

our knowledge increases we tend to use it to extract creation's resources in a manner contrary to its laws. Everything we touch turns to gold, and then to dust.

When Satan's principles of consumerism and exploitation have played out to their inevitable conclusion, the earth is described as a "pit" or an *abyss* in the Greek (Revelation 20:1). The prophet Isaiah foretold that the human race will finally "gaze" upon Satan and realize that it was he "who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities" (Isaiah 14:16-17). When it is forever too late, we will realize that destruction lies within Satan's system of self-serving which we have so passionately bought into.

The economy established by God for Israel was an economy of stewardship, not of radical capitalism, nor of radical socialism. The basic rule was to give back whatever was taken, so that all things would either remain constant or increase. To the mass of humanity the stewardship model of living is nowhere within the purview of consideration. We simply live to consume and consume to live, and as a result we are killing the earth and its life systems one by one. Currently the human race is operating in such a manner that 50 to 80 species of life are going extinct each day, that's 18,000 to 29,000 in the course of one year. Global warming seems to be an indisputable fact that spells the demise of countless micro life systems. Oil extraction from the earth and the wars it instigates is entirely controlled by a relatively small group of men who are driven by greed. Some scientists tell us we have already crossed the point of no return. They claim we have already so badly damaged the environment that there is no course of action we could take to reverse our journey to extinction. While these assessments are perhaps extreme, and we know as Bible students that the human race will not end in extinction, it is evident that God will have to intervene soon or we will utterly destroy ourselves. The world is over for all practical purposes and we are living on borrowed time by the sheer interventional mercy of God. If He were to back up and leave us to reap the full impact of our ways, we would likely drive ourselves to extinction in a matter of years. Scripture declares that environmental ruin is a sign that God is about to intervene to "destroy those who destroy the earth" (Revelation 11:18). May He come soon and create all things anew!

Events Schedule

- **September 5-7**
Gorge Camp Meeting, Troutlake, WA
James Rafferty—☎(509)493-1463
- **September 8-13**
Papatoetoe SDA Community Church
Manaku City, New Zealand • info@papsda.co.nz
Ty Gibson—☎(011 64 9)278-7786
- **September 14-22**
Santa Clara SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty—☎(541)688-5081
- **September 23-30**
Santa Clara SDA Church, OR
Ty Gibson—☎(541)688-5081
- **October 10-11**
Oslo, Norway
Ty Gibson—Kai-Sture.Wiik@tandbergdata.com
- **October 10-11**
Tracy SDA Church, CA
James Rafferty—☎(209)835-5342
- **October 17-19**
Bullhead City SDA Church, AZ
James Rafferty—☎(928)758-8215
- **October 31–November 2**
Johannesburg, South Africa
James Rafferty—papuj@sid.adventist.org
- **November 3-5**
Port Elizabeth, South Africa
James Rafferty—papuj@sid.adventist.org
- **November 6-10**
Cape Town, South Africa
James Rafferty—papuj@sid.adventist.org

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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



“Those Who Destroy the Earth”

By Ty Gibson

The apostle John was shown that just prior to the second coming of Christ, humanity will have employed its powers to “destroy the earth” (Revelation 11:18). This is an ecological statement that offers us a rarely considered sign of the nearness of Christ's return. It indicates that God will intervene at a point in history when the human race has done irreparable damage to the earth. Peering into the mystery of humanity's self-destructive tendency, Isaiah foretold that the breakdown of the earth's environmental systems will signal the end: “The earth mourns and fades away, the world languishes and fades away; the haughty people of the earth languish. The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and

those who dwell in it are desolate. . . . When it shall be thus in the midst of the land among the people, it shall be like the shaking of an olive tree, like the gleaning of grapes when the vintage is done” (Isaiah 24:4-6, 13, NKJV). Satan is identified in Scripture as the destroyer (Revelation 9:11; John 10:10). Self-indulgence is his bottom-line rule of action: taking without giving, consuming without replenishing, using without preserving. Those who are actuated by his character recklessly rape the earth of its resources and exploit its wealth for personal gain with no regard for the dire outcome. The only interest is to arouse and feed the human desire for consumption in order to create products and fuel markets, with the end goal being to fatten up cash flow and consolidate wealth. Paul foretold that selfishness

would escalate out of control and become the ruling motive in the end time: “Know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money . . . without self-control . . . lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:1-5, NKJV). All anti-love actions are anti-creational as well, or anti-life (Romans 8:2, 6; James 1:15). Destruction is inherent in the ways of sin because sin is essentially the pursuit of taking whatever one can take for self to the hurt of others. Sin is self-gratification, self-exaltation and self-preservation, until there is nothing left to take. This has always been the course of fallen humanity, but what makes our time in history so much more dangerous is that our advances in science and industry have made it possible for us to work our ruin more rapidly. As

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BOOK OF THE BOOKS

3ABN SCHEDULE

MONDAY—10:00 AM (PST)

TUESDAY—12:30 PM (PST)

WEDNESDAY—12:00 AM (PST)

FRIDAY—11:00 AM (PST)

SATURDAY—6:00 PM (PST)

CONSIDER THIS . . .

