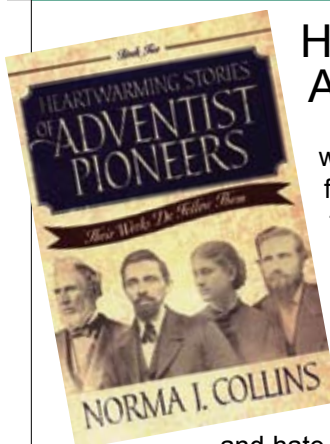


commitment to try to place 1,000 Bibles in every container of literature we send overseas. So far, by God's grace and your help, we have been able to keep that commitment. We have very much appreciated the donations of new and used Bibles along with other message materials coming in every week from individuals and churches all over North America. Please pray that God will keep this door open so that we can continue to send at least 1,000 Bibles with every container until the Lord returns. If you would like to sponsor Bibles for overseas just mark your tax-deductible donations for Bibles. And please keep sending any extra Bibles you may have to spare. Every Bible means another opportunity for the sword of the Spirit to be placed in the hands of another soul, equipping them to fight the good fight of faith.

New Program Airing On 3ABN!

You won't want to miss this one! *Books of the Book* is a new program on Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) designed to give viewers an in-depth look at the various books of the Bible. With insightful commentary, and their love of God's Word, Ty Gibson and James Rafferty co-hosted a new series on the book of Hebrews. Written by Paul to the Hebrews the apostle drew on his in-depth knowledge of the Old Testament to bring a better understanding and appreciation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and His ministry for us in heaven. You'll be amazed how this book sheds light on Christian growth today!

You won't want to miss a single episode. *Books of the Book* airs on 3ABN on Tuesday 12:30 pm PST; Wednesday (repeat) 12:00 am PST; Friday (repeat) 11:00 am PST; Saturday (repeat) 6:00 pm PST.



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Ty Gibson—☎(913)209-4455
- **March 3**
Midland Adventist Academy—Shawnee, KS
Ty Gibson—☎(913)268-7400
- **March 14-15**
Banning SDA Church, CA
James Rafferty—☎(951)255-8384
- **March 14-15**
Abbotsford SDA Church, BC, Canada
Ty Gibson—☎(604)854-5400
- **March 21-22**
Hayden Lake Adventist Church, Hayden, ID
James Rafferty—☎(208)762-5718
- **March 29**
Fall Creek SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty—☎(541)937-2257
- **April 4-5**
Centerville SDA Church, OH
Ty Gibson—☎(937)433-7007
- **April 4-12**
College Place SDA Church, WA
James Rafferty—☎(509)525-0882
- **April 19**
Fall Creek SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty—☎(541)937-2257
- **April 25-26**
Sebastopol SDA Church, CA
James Rafferty—☎(707)664-0789

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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



Normalizing

By Ty Gibson

To become radicalized for God is to become normalized as a human being. Our native state is one of total spirituality. We were made to be habitable temples for the indwelling of the living God (Ephesians 2:21-22), to be “filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:19).

Paul seems to exaggerate when he says, “Of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen” (Romans 11:36). Another version more lucidly renders this text, “All things find in Him their origin, their impulse, the center of their being” (Knox). This only seems like an exaggeration because we are so far removed from the natural state in which God originally created humanity. In actuality, when we are completely immersed in, devoted to, and acting toward God, then we are normal. When we are not, we are abnormal. We could say, using modern vernacular, that anyone who is not

totally on fire for God is “weird.” And yet, our true identity as human beings is so foreign to us that we consider anyone who is totally into God to be “weird.” We are out of touch with what and who we really are.

It has become popular to think of life as having a spiritual part or component distinct from other aspects of life. People speak in terms of their “spiritual life” as in some sense distinct from their “professional life,” their “family life,” their “social life,” their “secular life.” But the distinction between spiritual and secular does not actually exist. It is an invention of the fallen human mind. In fact, there is no word in the Bible for “secular.” There is no idea in Scripture of life having any component that occurs without reference to God. The word “secular” simply means, “not religious or spiritual in nature; not concerned with spiritual matters” (Encarta World Dictionary). The truth is, every aspect of life is concerned with spiritual

matters. Every aspect of life is spiritual because we are spiritual beings by definition. We are always in either a positive or negative spiritual state.

Don't think of your life as compartmentalized and your relationship with God as one of the compartments. Rather, think of your life as completely spiritual and do all that you do—job, educational pursuits, relationships, life-goals, recreation—within the spiritual framework. “Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

We are always experiencing and exerting either a positive or a negative spirituality. Everything we do is in favor of one of two antagonistic spiritual principles: either love or selfishness. God fashioned us in His image (Genesis 1:27), to love like He loves (1 John 4:16), and every decision we make that reflects His love is contributing to the normalizing of our humanity.

