

done what they could in presenting the truth. But unless there is a more thorough effort made to fasten these impressions upon minds, your efforts will prove nearly fruitless. Satan has many attractions ready to divert the mind; and the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches all combine to choke the seed of truth sown in the heart.

“In every effort such as you are now making, much more good would result from your labors if you had appropriate reading matter ready for circulation. Tracts upon the important points of truth for the present time should be handed out freely to all who will accept them. You are to sow beside all waters.

“The press is a powerful means to move the minds and hearts of the people” (*Christian Experience and Teachings*, p. 225).

“The truth must be published far more extensively than it yet has been. It must be defined in clear, sharp lines before the people. It must be presented in short but conclusive arguments, and plans must be laid that at every meeting where the truth has been set before the people, it may be followed by the distribution of tracts and pamphlets” (*Evangelism*, p. 159).

“Very much more can be accomplished by the living preacher with the circulation of papers and tracts than by the preaching of the word alone without the publications. The press is a powerful instrumentality which God has ordained to be combined with the energies of the living preacher to bring the truth before all nations, kindreds, tongues and peoples. The Review and Herald November 4, 1875 paragraph Many minds can be reached in no other way. Here is true missionary work in which labor and means can be invested with the best results” (*Review and Herald*, November 4, 1875).

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James Rafferty • (509)295-3991
- **February 6**
Women's Retreat, Veneta, OR
Risè Rafferty • (541)935-3017
- **February 8**
Bible Study, Light Bearers Ministry
Ty Gibson • (541)988-3333
- **February 11-13**
Big Lake Retreat, Sisters, OR
James Rafferty • (503)850-3483
- **February 16**
7 Seals Study, Fall Creek SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)937-3526
- **February 23**
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Ty Gibson • (541)988-3333
- **March 13-19**
Bogenhofen Seminary, Austria
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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



Lamb Linked

By James Rafferty

Revelation 14:1-5 is an interlude between chapter 13 and the final proclamation of the everlasting gospel in chapter 14:6-12. Chapter 13 focuses on the beast power that reigns for 1260 years, its wound, and then its rise to prominence with another end-time power that brings a death penalty to all those who refuse to worship the beast.

It is here, between these two visions, that John sees Christ on Mount Zion with the 144,000. This is the fifth description of God's people found in Revelation 12-15. Many have thought this section of Scripture applies to literal Jews, but a biblical consideration of each of the eight descriptions is more generous, pointing to all those who trust in Christ as Savior.

Here are the eight characteristics with Bible verses identifying all believers who are linked by a personal faith connection to the Lamb:

They stand on Mount Zion. This

is the heavenly home, the place to be occupied by all the redeemed (Hebrews 12:22-23).

They have the Father's name written in their foreheads. This represents the character of Jesus, the love of God, which fills everyone who trusts in Jesus (Revelation 22:4).

They were redeemed from among men. Every saved person will have been redeemed from among men (Isaiah 43:1; I Peter 1:18).

They are virgins. The apostle Paul identifies all who believe the gospel and who follow Jesus to be "chaste virgins" (2 Corinthians 11:2-4). Christ used the same symbolic terminology to describe those who profess faith in Him (Matthew 25:1).

They follow the Lamb. All believers, not just literal Jews, are linked to the Lamb and follow Him who takes away the sins of the world (I Thessalonians 1:6; John 12:26).

They are the firstfruits. According

to the Bible this means they are "begotten" or "born again" (James 1:17-18; John 3:3). According to Jesus, this experience is a qualifier for all who are to enter heaven—Old Testament and New Testament faithful (John 3:3; Jeremiah 2:3).

They have no guile in their mouths. The gospel makes all guileless who genuinely accept Christ as their righteousness, whether Jew or Gentile (I Peter 3:10; Psalm 32:2).

They stand without fault before God. The promise of the word of God is that Jesus is able to present us faultless before His throne. This, too, is the privilege of everyone who trusts in Christ as Savior (Jude 24).

For a more detailed study on the subject order the book just published from Light Bearers Ministry entitled, *God is Inclusive—A Study on the 144,000*. Amen.

CONSIDER THIS . . .

Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire—so resplendent is it with the glory of God—are gathered the company that have “gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.” With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, “having the harps of God,” they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men; and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, “the voice of harpers harping with their harps.” And they sing “a new song” before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb—a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience—an experience such as no other company have ever had. “These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.” These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as “the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb” (Revelation 15:2-3; 14:1-5).

