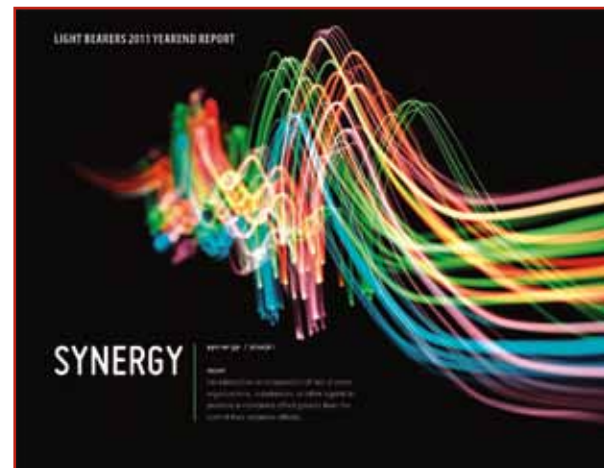


“As the work advances, dangers arise that need to be guarded against. As new enterprises are entered upon, there is a tendency to make some one line all absorbing; that which should have the first place becomes a secondary consideration. The church needs fresh power and vitality, but there is great danger of taking on new lines of work that will waste their energies instead of bringing life into the church” (*The Daily Bulletin of the General Conference*, March 2, 1899).

Preaching the gospel and ministering to the practical needs of the body so that the mental, spiritual and physical needs of humanity can experience the blessings of God’s grace—this is our work and the work of all who are followers of Jesus. Amen.



By now you should have received the **Light Bearers 2011 Yearend Report.**

If not, please request your copy by calling 541-988-3333 or visit

lightbearers.org to download an online version. We are certain you’ll be blessed by the reports of God’s advancing kingdom and an update on the merger of ARISE with Light Bearers. Your feedback will be much appreciated.

## HAVE YOU STARTED PLANNING FOR 2012?

We have!

Our plans for the 2012 Convocation are already being formulated.

We would love to have you mark your calendar and make plans to attend!

**July 3-7, 2012**

See you then!

## Events Schedule

- **August 30–December 10**  
ARISE Cornerstone Program, Jasper, OR  
(209)206-0915 • info@arisehub.org
- **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 10**  
Eugene SDA Church, OR  
Jeffrey Rosario • (541)683-4169
- **December 28–January 1**  
GYC, Houston, TX – www.gycweb.org  
David Asscherick & Jeffrey Rosario • (734)418-2857
- **January 14**  
Sutherlin SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty • (541)459-4131
- **January 21**  
Central Point SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty • (541)664-4687
- **January 28**  
Stateline SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty • (541)558-3817
- **February 10-25**  
Icap School, Poptun, Guatemala  
James Rafferty • (509)842-3952; info@H20forlife.org
- **March 10**  
Cottage Grove SDA Church, OR  
James Rafferty • (541)942-5213
- **March 16-30**  
Wolverhampton, England  
James Rafferty • 44 (115)960-6312

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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



## A Crippled Arm, Doubts and Something Better

By Bryant Rodriguez

**H**is right arm struck his right thigh whenever he made a good point. As Matt Parra preached on Acts 17, biblical balance and the logical fallacies of traditional definitions of balance, one thought streamed through my mind:

I’m supposed to be here. I know I am. God called me here.

For some time I have wanted to attend ARISE and learn from David, Matt, the Rosarios and all the great teachers that grace the whiteboard. But then, when I realized it was going to happen, and that the calendar date for the Cornerstone program would soon be upon me, all I could do was question my motives.

“Why do I want to go?”

Did I want to flatter myself by being among men of God and showcase my talents? Was I merely following the footsteps of my best friend, a subconscious mimicry? Did I expect a fix-all-my-problems and spit me out as Mark Finley treatment? Doubts, questions, and fears hung above me

when I stuffed sweaters in a suitcase, and while Delta brought me to Jasper, and even when the Miniki picked me up. They floated around until that moment in week of prayer when Matt Parra exhorted the class to test uncomfortable teachings and wrestle with them.

“Don’t be fixated on new light,” he preached while slapping his thigh to the rhythm of his statements. “Don’t be hostile to new ideas. Be a Berean and search the Scriptures for yourself.”

At that moment I knew I was where I needed to be. However, I haven’t been able to express why, until now, as Cornerstone has begun its ending process.

The why involves the fact that I have undergone a personal paradigm shift in my spiritual experience. My perceptions regarding the things of God have expanded dramatically. I’ve experienced intellectual and emotional growth, love and mentorship here. As we’ve explored the beautiful depths of God’s character and searched the Scripture, all the while

keeping in mind the story that is told every day about a suffering God who wants to establish a new creation and a new reality both now and forever, it has dawned on me with increased clarity that this amazing story includes me.

The passing days plainly etch this realization into my mind and heart.

Coming to Light Bearers for the ARISE program has not been a magical voodoo potion that transcends the effort, suffering and hard work that goes into growing in Christ. My story here began that night when Matt Parra spoke and the Spirit told me to not expect a magic fix. In my chair, the Spirit let me know He had something better in store for me, something much more meaningful. He always does.

