

. . . “Liberal Ideas,” *continued from p. 1*

3. *Spiritualism*: Liberal Protestants are far more inclined than conservatives to be awed by spiritualistic manifestations and to validate them as communications from God. Revelation 13 indicates that spiritualism will be the unifying factor that will unite Catholics and Protestants.

4. *Political Liberalism*: Liberal politicians are far more inclined than conservatives to yield to popular opinion and perform the will of the clamoring masses. It could be that a conservative public, driven by fear in the wake of some hardship or catastrophe that threatens our survival, will force a liberal political establishment to enforce Sunday observance. We are told that, “Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 592).

The bottom line is that no political agenda, either conservative or liberal, serves the cause we really live for and will perhaps die for. The kingdom of Christ is not of this world, and the politics of this world, on both side of the party line, are preparing the world for its final crisis.

. . . Closer To Eternity, *continued from p. 3*

Christian education from mere technical knowledge.

“The true teacher is not satisfied with second-rate work. He is not satisfied with directing his students to a standard lower than the highest which it is possible for them to attain. He cannot be content with imparting to them only technical knowledge, with making them merely clever accountants, skillful artisans, successful tradesmen. It is his ambition to inspire them with principles of truth, obedience, honor, integrity, and purity—principles that will make them a positive force for the stability and uplifting of society. He desires them, above all else, to learn life’s great lesson of unselfish service” (*Education*, pp. 29-30).

In educating these young people who are preparing to make their own way in the world, it is my hope that they will not only fill a worthwhile place in society, but will also embrace the reality of eternity. This year during the second semester the seniors and I will dive into the book of Revelation and explore the powerful message given to John for the church especially in these last days. It has been a blessing to interact with these young people and to see them learning and growing in their biblical understanding and spiritual experience. May we all look for even greater blessings this coming year through a fuller revelation of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Light Bearers is accepting donated Bibles and Ellen White books for inclusion in our literature shipments. We are NOT accepting any other materials. Please do NOT send periodicals, quarterlies, children’s Sabbath school material or anything else other than Bibles and Ellen White books.

JANUARY 2009

## Events Schedule

- **January 2-3**  
Cottage Grove SDA Church, OR  
Ty Gibson—☎(541)942-5213
- **January 10**  
Pleasant Hill SDA Church, OR  
Ty Gibson—☎(541)746-1750
- **January 16-17**  
Grants Pass SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty—☎(541)476-6313
- **February 5**  
3ABN  
Ty Gibson & James Rafferty—☎(618)627-4651
- **February 7**  
Myrtle Creek SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty—☎(541)863-3815
- **February 16-22**  
Adventist International Mission School—Thailand  
Ty Gibson—pfoster@aims.ac.th
- **February 20-21**  
Sutherlin SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty—☎(541)459-4131

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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 Role of “Liberal Ideas” in Final Events

By Ty Gibson

An Obama presidency marks a sharp leftward turn for American politics by comparison to the Bush years. Understandably, many Adventists favor a liberal Administration because it is more likely to favor religious liberty and appoint liberty-preserving Justices to the Supreme Court. Other Adventists tend to favor a conservative White House because it leans more toward biblical moral values, also understandable. This brief article will suggest that liberal as well as conservative forces will contribute to shaping end-time events.

The prophetic picture painted in Revelation 13 makes evident that the mark of the beast will be enforced by a false Christian system composed of a threefold union between Catholicism, Protestantism and spiritualism. Ellen White highlights this catalyzing confederacy with penetrating insight:

“When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our

country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and Republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 451).

We are correct if we discern that conservative political and religious forces will play a major role in the enforcement of Sunday legislation. It makes sense that a religious law would be more eagerly advanced by a conservative movement than a liberal one. Only conservative religionists would be fired up enough to force their beliefs on others.

But wait a minute! It also makes sense that liberalism will also play a role in thrusting the world into its final crisis. In a statement that stands out as totally unique in the writings of Ellen White, we are warned that Catholicism “is the religion which Protestants are beginning to look upon with so much favor, and which will eventually be united with Protestantism. This union will not, however, be effected by a

change in Catholicism; for Rome never changes. She claims infallibility. It is Protestantism that will change. The adoption of liberal ideas on its part will bring it where it can clasp the hand of Catholicism” (*Review and Herald*, June 1, 1886). While the liberal wing of politics and religion is generally seen as more favorable to the protection of religious liberty, this inspired insight indicates that the adoption of liberal ideas will actually bring Protestantism to a condition where it “can” unite with the papal agenda. I can think of four obvious ways that liberalism will contribute to the enforcement of religious legislation.

1. *Pluralism*: Liberal theology, known as higher criticism, handles Scripture in such a manner that doctrinal certainty is diminished and all truth claims are equalized.

2. *Ecumenism*: Liberal theology in turn leads to liberal alliances between religions, tending to unite all religions as one, thereby creating a mammoth system that only awaits a common cause of self-preservation to make it act in its own interests against a truth-telling minority.

