

acquainted with the everlasting gospel and the three angels' messages (Revelation 14:6-12). Thanks to the Lord and to you his willing partners, the precious people of the Fiji Islands are about to receive a gift of incalculable value. In the month of April a cargo container full of truth-filled literature from Light Bearers Ministry will be shipped to Fiji for free distribution. Imagine the impact these gospel publications will have. Jesus declared, "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). The prophet Isaiah explained what will happen as a result of the gospel going to the world: "It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory. I will set a sign among them; and those who escape I will send to the nations . . . to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles" (Isaiah 66:18-19). This is the sacred mission we are called to fulfill. It is our calling and privilege to spread the fame of God's glory—the truth of His good character—to all the nations. "Then the end will come," Jesus said.

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Thank you for the part you are playing in hastening the coming of Jesus through the work of Light Bearers Ministry.



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## Events Schedule

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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
- **May 7-10**  
OCI Retreat, Prague, Czechoslovakia  
James Rafferty—☎(423)236-5600
- **May 16-17**  
Young Adult Retreat, Albion, CA  
James Rafferty—☎(707)823-1846
- **May 19-21**  
Upper Columbia Conference Ministers Retreat, WA  
Ty Gibson—☎(509)838-2761
- **May 24**  
Fall Creek SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty—☎(541)937-2257
- **May 3-June 1**  
Newport SDA Church Spiritual Retreat,  
Camp Mivoden, ID  
James Rafferty—☎(208)437-4196
- **June 6-8**  
Leoni Meadows Retreat, CA  
Ty Gibson—☎(530)626-3610

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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*



## Blood Atonement

By James Rafferty

“A nd almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission [pardon]” (Hebrews 9:22).

Here the book of Hebrews offers us a clear statement covering one of the more controversial subjects facing the church today—blood atonement.

The Bible teaches that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Therefore, the life that we now have comes only because God, in His mercy, has left our sins unpunished. Yet, He has also demonstrated to the universe that He is, in His innermost being, just as well as merciful. This is why: “God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to *demonstrate His justice*, because in His forbearance [mercy] He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—He did it to *demonstrate His justice* at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those

who have faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:25-26, NIV, emphasis supplied).

The sacrifice of God actually satisfies the justice of God while revealing His mercy, so that in the cross of Christ both God's justice and mercy meet together. “Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before Thy face” (Psalm 89:14).

We see, then, that the way God pardons sinners is fully consistent with His character of love—the perfect blend of mercy and justice. At the cross neither God's justice nor His mercy are slighted. They remain fully intact, each blending so tightly together that in the end they can hardly be distinguished. God can actually say that if we confess our sins He is “faithful and just to forgive us our sins” (1 John 1:9, emphasis supplied).

This also clarifies another significant section of Scripture found in the book of Leviticus concerning the Lord's goat and the scapegoat

(Leviticus 16:15-16, 20-22). Some have thought that both goats represent Christ since both seem to bear the sin of God's people. However, there is a very important distinction as to how these sins are borne. Only one of the goats is given as a blood sacrifice for atonement. Therefore, only the sacrificial goat can represent Christ who gave His life for the remission of our sins.

So what about the scapegoat? Why does it appear to be bearing sin also? The placing of sins upon the scapegoat was not done for sacrificial atonement, as the blood of this goat is not spilt in sacrifice and therefore cannot represent Christ. The sins were symbolically placed upon the “scapegoat” as a representation of Satan. This goat was then led alive to perish in the wilderness, signifying the final judgment when sin with its originator will be forever banished and destroyed (see Isaiah 14:12-20). Amen.

# CONSIDER THIS . . .

An important lesson may be learned from the history of the offerings of Cain and Abel. The claims of infinite justice, and the demands of God's law, can be met only by the atoning sacrifice of Christ. The most costly offering that man may bring to God, the fruit of his toil, his physical and intellectual acquirements, already belong to his Creator. Man has nothing which he has not received. Neither material wealth nor intellectual greatness will atone for the sin of the soul. Cain scorned the idea that it was necessary to come to God with an offering of blood. In the same spirit many in our day refuse to believe that the blood of Christ was shed as a sacrifice for the sins of men.

Ellen G. White,  
*Signs of the Times*,  
February 6, 1879

Love no less than justice demanded that for this sin judgment should be inflicted. God is the guardian as well as the sovereign of His people.

