adventists. But sad to say, because of the way they lived I was never attracted to Adventism. I was somehow assimilated through a family friend into the African Seventh-day Adventist Church (ASDA) that sprouted from the mainstream church during the colonial period. (These people are similar to SDAs, only they allow polygamy. They use the same hymnbooks, Sabbath school quarterlies and church manual).

“Later I went to a rural home where this church did not exist and I therefore automatically worshipped with the Seventh-day Adventist Church (SDA). I stayed there for about a year and then went to Bulawayo where this church barely existed. Interesting to say, at the home where I stayed there was this magazine that I considered unreasonable. I was given a copy but I hated the magazine and I did not want to even see it anywhere near me,

so I packed it away. All along I was contemplating being baptized and joining the SDA church, but my mind would push aside the whole idea, for I told myself that I was already baptized in the ASDA church.

“Then one day a young lady came to me looking for a beautiful picture to cover her religious studies exercise book. She actually knew that I liked church very much and hence I was the best person to approach when she needed Christian pictures. When she presented her issue I thought of that magazine from Light Bearers Ministry. She went back to her place while I was looking for the magazine because I had isolated it so as to avoid reading it. However, instead of cutting out a picture, once I found it, I started reading the magazine that for so long I didn't want to see and had never opened.

“I was amazed that the magazine had the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation, the books of the Bible I