



## Curiosities by Charles Case

In this amazing daily devotional for Juniors (ages 10-14) you will be introduced to a new side of nature and of its Creator. Get ready to trek across the desert, climb the mountain peaks, dive deep into the ocean, fly high into the sky—all to discover the marvelous things that God has created. From comet dust to flying squirrels, kangaroo rats to sea cucumbers, the great outdoors holds countless curiosities. You won't believe what you read about worms that build tents, killer whales that like to play, and animals that nap for seven months. And just wait until you hear about starfishes that grow new arms and crabs that look like they're playing the violin! God has hidden fascinating lessons in the details of His creation. So explore, enjoy, and praise the Creator of it all!

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... Three Steps, *continued from p. 1*

simply, it is God's love. Paul says, "For the love of Christ constrains us . . . He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:14-15, NKJV). "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, NKJV). "We through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith . . . faith empowered by God's love" (Galatians 5:5-6, personal translation). God's love is the most crucial factor to victory!

... Anywhere, *continued from p. 3*

stepped down into the water he pictured Jesus on the cross dying for him and this is what caused him to weep. I explained to Zack the verses in Romans 6 that compare baptism to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our sins. It was such a privilege to see this young man baptized and to dedicate to him a new Bible. The next day I left Malaysia for Japan and Mt. Akagi where there is a small self-supporting OCI institute. Japan is a country with over 126 million people with approximately 1 percent of the population being Christian. The meetings there were to be one week in length, including youth and adults sessions. The attendance was much smaller than Malaysia but the Holy Spirit was there to bless. The truths of God's Word and the presence of the Holy Spirit removed the barriers of culture and language bringing us all into a sweet and powerful fellowship in Christ.

MAY 2009

## Events Schedule

- **April 30–May 3**  
Northwest ASI Convention, Redmond, OR  
James Rafferty—☎(360)857-7000
- **May 8-9**  
Redmond SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty—☎(541)923-0301
- **May 16**  
Cottage Grove SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty—☎(541)942-5213
- **May 22-24**  
Vancouver Island Camp Meeting, Nanoose Bay, BC Canada  
Ty Gibson—norcot@telus.net
- **May 26-30**  
Carolina Camp Meeting, Lake Junaluska, Waynesville, NC  
Ty Gibson—☎(704)596-3200
- **May 30**  
Fall Creek SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty—☎(541)937-3526
- **June 13**  
Lebanon SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty—☎(541)258-7827
- **June 20**  
Fall Creek SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty—☎(541)937-3526
- **June 21-25**  
Washington Conference Camp Meeting, Auburn Academy, Auburn, WA  
Ty Gibson—☎(253)681-6008
- **June 26-27**  
Roseburg SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty—☎(541)672-1542
- **June 30–July 4**  
LBM Convocation, Jasper, OR  
Ty Gibson—☎(253)681-6008 [www.lbm.org](http://www.lbm.org)

PUBLISHED BY



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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*



## Three Steps to Overcome Any Sin

By Ty Gibson

**W**hoever you are, whatever your struggles and temptations may be, sweet victory is yours for the taking. You are more than a conqueror through Christ. Here are three spiritual maneuvers that will release you from the grip of any sin.

Name it: In your conscience, and before God, call your sin exactly what it is. Cease all explanations and excuses. Just get on your knees and confess that this thing is unequivocally wrong, that it is hurting others and destroying you. Verbalizing the truth of the matter is powerful. Doing so awakens deeper sensitivity and places your heart in an honest position before God and yourself. Moses instructed Israel, "It shall be, when he is guilty in any of these matters, that he shall confess that he has sinned in that thing" (Leviticus 5:5, NKJV). Confess the "thing," whatever it is, without reserve. David gave us this example of transparency

before God: "I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and You forgave the iniquity of my sin" (Psalm 32:5, NKJV). Honesty is crucial to victory!

Decide and act against it: There lies within you a God-given power to choose, and this is a power no force in the universe can prevail against. Satan and all his unholy angels cannot make a man or woman sin who has decided not to. Almighty God Himself cannot supersede your free will in moral matters. The Bible word for this movement of the will against sin is "repentance." It basically means a deliberate change of mind and direction, a spiritual 180. Once you decide against the sin and begin to act in a new, moral course, immediately new neurological, synaptic pathways begin to form. Your mind literally begins to take on a new shape. "Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin,

but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace" (Romans 6:11-14, NKJV). New habit formation is crucial to victory!

Receive power over it: This final point is absolutely vital, because no matter how firmly you decide against sin, your will power does not actually constitute the level or kind of power you need to overcome sin. You need a power outside of and above yourself to be poured into the moral fiber of your being. You need a constant inflow of divine power. This power is not a mysterious or nebulous thing. Quite

*continued on p. 4 . . .*

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# CONSIDER THIS . . .