I was shown that the judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord upon them, but in this way: They place themselves beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reproves, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, if they choose their own way, then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them. It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress, and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey. And storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short and, if he is not restrained, we shall see more terrible manifestations of his power than we have ever dreamed of.

Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 14, p. 3; Partially in Ellen G. White, *Last Day Events*, p. 242

I was shown that the time was in the near future that these whom God had warned and reprov'd and given great light but they would not correct their ways and follow the light, He would remove from them that heavenly protection which had preserved them from Satan's cruel power; the Lord would surely leave them to themselves to follow the judgment and counsels of their own wisdom; they would be simply left to themselves, and the protection of God be withdrawn from them, and they would not be shielded from the workings of Satan; that none of finite judgment and foresight can have any power to conceive of the care God has exercised through His angels over the children of men in their travels, in their own houses, in their eating and drinking. Wherever they are, His eye is upon them. They are preserved from a thousand dangers, all to them unseen. Satan has laid snares, but the Lord is constantly at work to save His people from them.

Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 14, p. 2

FULL AND OVERFLOWING



By James Rafferty

Walking in the door of the publishing house after a week of Camp Meeting I found a big surprise. The 15,000 square foot publishing facility at Light Bearers Ministry is full to overflowing. We had just received more pallets of magazines and Bibles and now, paper, tracts, books and magazines destined for overseas fill every corner and surround the presses and folders. There isn't room for much more and yet more is being printed everyday.

For the last few months we have been printing large runs of tracts of 200,000 plus. This enables us to prepare three or more containers worth of literature at once, which saves time and money in the long run. We have also just restocked the magazine supply for "Secrets of Peace" (Steps to Christ) and "To All the World." In addition, there is a steady stream of donated materials, such as Bibles and Spirit of Prophecy books, coming in from

What a great blessing to see God's people in the various parts of His church responding to the cry for help from overseas.

various individuals and churches, not to mention quarterlies and various surplus books from Pacific Press, ready to be shipped.

Another factor that has increased our inventory is the change in the Postal Service rates for overseas shipping, making it no longer affordable. Not only has this affected Light Bearers, but many individuals can no longer afford to send boxes of literature all over the world. Consequently, we have folks from as far away as Australia who are shipping us Bibles and other material because it is more cost effective to get the literature to the needy countries as part of a container.

With this in mind consider the testimony we have been given concerning the end of time:

"We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with danger on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the way of the Lord's messengers, so that they

will not be able to do that which it is possible for them to do now. We must look our work fairly in the face and advance as fast as possible in aggressive warfare. From the light given me of God I know that the powers of darkness are working with intense energy from beneath, and with stealthy tread Satan is advancing to take those who are now asleep, as a wolf taking his prey. We have warnings now which we may give, a work now which we may do; but soon it will be more difficult than we can imagine. God help us to keep in the channel of light, to work with our eyes fastened on Jesus our Leader, and patiently, perseveringly press on to gain the victory" (E.G. White, *Maranatha*, p. 29).

We are living in this very time. The passage from place to place is being hedged up. Travel is becoming difficult and shipping materials overseas is much more costly. If we believe this counsel we can be assured that it will become even more difficult than we can imagine.

As we press on together to perseveringly gain the victory, we can be assured that the results will be eternal life. As this literature goes forth, even if only one soul was reached, it would be worthwhile. "For the conversion of one soul we should tax our resources to the utmost" (Ibid.). This is because, "One soul won to Christ will flash heaven's light all around him, penetrating the moral darkness and saving other souls" (Ibid.).

What a blessing to be able to get the life-giving Words of Christ into the hands and hearts of millions of people in various languages. What a great blessing to see God's people in the various parts of His church responding to the cry for help from overseas. From firsthand experiences I can tell you that this literature means so much to those who receive it in the world field. Praise God for the channels that remain open and for your willingness to partner with us for God's honor. Amen.