

This is from a 19 year-old. A man of God. A leader.
 If only I could clone him.
 Nepal needs more Philips.
 The world needs more Philips.
 30 million people. The last Hindu kingdom. Where 330,000,000 gods are worshipped.
 Six ordained Adventist ministers.
 Six.
 Six!
 Jesus had twice as many disciples!
 It all sounds a bit discouraging.
 But then there's the Nepali Youth for Christ. God's men and women. Only they're teenagers, most of them. Holding down the fort. Doing the work of evangelists. Making full proof of their ministries. Modern Timothys (see 2 Timothy 4:5). These are the young Christians I rubbed shoulders with. This is their world. A world very different from my own. But I hope to bring a piece of their world into mine. They touched me.
 And I want their fingerprints to stick for a long, long time.

Events Schedule

- **August 30–December 10**
ARISE Cornerstone Program, Jasper, OR
(209)206-0915 • info@arisehub.org
- **November 5-20**
Eugene SDA Church, OR
Evangelistic Series. Call for specific times.
David Asscherick • (541)683-4169
- **December 3**
Sweet Home SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)367-4524
- **December 9-10**
Sierra Vista SDA Church, AZ
James Rafferty • (520)458-2641
- **December 28–January 1**
GYC, Houston, TX – www.gycweb.org
David Asscherick & Jeffrey Rosario • (734)418-2857
- **January 21**
Central Point SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)664-4687
- **January 28**
Stateline SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)558-3817

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 / ARISE



You Are Known

By James Rafferty

You are known—not by the CIA, or some other government entity, but by the God of heaven who knows us all before we are even born:

“Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, “Before I formed you in the belly I knew you; and before you came forth out of the womb I sanctified you, and I ordained you a prophet unto the nations” (Jeremiah 1:4-5).

We are known. Our lives, though not yet perfectly produced, are seen by God. Our future, our purpose in life, all is seen by God.

“For thou hast possessed my reins: Thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in

continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them” (Psalm 139:13-16).

And with that knowledge comes the calling of God. As many as are known (and that is all) are also called from the womb. From the very moment of our existence we are called of God by name:

“Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath He made mention of my name. And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to Him. Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength” (Isaiah 49:1, 5).

Yet the course of our individual lives often resists God’s calling. We experience wrong, pain and evil—the work of sin and Satan—and the voice of God is lost to our hearing, drowned in an ocean of doubt. God . . . Creator . . . called . . . loved . . . known . . . I don’t

think so. Our voice is added to the one we heard of years before:

“But Zion said, The LORD has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me” (Isaiah 49:14, NKJV).

As if to build our own case against Himself, God says:

“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget . . .”

A mother may forget her own child. Yes, they may and do. But what about God? Does He forget us who knew us before we were fashioned in the womb? Are we hopelessly forgotten?

“ . . . yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands . . .” (Isaiah 49:15-16).

We are created in the heart of God and redeemed at the cross! We are graven in His very hands that will ever bear the marks of His eternal love. You are known, wonderfully, unconditionally and mercifully known. Amen.

CONSIDER THIS . . .

Jesus says, "I know my sheep." Let us consider this statement. We are known by God before we receive Him. "I know my sheep." How do souls become Christ's sheep? By choosing to receive Him. But Christ had first chosen them. He knew every one who would respond to His drawing, and He knew every one who would be inclined to receive Him but who, through popular opposing influences, would turn from Him, John says to all, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Those who heard the voice and did behold Jesus as the Lamb of God believed in Him and became His property from their own choice. But . . . their choosing of Christ was in response to His drawing. The love of Jesus was expressed to us before we loved Him.

Ellen G. White,
That I May Know Him, p. 52

To Jesus the whole human family is entrusted, as the flocks of sheep are entrusted to a shepherd. These sheep and lambs are to be tended with pastoral care. They will be guarded by the faithful Chief Shepherd, under the care of faithful under shepherds, and if they will obey the voice of the Chief Shepherd they will not be left to be devoured by wolves.

Ellen G. White,
That I May Know Him, p. 52

Not a sigh is breathed, not a pain felt, not a grief pierces the soul, but the throb vibrates to the Father's heart.... God is bending from His throne to hear the cry of the oppressed. To every sincere prayer He answers, "Here am I." He uplifts the distressed and downtrodden. In all our afflictions He is afflicted. In every temptation and every trial the Angel of His presence is near to deliver.

