

was still driving. I had over 12,000 songs on my 80GB iPod, and it was on shuffle. I just wanted noise. The loud music helped drown out the voices in my head.

“Then something odd happened.

“Ty Gibson started to speak over the stereo. Startled, I looked at my iPod and saw that it was playing the ‘Triple Dose Series, Part One, The Perfect Love of the Father.’ I wanted to skip it, but I couldn’t. In my cynicism and anger toward God, I laughed and said, ‘Ok, God, let me hear what nonsense you have to say. I’ve already made up my mind, and you can’t change it. So humor me.’

“What was amazing is that with my iPod on shuffle mode, out of over 12,000 songs, it was this message that played, beginning with part one. Back in 2009, I had downloaded this series from lbm.org and forgot all about it, and I never went back to download anything more.

“As I listened to that message, the words cut to my heart and somewhere inside I knew that what Ty spoke was absolutely true. But could it really be true? I was raging mad at God and berated Him with angry words and questions as if He were sitting in the passenger seat of my car. Soon I was tired and couldn’t drive anymore, but I was still far from my destination, so I pulled over at a rest stop to catch some sleep. By 8 am I was awake and on the highway again. I was still bitter and confused, and still driving south to my destination. Again, my iPod was filling the car with noise.

“Then something very odd happened . . . again.

“‘Triple Dose Series, Part 2, The Passionate Love of the Son,’ began to play over my speakers. Now I was a little unnerved. I mean out of 12,000+ songs, ‘Triple Dose Series’ was being randomly chosen, and in proper order too!

“Needless to say, I listened. Then, after part two was done, I searched my iPod and found ‘Part 3, The Powerful Love of the Holy Spirit.’ And by the time I was done with part three, I could no longer reject God’s love. I was absolutely broken. The thick walls I had spent years building around my soul came crashing down. God’s beautiful light could finally get through. I decided to give life another chance and to truly give God a chance.

“From that point on God began a healing work in my life. When I gave my burdens to Him, it was like I could breathe for the first time in my life. I didn’t realize the weight I was carrying all my life until I gave it over to Him! On April 9th, 2011, I was baptized. Now that I see Jesus, and the infinite love God demonstrated on the cross, I can’t turn back.

“So in a big nutshell, that’s how I came to Jesus. Or, rather, that’s how Jesus reached out and snatched me from the fire.”

Light Bearers is now accepting applications for a full-time receptionist. We are looking for an energetic, positive, self-starter with excellent interpersonal service skills, someone who will communicate effectively by providing a professional and helpful attitude when answering the phone, greeting visitors, assisting fellow employees, and who is also proficient in computer applications. Applicants need to be dependable, be able to manage multiple tasks, be highly organized and a team player. If interested, please send resumé to don@lbn.org or mail to 37457 Jasper Lowell Rd., Jasper, OR 97438.

Events Schedule

- **August 30–December 10**
ARISE Cornerstone Program, Jasper, OR
(209)206-0915 • info@arishub.org
- **September 16-17**
Tabernacle SDA Church, Portland, OR
James Rafferty • (503)223-0623
- **September 16-24**
South Queensland Conference
Camp Meeting, Brisbane, Australia
Ty Gibson • 07 3218 7777
- **September 23-24**
Anderson SDA Church, IN
James Rafferty • (765)643-5541
- **October 1**
Junction City SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)998-5914
- **October 7-8**
Campus Hill Church, Loma Linda, CA
Ty Gibson • (909)796-0222
- **October 7-9**
Rocky Mountain Conference
Bible Workers Conference, CO
James Rafferty • (303)733-3771
- **October 14-15**
Walnut Valley SDA Church, CA
James Rafferty • (909)461-6159
- **October 21-22**
Clovis SDA Church, CA
Ty Gibson • (559)291-9121
- **October 28–November 12**
Lewiston Adventist Church, ID
James Rafferty • (208)743-1981

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



The Last Revelation

By James Rafferty

An evangelist is the name given to the New Testament (NT) heralds of salvation, and it means “a bringer of good tidings” (*Strong’s #2099*). Though the word for evangelist is only found three times in this form (Acts 21:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Ephesians 4:11), there are over 50 references to its root word in the NT (describing the preaching of the gospel). One of these is in Revelation 14:6—which describes the last revelation of the “everlasting gospel.” The word gospel means good news, and the fact that it is described as “everlasting” suggests that this message of good news covers the entire history of the human race.

Evangelism in the Old Testament

After his fall, Adam became an evangelist by trading his self-made fig leaf covering for the garments of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Genesis 3:21; Revelation 13:8). Abraham also embraced the gospel and

testified of the Lamb by building an altar of sacrifice wherever he pitched his tents (Galatians 3:8). The entire sanctuary system given to the Hebrews was centered around the lamb and the priest, which both pointed to Jesus.

Evangelism in the NT

John the Baptist was the first NT evangelist who pointed people to “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). The crucified Lamb was the focus of the NT church and in a short time they “turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6; 2:23, 36; 4:10; 1 Corinthians 1:13, 23-25; 2:2).

Evangelism in 1888

Apostasy (a falling away) from the gospel followed the apostolic age, and for many dark centuries the gospel was obscured by a system of creature merit and self-exaltation (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4). Yet, reformation did dawn and once again

the light of Jesus began to illumine the world until, in 1888, a new emphasis on Christ was to be given through His church. This “precious message” was to lift up Jesus and “God’s changeless love for the human family,” just as the apostolic church had done (*Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 91-93).