Ellen G. White,  
*Review and Herald*,  
February 11, 1909.

We may understand the subject of the work of Christ. His object was to reconcile the prerogatives of justice and mercy, and let each stand separate in its dignity, yet united. His mercy was not weakness, but a terrible power to punish sin because it is sin; yet a power to draw to it the love of humanity. Through Christ, Justice is enabled to forgive without sacrificing one jot of its exalted holiness.

Ellen G. White,  
*The General Conference Bulletin*,  
October 1, 1899

Let us study God's law in connection with the work of Christ. Man broke the law. Christ came to this earth to make an atonement for transgression. His atonement was complete in every part. As He hung on the cross, He could say, 'It is finished.' The demands of justice were satisfied. The way to the throne of grace was opened for every sinner.

Ellen G. White,  
*Signs of the Times*,  
July 31, 1901

He who was the brightness of the Father's glory, the express image of His person, bore our sins in His own body on the tree, suffering the penalty of man's transgression until justice was satisfied, and required no more. How great is the redemption that has been worked out for us! So great that the Son of God died the cruel death of the cross, to bring to us life and immortality through faith in Him.

Ellen G. White,  
*The Youth's Instructor*,  
February 11, 1897

But this great sacrifice was not made in order to create in the Father's heart a love for man, not to make Him willing to save. No, no! "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son." The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation, but He provided the propitiation because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world.

Ellen G. White,  
*Steps to Christ*, p. 13

## MISSION UPDATE



By Ty Gibson

Ancient Fijian legend states that the great chief Lutunasobasoba led his people safely across the vast and dangerous expanse of the sea to become the founders of the new land of Fiji. It is believed that these adventurous settlers came from Southeast Asia via Indonesia.

The first informative encounter the European world had with the Fijian people was through the reports of Captain James Cook and his crew in the late 1700s. The exploring sailors initially came upon the distinctive islanders in Tonga, where the Fijians were engaged in trade. They were described by one of Cook's men as "formidable warriors and ferocious cannibals, builders of the finest vessels in the Pacific, but not great sailors." The Tongans regarded the Fijians with awe because of their superior

# FIJI ISLANDS

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craftsmanship and with fear because of their warrior reputations.

Fiji was ceded to Great Britain in 1874. The new European rulers brought with them diseases that were new to the Fijians. A series of epidemics threatened the natives with the real possibility of extinction. To their credit, however, the colonial government discerned the tragedy in the making and intervened on behalf of the Fijians. Additional land sales were outlawed, preventing a complete takeover. Medical campaigns were launched as well. As a result of these strategic initiatives the Fijian people were preserved and their numbers began to increase steadily.

Fiji is a cluster of about 322 islands situated in the South Pacific Ocean halfway between the Equator and the South Pole, of which 106 are domestically inhabited. Set like living jewels among the many smaller isles, there are two main islands: Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, which constitute

roughly 85% of Fiji's total landmass. All the other islands are tiny by comparison. Of special interests to scientists is the fact that Fiji is a garden paradise that boasts some 10% of its plants to be found nowhere else in the world. Additionally, there are certain animals that are totally unique to these beautiful South Pacific islands, including the crested iguana, the pink-billed parrot finch and the Fiji burrowing snake.

The current population of Fiji is just under one million. About 50% are Fijians, tracing their ancestry back to the original settlers. Approximately 40% are Indians, most of which are the posterity of indentured servants brought to the islands from India to work on sugar plantations. The remaining 10% are a mix of races, including a growing number of Europeans and Chinese. The age demographic is relatively young. About 53%, or more than half of all persons in Fiji, are under the age of twenty-

five. Less than 10% of the population is sixty years of age and older. Literacy is a high 92%.

It is estimated that about 65-70% of Fijians are economically active, meaning they are a people who are largely engaged in commerce or industry of some kind. Following the world trend toward global economy, Fiji is becoming increasingly urbanized. To secure jobs in a growing internationalized market, more and more Fijians are moving into cities as the centers of capital movement. While it is still the case that the majority of Fijians live in rural areas (about 60%), the urban population is growing at a rate of about 2.6% annually while the rural population is shrinking by about 0.5% each year.

Religiously, Fiji is approximately 53% Christian, 38% Hindu, and 8% Muslim. The landscape is dotted with churches, mosques and temples. Most Fijians believe in one picture of God or another. But relatively few are