CONSIDER THIS . . .

The hearts of those who advocate this cause must be filled with the Spirit of Jesus. The Great Physician alone can apply the balm of Gilead. Let these men read the book of Nehemiah with humble hearts touched by the Holy Spirit . . . Nehemiah prayed to God for help, and God heard his prayer. The Lord moved upon heathen kings to come to his help.

When his enemies zealously worked against him, the Lord worked through kings to carry out His purpose, and to answer the many prayers which were ascending to Him for the help which they so much needed.

Just as long as we are in this world, and the Spirit of God is striving with the world, we are to receive as well as to impart favors. We are to give to the world the light of truth as presented in the Sacred Scriptures, and we are to receive from the world that which God moves upon them to do in behalf of His cause.

Who is it that owns our world? Who is the real owner of houses and lands? Is it not God? He has an abundance in our world which he has placed in the hands of men by which the hungry might be supplied with

food, the naked with clothing, the homeless with homes. The Lord would move upon worldly men, even idolaters, to give of their abundance for the support of the work, if we would approach them wisely, and give them an opportunity of doing those things which it is their privilege to do. What they would give we should be privileged to receive.

We should become acquainted with men in high places, and by exercising the wisdom of the serpent, and the harmlessness of the dove, we might obtain advantages from them; for God would move upon their minds to do many things in behalf of His people. If proper persons would set before those who have means and influence the needs of the work of God in a proper light, these men might do much to advance the cause of God in our world. We have put away from us privileges and advantages that we might have had the benefit of, because we chose to stand independent of the world. But we need not sacrifice one principle of truth while taking advantage of every opportunity to advance the cause of God.

Ellen G. White,
Review and Herald, March 23, 1911

THE SHOULDERS OF THE PHILISTINES

Every Bible means another opportunity for the sword of the Spirit to be placed in the hands of another soul, equipping them to fight the good fight of faith.



By James Rafferty

There is an incredible prophecy found in Isaiah II, one that is being fulfilled as you read these words. It describes the time when God is working to recover His people from all over the world, “from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea” (Isaiah II:11).

The prophecy then says that God will “set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth” (verse 12). In that context it describes how “the envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim” (verse 13). I love that verse!

Then it culminates with this

inspired prediction: “But they [God’s people] shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together; they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them” (Isaiah II:14).

Did you catch that? In the work of reaching the world with the gospel, God’s people are going to fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines. This means that the secular non-believing world will somehow lend support to God’s cause in the end of time.

I mentioned that this prophecy is finding fulfillment today, at least partially, as we speak. Recently Light Bearers Ministry (LBM) received help in taking the gospel to the world from a surprising direction—our local dollar store! It all began with a trip to Shady Point, Oregon to do a weekend seminar. I was staying with some old friends who were positive about supporting LBM by giving Bibles and

books from their own library. They told me that a number of folks at their church had been collecting material for our containers, including Bibles. And sure enough as we arrived that night at the Shady Point church there were several boxes of books sitting in the foyer, enough to fill the trunk of my car and the back seat.

In the course of our conversation my hosts mentioned to me that they had picked up some Bibles at their local dollar store. That’s when it hit me. “Of course,” I thought out loud, “why didn’t I think of that before.” We had been searching for an inexpensive Bible to send overseas, but with rising fuel costs shipping Bibles to our location was adding nearly 30 percent to the cost. As we discussed it further they suggested that we try the dollar store in Eugene and see if we could purchase large quantities of Bibles and save money on the shipping.

Back in the office the following week I asked Cindi, our bookstore manager,

if she could look into the possibility. She returned with some great news—not only could we get Bibles from our local dollar store by the hundreds, 900 at a time to be exact, but if we were willing to pick them up our postage would be \$4.95. That’s four dollars and ninety-five cents for shipping 900 Bibles or \$904.95 total. Praise God!

I picked up the first load of 900 last week. There were 50 boxes in all with 18 Bibles packed in each box. Each box comes with a red label stating, “not for resale,” which happens to be perfect for our shipping needs as we are sending them to third-world countries free of charge. They all fit nicely into the back of my pickup truck and are presently on a pallet at LBM ready for shipping. Cindi has just placed an order for 1,000 more and we have been told that the dollar store will continue to supply whatever we need as long as they have them available. Talk about riding on the shoulders of the Philistines!

Last year Light Bearers made a