The tempted one needs to understand the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man—the power of decision, of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. Desires for goodness and purity are right, so far as they go; but if we stop here, they avail nothing. Many will go down to ruin while hoping and desiring to overcome their evil propensities. They do not yield the will to God. They do not choose to serve Him. God has given us the power of choice; it is ours to exercise. We cannot change our hearts, we cannot control our thoughts, our impulses, our affections. We cannot make ourselves pure, fit for God's service. But we can choose to serve God, we can give Him our will; then He will work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus our whole nature will be brought under the control of Christ.

Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in the life. By yielding up the will to Christ, we ally ourselves with divine power. We receive strength from above to hold us steadfast. A pure and noble life, a life of victory over appetite and lust, is possible to everyone who will unite his weak, wavering human will to the omnipotent, unwavering will of God.

Ellen G. White,  
*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 176

It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them... Education, culture, the exercise of the will, human effort, all have their proper sphere, but here they are powerless. They may produce an outward correctness of behavior, but they cannot change the heart; they cannot purify the springs of life. There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ. His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God, to holiness.

Ellen G. White,  
*Steps to Christ*, p. 18

Love is power. Intellectual and moral strength are involved in this principle, and cannot be separated from it... Love cannot live without action, and every act increases, strengthens, and extends it. Love will gain the victory when argument and authority are powerless... It is diffusive in its nature and quiet in its operation, yet strong and mighty in its purpose to overcome great evils. It is melting and transforming in its influence, and will take hold of the lives of the sinful and affect their hearts when every other means has proved unsuccessful.

Ellen G. White,  
*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 135

# ANYWHERE WITH JESUS



*The truths of God's Word and the presence of the Holy Spirit removed the barriers of culture and language bringing us all into a sweet and powerful fellowship in Christ.*



By James Rafferty

Malaysia, located in Southeast Asia, consists of the Malaysian Peninsula and the States of Sabah and Sarawak on the island of Borneo. (Borneo is shared with Brunei and Indonesia). With a population of over 26 million, the country is separated into two regions—Peninsular Malaysia and Malaysian Borneo—by the South China Sea. Malaysia borders Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines.

Malaysia did not exist as a unified state until 1963, a few years after it gained independence on August 31, 1957. Rapid growth during the 80s and 90s, averaging 8 percent from 1991 to 1997, has transformed Malaysia into a newly industrialized country.

Malaysia is a multi-religious society, Islam being the official religion. Though the Islamic religion is government funded, the country is

secular according to the constitution following independence. A 2000 census showed that approximately 60.4 percent of the population practice Islam; 19.2 percent Buddhism; 9.1 percent Christianity; 6.3 percent Hinduism; and 2.6 percent traditional Chinese religions.

I arrived in Malaysia Thursday, March 5 after nearly two days of travel by plane. I took up residence at the Sabah Seventh-day Adventist Mission and prepared for 10 days of revival/reaping meetings. During the general sessions each evening we covered the book of Daniel and in the morning for the students, the book Revelation, focusing primarily on the everlasting gospel and practical Christian experience. The pastors had done a good job preparing for the meetings along with the "four wheel drive" club who were official sponsors. (These are a group of members who four wheel off-road as a hobby). Attendance was good throughout the series, spiking at over 650 on

Sabbath, in spite of the unseasonal thunderstorms. These storms hindered attendance due to light flooding in outlying areas, but were also a blessing as they kept the church cooler in this tropical climate (there was no air conditioning in the church).

Toward the close of the series we made a call for baptisms. Sabbath morning we witnessed a wonderful baptism that included one young man by the name of Zack. Raised in a devout Catholic home, Zack had been studying the SDA message, but was not sure if he should be baptized. Having similar backgrounds we connected almost immediately and I learned that Zack was under some fairly intense home pressure. His family was threatening to disown him if he left his Catholic faith and his brother had already been physically abusive, throwing furniture at Zack in the home. However, Zack was undaunted. He had some important questions like many sincere seekers do, but these were answered by the

Word of God. The meetings focused on the faithfulness of Daniel and his three friends who stood for God even when their lives were on the line. We focused one evening on the three young men who were thrown into the fiery furnace for their faith, only to find that Jesus was there with them. We noted that the mighty men who threw them into the furnace died at the door, but these three young men stood unharmed by the flames. I told Zack that going all the way with Jesus is where we find our truest freedom and that anything short of full commitment leads to death. Following the prompting of the Holy Spirit, Zack made his decision to go all the way with Jesus. As he descended into the baptismal tank he fell on the pastor's neck weeping uncontrollably. Then, after a couple of minutes Zack was baptized. He told me later that he felt an extreme pressure in his chest as he went down under the water, a pressure that was released as he came up. He also explained that when he