

. . . Saving Faith, *continued from p. 1*

Only as we are clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness (His good works) and stand on His word, only as we overcome by His blood and follow Him wherever He goes, will we know what it means to have the faith of Jesus, a faith that saves us completely, entirely and eternally by His grace. And having this faith makes commandment keeping an act of pure love. Amen!

. . . Phenomenal Growth, *continued from p. 3*

LBM: In closing, how would you describe the relationship between truth-filled literature and soul winning?

GA: In His eschatological sermon in Matthew 24 and 25, Jesus warned His disciples that God's enemy would try to deceive them with a message that was a mixture of truth and error. If possible, He stated, the devil would even deceive the elect, the ones who are His chosen followers. However, what would prevent the elect from being deceived? There is only one answer: the study of the biblical truth. Jesus then stated clearly that when the gospel is preached as a witness to all nations, then souls will be won and Jesus will return. Truth-filled literature plays a major role in this final mission.

Time No Longer



Light Bearers Ministry has just updated and reprinted a pertinent book on the time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. *Time No Longer* was first printed 22 years ago when a wave of futurism hit the church, primarily from independent sources. For a time the influence of time-futurism subsided, but recently it has returned and so has this exhaustive study on the subject. *Time No Longer* is a rich resource of quotations on the issue of the time prophecies. Great for your home, church library or to share with friends. Softback, 64 pages.

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APRIL 2011

Events Schedule

- **April 1-3**
Washington Conference Bible Worker/Prayer Warrior Conference, Auburn, WA
James Rafferty • (253)681-6008
- **April 8-10**
Lentz SDA Church, Portland, OR
James Rafferty • (503)774-7290
- **April 9**
Monterey Bay Academy, La Selva Beach, CA
Ty Gibson • (831)728-1481
- **April 12**
Bible Study, Light Bearers Ministry
Ty Gibson • (541)988-3333
- **April 22-30**
Grants Pass SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)476-6313
- **April 26**
Bible Study, Light Bearers Ministry
Ty Gibson • (541)988-3333
- **May 6-21**
Milpitas SDA Church, CA
James Rafferty • (408)263-8137
- **May 10**
Bible Study, Light Bearers Ministry
Ty Gibson • (541)988-3333
- **May 13-15**
ASI Atlantic Union Regional Convention, Cambridge, MA
Ty Gibson • (978)368-8333
- **May 20-21**
Arlington SDA Church, Riverside, CA
Ty Gibson • (951)688-6630

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37457 Jasper Lowell Rd • Jasper, OR 97438 • USA
Phone: (541)988-3333
Fax: (541)988-3300
E-mail: info@lbm.org
www.lbm.org

*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



Saving Faith

By James Rafferty

Years ago, I read a book about the faith of Jesus in the context of keeping God's commandments (a description of God's people found in Revelation 14:12). Not having a photographic memory (and age working against me), I don't remember much of what I read, but there was one line I never forgot because it changed the way I understood faith—"faith does not make facts, faith lays hold on facts."

There is a tension between law keeping and saving faith. Notice how Revelation 14:12 reads with emphasis on the AND.

"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (NKJV).

For thousands of years God has had a people who have kept His commandments, all ten of them. God called the Jewish people to be a light to the world in keeping them,

including the Sabbath. The only problem (and not a minor one) is that when Messiah came, they rejected Him. From then to now, the Jewish nation as a whole does not have "faith in Jesus" (Revelation 14:12, NAS).

On the other hand, God has many people today who do have faith in Jesus. Christians of every station in life profess to place their trust in Jesus Christ. Millions emphasize the faith of Jesus as the only means of salvation, yet, for most, keeping God's commandments is "not necessary."

Do you see the tension arising from this verse?

For thousands of years God's people kept His commandments, but when Jesus Christ was born as the Son of God and Savior of the world, they refused Him. Now, millions who place their faith in Jesus reject God's commandments, or at least one or two of them (number two, forbidding images, and number four,

regarding the seventh-day Sabbath).

"Here," says the angel in Revelation 14:12, are those who embrace the tension. They have the patience to endure it. This leads them to keep the commandments of God AND to have the faith of Jesus. They are obedient, 100 percent true to God's law, yet they know, by personal experience that their obedience to the law cannot save them. Therefore, they place their entire weight upon the "faith of Jesus." Yet, knowing that they are saved by laying hold upon the facts of what God has done for them in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, they still keep God's commandments. Not in order to be saved, for their faith is in Jesus alone for salvation, but because they are saved. For Jesus Himself said, "if you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15, NKJV).

This description of God's people in Revelation 14:12 could be considered the summation of all the previous ones.

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CONSIDER THIS . . .

The third angel's message is the proclamation of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ. The commandments of God have been proclaimed, but the faith of Jesus Christ has not been proclaimed by Seventh-day Adventists as of equal importance, the law and the gospel going hand in hand. I cannot find language to express this subject in its fullness. "The faith of Jesus." It is talked of, but not understood. What constitutes the faith of Jesus, that belongs, to the third angel's message? Jesus becoming our sin-bearer that He might become our sin-pardoning Savior. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might take His righteousness. Faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus.

