

That's an awesome challenge. It's an invitation to live meaningful and intentional lives. And what better time to apply this than at the early part of this New Year that is upon us? Why not make 2012 a year packed with personal victories and the satisfaction of knowing we are growing daily in usefulness for the Kingdom of God.

May we live as if our time was significant in the grand scheme of things. As if our days and what we fill them with really mattered.

Because they do.

If you're not convinced, just ask the devil.

we would see
jesus
a study through the gospel of john

LIGHT BEARERS 2012 CONVOCATION

TY GIBSON / JAMES RAFFERTY / JEFFREY ROSARIO / DR JAY SUTLIFF / DAVID ASSCHERICK
JULY 3-7 / JASPER, OREGON / REGISTER AT LIGHTBEARERS.ORG OR CALL 541.988.3333

MARCH 2012

Events Schedule

- **March 10**
Cottage Grove SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)942-5213
- **March 19-22**
Longburn Adventist College, New Zealand
David Asscherick • www.lac.school.nz
- **March 19-24**
Waikato Regional Churches, Hamilton, New Zealand
Ty Gibson • +64 7 8270084
- **March 24**
Sutherlin SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)459-4131
- **March 25**
Myrtle Creek SDA Church, OR
Risè Rafferty • (541)430-2048
- **March 30-31**
CRIS Talks, MIT, Cambridge, MA
Jeffrey Rosario • foley@creativemanna.com
- **March 30-April 1**
Oregon Conference Prayer Retreat
Grove Christian Camp, Cottage Grove, OR
Ty Gibson • (541)942-5213
oregonconference.org/announcements/5192
- **April 5-6**
ACTS for Christ, Vancouver, BC
Jeffrey Rosario • info@actsforchrist.org
- **April 6-14**
Youth for Jesus, Marseille, France
Ty Gibson • www.connectetoi.org
- **April 7**
Winston SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)679-6255
- **April 13-14**
Stone Tower SDA Church, Portland, OR
James Rafferty • (503)232-6018
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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



Redeem the Time

By Jeffrey Rosario

The book of Revelation gives us a glimpse behind the scenes of the great controversy between good and evil: "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time" (Revelation 12:12).

God lifts the curtain and gives us the perspective of the other side. The devil has "great wrath." It's not that he's a bit upset. The Greek word for wrath means "passion, as if breathing hard." He's in a state of panic, a state of passionate anger.

But why?

The answer is right in the text: "because he knows that he has a short time." So there it is. It's a time factor. Satan is well aware of the times in which we live. He's familiar with the news. In fact, the effects of his work is what too often makes

the news. He's acquainted with the prophecies that are being fulfilled. So his reaction is appropriate. Is he more convinced about the solemnity of these times than we are?

Here's the insight Ellen White was given: "I have been shown that Satan has not been stupid and careless these many years, since his fall, but has been learning. He has grown more artful. His plans are laid deeper, and are more covered with a religious garment to hide their deformity. The power of Satan now to tempt and deceive is tenfold greater than it was in the days of the apostles. His power has increased, and it will continue to increase, until it is taken away. His wrath and hate grow stronger as his time to work draws near its close" (*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 2, p. 277).

I wonder if Satan made New Year's resolutions this year. I'm sure he's dedicated to get even better at his thing. It's evident that he's committed

to success. It's almost like he's making up for lost time.

Enough about the devil now. The question is: how does the Christian respond to this reality? And who better to ask than the apostle Paul? In Ephesians 5:15,16, he writes: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

"Redeeming the time?" To redeem means to "buy back." But how do you buy back time? Can you take back five minutes from yesterday? Can you take back a day from last month? Of course not. So what does it mean?

"We are admonished to redeem the time. But time squandered can never be recovered. We cannot call back even one moment. The only way in which we can redeem our time is by making the most of that which remains, by being co-workers with God in His great plan of redemption" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 342).