Evangelism in the Book of Revelation

Through symbols, the Book of Revelation unfolds the gospel of Jesus. The dominant symbol is that of the Lamb, mentioned more than any other symbol (29 times, or an average of 1.3 times in each chapter).

This book is God’s last revelation of Jesus Christ. It prepares us to stand for the truth by directing us to look to Jesus. This is evangelism in the true meaning of the word. Having this aim, every faithful evangelist can claim His promise: “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself” (John 12:32, NKJV). Amen.

CONSIDER THIS . . .

After Adam had sinned, a feeling of terror seized him. A constant dread was upon him; shame and remorse tortured his soul. In this state of mind he wished to be as far removed as possible from the presence of God, whom he had so loved to meet in his Eden home. But the Lord followed this conscience-stricken man, and while He condemned the sin of which Adam had been guilty, gave him words of gracious promise. In pronouncing the curse upon the deceiver, God had said: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Ellen White,
Signs of the Times,
December 23, 1886

This was the first gospel sermon ever preached to fallen man; this promise was the star of hope, illuminating the dark and dismal future of the race. Adam gladly received the welcome assurance of deliverance, and diligently instructed his children in the way of the Lord. This promise was presented in close connection with the altar of sacrificial offerings. The altar and the promise stand side by side, and one casts clear beams of light upon the other, showing

that the justice of an offended God could be appeased only by the death of his beloved Son. The bleeding victim consuming on the altar illustrated Adam's teachings, and thus the sight of the eyes deepened the impression made by the hearing of the ear.

Ellen White,
Signs of the Times,
December 23, 1886

Let Daniel speak, let the Revelation speak, and tell what is truth. But whatever phase of the subject is presented, uplift Jesus as the center of all hope, "the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star."

Ellen White,
Testimonies to Ministers, p. 118

Ministers should present the sure word of prophecy as the foundation of the faith of Seventh-day Adventists. The prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation should be carefully studied, and in connection with them the words, "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Ellen White,
Evangelism, p. 196

GOD USES AN IPOD WHEN HE NEEDS TO!

When a potential student applies for admittance to our ARISE Cornerstone Course, they fill out an application, which includes responding to this inquiry: "Describe how you came to Jesus." You will be on the edge of your seat as you read what twenty-four-year-old David R. wrote. And you will be blown away at the miraculous and high tech ways God will use.

"I first read the Bible in the summer of 2009. I was in Rochester, NY, studying human anatomy as a requirement for the Ithaca College Occupational Therapy curriculum. During this particular summer a number of things led me to seek God.

"1) I was dissecting human cadavers.

"2) My friend and housemate had just died. She was 21. Living in that house without her was a constant reminder of her death. My other housemate, Abby, became deeply depressed and on some mornings she wouldn't get out of bed and missed her classes. I was worried about her.

"3) For some reason, my own personal baggage from my tormented childhood began to float to the surface. It was overwhelming. I didn't realize I had repressed so much anger and

bitterness. For the most part, I was successful. I floated on through life like everything was okay, but now I began to lose my grip. The cauldron inside of me was approaching its boiling point. I knew I had to do something. But what?

"4) At that time, my younger brother, Peter, was being held in a maximum security prison and was facing 18 charges for armed robbery. Every Saturday I would visit him in that miserable place. I hated seeing him there—caged like an animal, his future grim. But something amazing happened that kept me coming back. Peter had found God. He had started reading the Bible and God began to transform his life. Peter was still the brother I knew, yet he was totally different. All Peter could talk about was Jesus. He was overflowing with a joy and peace I had never seen before. Peter—in that miserable facility, with miserable guards and miserable inmates, eating miserable morsels of food—was more at peace than I ever was. It was amazing. There was something real about my brother's change of heart, so for the first time in my life I read the Bible for myself.

"I was hooked. Everything my brother talked about was true. I spent

more time reading the Bible than my anatomy and physiology textbooks, and yet, I did great in the lab and on exams. Things just seemed to be falling into place. After a year in Auburn, 16 of the 18 charges against Peter were dropped and he was set free. God had worked a number of miracles. Life was on the upswing, but I had not yet surrendered all to Christ.

"These four factors contributed to my first encounter with Jesus as I read the Bible. God's Word had begun to cut to my heart. The door was finally opened for God to speak to me, but I still had not let him in. There simply was no room for Jesus in me with all the baggage and clutter I had accumulated inside.

"It was now my birthday, and I was in a very dark place. I became particularly introspective and decided that my future was hopeless. I could not see myself ever being free from the pain and bitterness. I had now reached a point of complete hopelessness. I was resisting the Holy Spirit's work in my life. After God granted some of my wishes, I simply put my Bible aside and focused on me again. Now the cauldron was boiling over. All the

suppressed bitterness and anger was blinding my sight. Not only did I give up on life, I gave up on God.

"So there I was, in my car, on my birthday, driving south on I-95. Although I wanted to commit suicide as soon as possible, I decided that I didn't want anybody to know what truly became of me. A month prior, my uncle died from a heroin overdose, and my family was still grieving. So I figured I could be more tactful with my suicide. How warped my thinking was!

"I had left a quick note saying that I needed a little break and that I would be back soon. My plan was, essentially, to disappear. I figured by ditching the car and ending my life, my family would be spared the harsh truth that I had committed suicide. In a sick way, I believed the devil's lie—that I was sparing my family and friends, and even doing them a favor by killing myself.

"I was on my way to follow through with my plan. But God had a much different plan. God is an amazing opportunist and will use any situation to reach His children.

"My iPod was connected to my car stereo and was playing songs through the speakers. It was about 2 am and I