The only safety for the Israelites was blood upon the doorposts. God said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Ex. 12:13). All other devices for safety would be without avail. Nothing but the blood on the doorposts would bar the way that the angel of death should not enter. There is salvation for the sinner in the blood of Jesus Christ alone, which cleanseth us from all sin. The man with a cultivated intellect may have vast stores of knowledge, he may engage in theological speculations, he may be great and honored of men and be considered the repository of knowledge, but unless he has a saving knowledge of Christ crucified for him, and by faith lays hold of the righteousness of Christ,

he is lost. Christ 'was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed' (Isa. 53:5). "Saved by the blood of Jesus Christ," will be our only hope for time and our song throughout eternity.

Ellen White,
Selected Messages,
vol. 3, pp. 172-173

I address the ministers. Lead the people along step by step, dwelling upon Christ's efficiency until, by a living faith, they see Jesus as He is—see Him in His fullness, a sin-pardoning Savior, One who can pardon all our transgressions. It is by beholding that we become changed into His likeness. This is present truth. We have talked the law, this is right. But we have only casually lifted up Christ as the sin-pardoning Savior.

We are to keep before the mind the sin-pardoning Savior. But we are to present Him in His true position—coming to die to magnify the law of God and make it honorable, and yet to justify the sinner who shall depend wholly upon the merits of the blood of a crucified and risen Savior. This is not made plain. The soul-saving message, the third angel's message, is the message to be given to the world. The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus are both important, immensely important, and must be given with equal force and power. The first part of the message has been dwelt upon mostly, the last part casually. The faith of Jesus is not comprehended.

Ellen White,
1888 Materials, pp. 429-430

A STORY OF PHENOMENAL GROWTH— THE IMPACT OF THE PRINTED PAGE

On the 28th of February Light Bearers Ministry (LBM) received a special visit from Elder Gilberto Araujo, Vice President of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID). He came to thank us for the 50 containers of literature that have been sent to his division in the last quinquennium (5 years), to give us a first hand report of the success and value of this literature in reaching souls, and to ask for 100 more containers for the next quinquennium. It was an eye-opening interview and one that we knew must be shared with all our supporters.

LBM: Elder Araujo, how many countries compose your Division?

GA: A total of 23, including Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

LBM: That is a large territory with a massive population. What kind of growth has your Division experienced over the last few years?

GA: For the last two years (2009 and 2010) the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division is the fastest

growing Division in the Adventist Church (percentage of growth per ratio of population). Last year we baptized about 200,000 new members!

LBM: Praise God! So what is the current membership?

GA: We now have a total of 2.6 million members.

LBM: And what are your plans for the near future?

GA: We are aiming for 500,000 new members in 2011.

LBM: What part has Light Bearers Ministry played in this phenomenal growth?

GA: We are sure that if Light Bearers Ministry was not helping us with the many millions of pieces of literature you send us, we would not be in this position. In many countries, one of the best ways to reach people is with printed Bible studies such as the *Discover Guides* and the *Unlocking Revelation* lessons. In Africa, when you receive a pamphlet from a friend you not only read it, but you also share it with friends and family. So you can see the multiplying potential of the material

sent to us by Light Bearers.

LBM: So is the literature sent from LBM a main factor in making SID the fastest growing Division in the world?

GA: This is true. In Africa we don't have a problem building relations and inviting people to church. But evangelism is more than that. It is sharing Bible truths with those we love. Using the printed Bible lessons is still the best method of reaching the hearts of people. We do use television, radio and public evangelism, but by far the literature is the most efficient method.

LBM: For the last five years, how much literature has LBM sent to SID?

GA: So far LBM has sent 97,122,309 pieces of literature to our Division! But don't think that is too much! To be able to reach our goal of 500,000 new members in 2011 and one million in 2012 and 2013, we need 100 containers in the next couple of years. And this is the beauty of the thing: if we get the material, we will be able to bring 1 million souls to Christ in a single year! We are longing for the

day when we will have Pentecost in our Division. If the Lord provides the literature, very soon we will have 3 million members in our Division, moving fast to 4 and 5 million. If we get 100 containers from LBM, we will be providing two sets of lessons to each church member, which is almost nothing. But if you add God's blessing you can imagine what the results will be. Millions will be brought to the foot of the cross and made ready for the second coming of Jesus.

LBM: What would happen if LBM could send no more literature to SID?

GA: We cannot accept that this will happen. If LBM could not do it, God would provide from somewhere else. It is simply vital. But, hypothetically, if this happened, we would be faced with a serious problem and God's work would be paralyzed. It would be catastrophic for us and for LBM, because I am sure that one of the reasons why God is blessing you so much is because LBM and its donors have been sharing what they have. In return, God is pouring his blessings upon each one of you.