Ellen White,
Great Controversy, p. 649

There is a day just about to burst upon us when God’s mysteries will be seen, and all His ways vindicated; when justice, mercy, and love will be the attributes of His throne. When the earthly warfare is accomplished, and the saints are all gathered home, our

first theme will be the song of Moses, the servant of God. The second theme will be the song of the Lamb, the song of grace and redemption. This song will be louder, loftier, and in sublimer strains, echoing and re-echoing through the heavenly courts. Thus the song of God’s providence is sung, connecting the varying dispensations; for all is now seen without a veil between the legal, the prophetic, and the gospel. The church history upon the earth and the church redeemed in heaven all center around the cross of Calvary. This is the theme, this is the song—Christ all and in all—in anthems of praise resounding through heaven from thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand and an innumerable company of the redeemed host. All unite in this song of Moses and of the Lamb. It is a new song, for it was never before sung in heaven.

Ellen White,
Testimonies to Ministers, p. 433

And as we were about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised His lovely voice and said, “Only the 144,000 enter this place” and we shouted, “Alleluia.”

Ellen White,
Early Writings, p. 19

John, while in vision, saw a company clothed in white robes... They were seen in the temple of God. This will be the result for all who lay hold of the merits of Christ and wash their robes in His blood.

Ellen White,
Maranatha, p. 331

FILL THE WORLD WITH LIGHT!



By Ty Gibson

Prophecy is a powerful thing. It tells us what God has planned for the future and it tells us the part He wants us to play in His plans. One of the most amazing prophecies ever penned is basically a job description for the church of the end-times:

“I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory” (Revelation 18:1, NKJV).

“His authority was immense, his glory flooded earth with brightness” (Msg.).

“... and the earth was illuminated with his radiance and splendor” (AB).

“... his glory made the earth bright” (NCV).

“... the earth was filled with light because of his glory” (CEB).

“... his glory lit up the earth” (GW).

In a single sentence the Lord has envisioned for us our assigned mission. The final work of the church is a global illumination project. The whole earth is to be lit up, made bright, filled with light. What is that light? Paul tells us it is the “the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”

(2 Corinthians 4:6). Light is knowledge, and the vital knowledge the world so desperately needs is the knowledge of God’s glory as revealed in Jesus.

This mission is obviously huge, which raises the practical question, “How?”

Of course the church should employ every communication tool at its disposal. As we move into 2011, we here at Light Bearers would like you to share our vision and passion for publishing truth-filled literature. As the New Year opens before us, please consider the following inspired statements regarding the importance of the publishing work:

“The publishing branch of our cause has much to do with our power” (*Pacific Union Recorder*, April 1, 1915).

“In a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power and who lightens the earth with his glory” (*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 140).

“If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures” (*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 390).

“Our publishing work was established by the direction of God and under His special supervision. It was designed to accomplish a specific purpose. Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth

He has cut them out from the quarry of the world and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation. The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world; and in the accomplishment of this work our publishing houses are among the most effective agencies. . . . The publications sent forth from our printing houses are to prepare a people to meet God” (*Testimonies*, vol. 7, pp. 138-139).

“Some will be reached by our literature who would not be reached in any other way. From our books and papers bright beams of light are to shine forth to enlighten the world in regard to present truth” (*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 87).

“Our publishing houses are God’s appointed centers, and through them is to be accomplished a work the magnitude of which is yet unrealized. There are lines of effort and influence as yet by them almost untouched in which God is calling for their co-operation. . . . Our institutions should be missionary agencies in the highest sense” (*Testimonies*, vol. 7, pp. 144, 146).

“To every human being in the wide world who will give heed, we are to make plain the principles at stake in the great controversy—principles upon

which hangs the eternal destiny of the soul. . . This is the work before us; for this our publishing institutions were established; it is this work that God expects at their hands” (*Testimonies*, vol. 7, pp. 141-142).

“God calls for message-filled books, magazines, and tracts to be scattered everywhere like the leaves of autumn” (*Publishing Ministry*, p. 15).

“I have been shown that we are not doing our duty in the gratuitous circulation of small publications. There are many honest souls who might be brought to embrace the truth by this means alone. . . .

“These small tracts of four, eight, or sixteen pages can be furnished for a trifle from a fund raised by the donations of those who have the cause at heart” (*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 551).

“I have been shown that our publications should be printed in different languages and sent to every civilized country, at any cost. What is the value of money at this time, in comparison with the value of souls?” (*Life Sketches*, p. 214).

“I dreamed that a young man of noble appearance came into the room where I was, immediately after I had been speaking. He said:

“You have called the attention of the people to important subjects, which, to a large number, are strange and new. To some they are intensely interesting. The laborers in word and doctrine have