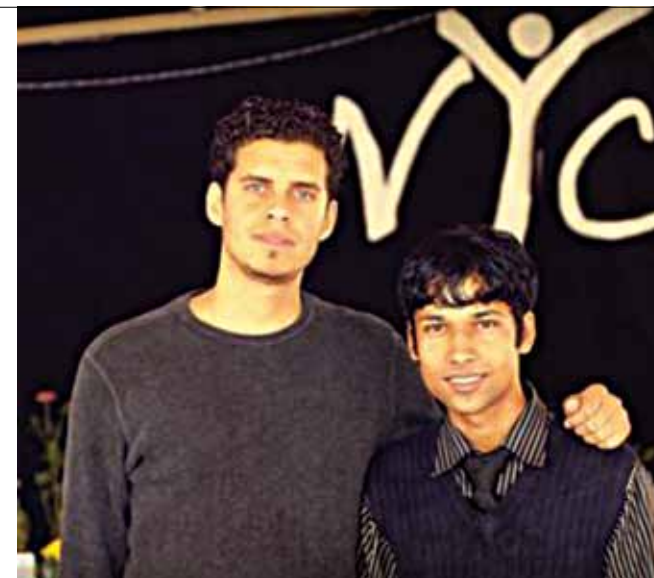
Ellen G. White,
The Desire of Ages, p. 356
(1898)

We may reach up to Jesus Christ who is our Advocate in the heavenly courts. We need a friend at court. We have been sinning, been disobedient, been transgressors, and it is of the highest consequence to us that we have a Friend at court to plead our cases to the Father. He says, "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto Me." Well, will all be drawn? Christ draws but will they respond to the drawing? Will they come? The invitation here in Revelation is this: "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).

Ellen G. White,
This Day with God, p. 223

AT THE FOOTHILLS OF THE HIMALAYAS

By Jeffrey Rosario



I thought I was excited about Jesus. I thought I was in love with the gospel. I thought I was passionate about the Word. But then, I preached my first sermon to a room packed with 400 young people from all over Nepal, India and, even, Tibet. It was the Nepali Youth for Christ Convention. This was truly an historical event—the very first nationwide gathering of Adventist youth in the history of the region.

Some of these young people traveled two days to attend these meetings and hear the preaching of the Word, either by foot, or on the floors of crammed, stinky buses that rattled through pitted, rutted gravel roads.

A visit to the accommodations was in order. Attendees slept on cement floors with a thin mat and blanket. Let's just say it was a bit different than the Marriott and Hilton that most of us are used to at our various conventions. But that's how they roll in Nepal. They were hungry. Not for food, but for God. They came for a spiritual revival.

It was all so inspiring, so humbling. Seriously, what kind of sermons do you preach to a crowd like this? No

pressure, right? "Jeffrey," I thought to myself, "you better have something seriously important to say!"

I preached.

God stood next to me as the Comforter, and—praise His Name!—the Word came to His people. And man, they ate it all up. "They received the message with great eagerness" (Acts 17:11, NIV). But by the end of the week what touched me most was the small group of youth who were responsible for organizing and executing this monumental event. The team was made up of eight members, ages 16-21. The president is an 18 year-old girl. For real. But not the kind you're used to. Trust me.

The level of spiritual maturity, dedication and sacrifice that I saw in these youth was beyond amazing. These are, without question, some of the most earnest young Adventists I've met in ten years of youth ministry. Take Flora. She's a 20-year old who helps run an orphanage. Get this: in her country, there are countless children who are born and raised in the prisons with their inmate mothers. Flora's orphanage ministers specifically

to these children. For about \$400, a child can have a place there for an entire year (food, clothing, shelter, etc.) On hearing this, I suddenly felt like Oskar Schindler at the end of Spielberg's *Schindler's List*: "This car, it's worth ten people. This gold pin, it's worth two more people." I started thinking of my new camera, that's two kids. My MacBook, that's three kids.

Super heavy.

And super needful.

In my world, most 20 year olds are more interested in Lady Gaga's new single, or the latest gossip on Facebook. Or some other inanity. But this is Flora's passion: people! This is the kind of girl she is. She's a world-changer, straight up.

My translator was a 19 year-old named Philip (after conversion, many Christians here exchange their Hindu-god names for Christian ones). This kid blew me away. Two words sum him up: sincerity and zeal. His energy was so contagious that it scared my jet lag away. He'd heard many of my sermons online and could repeat whole sections back to me. He mentioned things I forgot I ever said. What an absolutely humbling privilege! What an honor to

meet this young man, on the other side of the globe, and hear how much my ministry has blessed him!

I was moved beyond words. Truly, God is good.

Philip and his 18 year-old brother David (formerly, Krishna) are recent converts. They are developing into some seriously Spirit-filled preachers that will, I am confident, make a serious impact on their country.

Their father was a witch doctor who converted to Adventism. So what's daddy up to now? Oh you know, studying to enter the ministry. And all the people said . . . Hallelujah! Just 18 and 19. And what do these two brothers care about? What's their passion in life? The gospel.

I just received this message from Philip regarding feedback from the event:

"Jeffrey . . . it brings tears to our eyes to hear them saying, 'We were not a Christian, but now we give our life to Jesus.' And many more life-changing experiences. Thank you so much for all your help. Missing you.

"Your brother in Christ, Philip Dangal!"

Continued on p. 4 . . .