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CONSIDER THIS . . .

Another year of your life closes today. How can you look back upon it? Have you made advancement in the divine life? Have you increased in spirituality? Have you crucified self, with the affections and lusts? Have you an increased interest in the study of God's word? Have you gained decided victories over your own failings and waywardness? Oh, what has been the record of your life for the year which has now passed into eternity, never to be recalled?

Ellen White,
Testimonies for the Church,
vol. 2, p. 261

By what means shall we determine whose side we are on? Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Upon whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are on the Lord's side, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. . . we have consecrated all that we have and are to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His Spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things.

Ellen White,
Testimonies for the Church,
vol. 2, p. 261

One brother said to me, "Sister White, do you think the Lord will come in ten years?" "What difference does it make to you whether He shall come in two, four, or ten years?" "Why," said he, "I think I would do differently in some things than I now do if I knew the Lord was to come in ten years."

"What would you do?" said I. "Why," said he, "I would sell my property and begin to search the Word of God and try to warn the people and get them to prepare for His coming, and I would plead with God that I might be ready to meet Him."

Then said I, "If you knew that the Lord was not coming for twenty years, you would live differently?"

Said he, "I think I would . . ."

How selfish was the expression that he would live a different life if he knew his Lord was to come in ten years! Why, Enoch walked with God 300 years. This is a lesson for us that we shall walk with God every day, and we are not safe unless we are waiting and watching.

Ellen White,
Last Day Events, p. 42

DIGGING IN WITH DIGMA: A TEACHER'S TESTIMONY

BY DAVID SHERWOOD

Have you seen the new Digma videos?

If you haven't, go watch them immediately at digma.com, then share them with your social network. I'm serious. Stop reading this blog because someone on your "friends" list is waiting and needing to hear one of these messages. And the good news is, they are so well done that he, or she, will actually listen! After you've completed this modern mission trip, come back and read the rest of this article, and I'll share with you another effective way to use these visually engaging and contemporary videos. OK, ready? Go to digma.com and I'll see you in a few. . .

You're back, great.

So here's my own Digma story.

I was looking for a way to lead my junior Bible class into a discussion about theodicy; that is, how God can be all-powerful and yet allow an evil world to exist. The discussion

would lead into a Bible study on the great controversy motif of Scripture, which they could then share with others. That was the plan.

So first we watched Ty tell his own story in the Digma video *Paradigm Shift*. When he told my students that the reason he couldn't believe in God was because of the extensive evil in the world, these born-and-raised Christians could begin to see through the eyes of a similarly young non-believer. Perfect! The video ended and we talked about what we'd seen. After a lively class discussion, I then played the role of 17-year-old "Ty," and asked them theodicy-related questions from "his" perspective. Before answering the questions, they were given time to read the verses from the great controversy Bible study we would be using later. They were then to formulate responses based on Scripture, with help from me when needed. Using the video as the "hook" to capture their attention, and being able to carry that "hook"

as a role-playing analogy, through the rest of the lesson could not have been a more perfect scenario.

At the end of each class period I always leave five minutes for the students to write down comments about the day's class. The Digma video was mentioned, unsolicited, very favorably in almost every response. Numerous students said that by talking to "Ty," using Scripture they felt much more confident in their ability to share this important message with someone who needs to hear it. Mission accomplished!

The next time we met, a handful of students still hadn't had the opportunity to defend the goodness of God in our role-playing scenario. I began that class by playing another Digma video, *Atheist Too*, for the students. This time the students found themselves sitting next to me, an "atheist," on a plane trip. My first question was, "So, you believe the Bible has an answer as to how God can be who He claims to be, and yet allow all

this suffering? Let's see. Tell me."

At the conclusion of our unit on theodicy and the great controversy, the students were given the option to take a quiz over the information, or share the study with someone outside of class. More than 75% chose to share it!

Thanks Light Bearers for these great tools to capture the attention of my youth!