*continued on p. 4 . . .*

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## CONSIDER THIS . . .

In laboring in a new field, do not think it your duty to say at once to the people, We are Seventh-day Adventists; we believe that the seventh day is the Sabbath; we believe in the non-immortality of the soul. This would often erect a formidable barrier between you and those you wish to reach. Speak to them, as you have opportunity, upon points of doctrine on which you can agree. Dwell on the necessity of practical godliness. Give them evidence that you are a Christian, desiring peace, and that you love their souls. Let them see that you are conscientious. Thus you will gain their confidence; and there will be time enough for doctrines. Let the heart be won, the soil prepared, and then sow the seed, presenting in love the truth as it is in Jesus.

Ellen G. White,  
*Gospel Workers*, pp. 119-120

It is the design of God that through man His glory shall be revealed to the world; but it is only those who connect themselves with God in Jesus Christ, who can reveal that goodness and that fidelity which Christ manifested in his life. As the branches of the vine are united in the parent stock, so will the children of God be united as one in Christ. They are to reveal to

the world the character of God. They must study the Scriptures with the purpose in view of living the unselfish life of Christ. The true Christian will not become self-centered or conservative in his plans. "Of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace." As God's grace is given us freely, so it must be imparted to others.

Ellen G. White,  
*Review and Herald*, May 30, 1899

The disciples themselves could scarcely comprehend the fact that the blessings of God were for the Gentiles as well as for the Jews, and had to unlearn many lessons that made them conservative in their views concerning the mission and work of the Messiah. But evidences were given them that prepared them to understand that the tidings of the kingdom of Christ were to be preached to all nations. Now that their sympathies were broadening, and their ideas expanding in regard to the purpose of God, Christ desired them to act out their faith before he should be removed from them, that there might be no misunderstanding in regard to the extension of the gospel.

Ellen G. White,  
*Signs of the Times*,  
December 10, 1894

# CLOSER TO ETERNITY



By James Rafferty

Dear friends, where does the time go? My son is sixteen and driving. My daughter turns eleven this month. Light Bearers "recent move" to Oregon has hit the two year mark. And we are now one year closer to our Lord's return and the final end of sin, anxiety and fear. Until then we still have a work to do. Following is a short update covering our publishing house, overseas evangelism and a Bible class at Laurelwood Academy.

### Combining literature with Evangelistic Meetings

In 2008 millions of people were made aware of the soon return of Christ through the gospel tracts you helped us send all over the world. We hope to send between 15 and 20 containers in 2009, God willing. The harvest is ripe. Millions are accepting the Advent message. The growth of our overseas Conferences and Divisions testifies to the power of the Holy Spirit as it moves upon the hearts of honest souls searching for

*The harvest is ripe. Millions are accepting the Advent message.*

something better, something eternal. Listen to this powerful testimony of how combining literature with evangelism outreach brings explosive results:

Dear Brother Pretorius,

I write to say thank you for the evangelism gesture of love that Riverside Farm Institute extended to me by giving 1000 Bibles for Africa, VOP lessons and free literature. I know you went out of your way to do this, but I praise the Lord for the great success of the two crusades that I conducted both in Choma and Mazabuka. I used the new approach in crusade evangelism that you shared with me of using VOP lessons as part of the crusade strategy. I have approved this method. It really works. May God continue to bless your ministry of soul winning.

In Choma we baptized 420 souls, while in Mazabuka we baptized 168. In Choma we also baptized 15 prisoners. The VOP lessons were very exciting. We had 1,850 people

that accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. We gave out the Bibles and the free literature. We had many people who wanted Tonga lessons. We just hope they will be available in the near future.

May God continue to bless you and your family.

Yours Sincerely,  
Pastor Josephat Hamoonga

Pastor Josephat Hamoonga is hoping for Tonga lessons "in the near future." As you read this report those lessons are on their way. Praise God! They are part of the first shipment from our publishing house for 2009. The shipment will go to Riverside Farm and it will include VOP lessons in Bemba and Tonga.

This year brother Pretorius, who is the evangelism director at Riverside, will be enlarging their outreach to neighboring countries. By God's grace Light Bearers plans to send at least one container of literature per year to Riverside to aid in their growing evangelistic work.

### Businessman Helps Reduce Shipping Costs

While recently in South Africa I met an SDA businessman who owns a trucking company. He was eager to offer his services for God and asked if he could help us in some way. As we discussed possibilities we found that his company could truck containers inland to various countries like Zambia, Zimbabwe, and throughout South Africa. This service was offered to us at cost only, which will help cut down a huge shipping expense for literature outreach. Praise God!

### Teaching Bible at Laurelwood Academy

This year I will continue teaching Bible to the seniors at Laurelwood Academy. For the first semester we moved through the book of Daniel with a focus on character development. In each story of the first six chapters of Daniel we discovered principles of honor, obedience, integrity, purity and unselfish service. These are principles that form the very bedrock of character and separate