Each time Matt’s crippled right arm rose and fell to slap his thigh, I knew the Spirit would show me how to acquire the strength these men have rather than leave me to feed off their strength.

And He has.

And He will.

## CONSIDER THIS . . .

In every page, whether history, or precept, or prophecy, the Old Testament Scriptures are irradiated with the glory of the Son of God. So far as it was of divine institution, the entire system of Judaism was a compacted prophecy of the gospel. To Christ "give all the prophets witness." Acts 10:43. From the promise given to Adam, down through the patriarchal line and the legal economy, heaven's glorious light made plain the footsteps of the Redeemer. Seers beheld the Star of Bethlehem, the Shiloh to come, as future things swept before them in mysterious procession. In every sacrifice Christ's death was shown. In every cloud of incense His righteousness ascended. By every jubilee trumpet His name was sounded. In the awful mystery of the holy of holies His glory dwelt.

Ellen G. White,  
*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 211-212

Christ emptied Himself, and took the form of a servant, and offered sacrifice, Himself the priest, Himself the victim. As the high priest, after performing his service in the holy of holies, came forth to the waiting congregation in his pontifical robes, so Christ will come the second time clothed in glorious garments of the whitest white,

"such as no fuller on earth can whiten them." He will come in His own glory, and in the glory of His Father, as King of kings and Lord of lords, and all the angelic host will escort Him on His way.

Ellen G. White, *Heaven*, p. 35

From the Holy of Holies, there goes on the grand work of instruction. The angels of God are communicating to men. Christ officiates in the sanctuary. We do not follow Him into the sanctuary as we should. Christ and angels work in the hearts of the children of men. The church above, united with the church below, is warring the good warfare upon the earth. There must be a purifying of the soul here upon the earth, in harmony with Christ's cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven. There we shall see more clearly as we are seen. We shall know as we are known.

Ellen G. White,  
*1888 Materials*, p. 27

Let us enter by faith the holy of holies, and hold communion with our heavenly Father and with our Redeemer, the Savior of sinners, who will wash us and make us white in His blood.

Ellen G. White,  
*Manuscript Releases*,  
vol. 20, p. 153

# THE PRINTED PAGE IS REACHING THE WORLD

By James Rafferty

While the social gospel holds a powerful place in mission work, there is a work that reaches to the root cause of misery in the world. In his book, *Revolution in World Missions*, Dr. K.P. Yohannan explains what this work is, and why it means so much when it comes to reaching the heart and mind in making a lasting difference for Christ.

"When God changes the heart and spirit, the physical changes also. If you want to meet the needs of the poor in this world, there is no better place to start than by preaching the gospel. It has done more to lift up the downtrodden, the hungry and the needy than all the social programs every imagined by secular humanists.

"Just before China was taken over by the communists, one communist officer made a revealing statement to a missionary, John Meadows: 'You missionaries have been in China for over a hundred years, but you have not won China to your cause. You lament the fact that there are uncounted millions who have never heard the name of your God. Nor do they know

anything of your Christianity. But we communists have been in China for less than 10 years, and there is not a Chinese who does not know . . . has not heard the name of Stalin. . . or something of communism. . . We have filled China with our doctrine.

"Now let me tell you why you have failed and we have succeeded,' the officer continued. 'You have tried to win the attention of masses by building churches, missions, mission hospitals, schools and what not. But we communists have printed our message and spread our literature all over China. Someday we will drive you missionaries out of our country, and we will do it by the means of the printed page.'"

This is one reason why publishing is such vital part of the work of the fourth angel which lightens the earth with the glory of God:

"And 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 for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 140).

Based on this counsel, God has

communicated to His church some significant insights when it comes to finishing the work of spreading the gospel. While we follow the example of Jesus in meeting the practical social needs of the world, the preaching of the gospel by pen and voice cannot be undervalued as noted by in the history of China and the rise of communism. Social programs and preaching the gospel are to be united. This is what makes the work of the church so powerful when the various bodies/ministries of that church work together. The medical, the educational, preaching, printing and every form of personal ministry:

"Of late [1899] a great interest has been aroused for the poor and outcast classes; a great work has been entered upon for the uplifting of the fallen and degraded. This in itself is a good work. We should ever have the Spirit of Christ, and we are to do the same class of work that He did for suffering humanity. The Lord has a work to be done for the outcasts. There is no question but that it is the duty of some to labor among them and try to save the souls that are perishing. This will have its place in connection with

the proclamation of the third angel's message and the reception of Bible truth. But there is a danger of loading down everyone with this class of work, because of the intensity with which it is carried on. There is danger of leading men to center their energies in this line, when God has called them to another work" (*Welfare Ministry*, p. 256).

"As the right arm is to the body, so is the medical missionary work to the third angel's message. But the right arm is not to become the whole body" (*Welfare Ministry*, p. 258).

This is how Light Bearers has been working for over 25 years, combining the various aspects of outreach in publishing and preaching to educate, minister and to awaken an understanding of God's love for every human being. And this combination, exemplified in the life of Christ, is now the essence of His church. This is the kind of work that will amount to the most good, strengthening all parts of the work by harmonious action. This harmony of action inclusive of all aspects of ministry needs to be maintained:

*Continued on p. 4 . . .*