

... What Has God Wrought? *continued from p. 3*

Seventh-day Adventist (SDA). He told me that his mother sent him to Guatemala to learn Spanish. I remember him because as I was shaking hands with all the visitors and students with my gringo "hola" and "buenas noche," I hear a, "Hey, how are you doing?" come my way with a knowing smile on his face.

Another young lady who was baptized was the daughter of an American missionary. Her mother married a Guatemalan and has lived there for 27 years. This young lady was accepting the three angels' messages (I had just preached the "mark of the beast" last Sabbath morning) which brought her an entirely new understanding of Bible prophecy.

Additional connecting time with these young people was in the cafeteria and on game nights. Every Sabbath evening I joined them for football (soccer), basketball (basketball) and just to hang out. The first night we formed a "gringo" football team and almost got laughed off the field until I scored a goal (they didn't know that I was raised in England playing soccer). The crowd erupted with applause and our opponents lost no time trying to even the score (we ended the game tied I-I).

On the last evening I spoke on the new heavens and new earth. I was at my weakest and God was at His strongest! One man told me that heaven had never been so real to him as now. The pastor closed with an earnest appeal for more decisions, especially from the seniors. Dozens stood declaring an interest to be baptized following studies and it seemed that many more of the 500 students would be added to the 134 Adventist population.

One of the highlights of the trip was my translator, Eston. Raised a SDA, he was running the streets of Guatemala City when he first listened to a series of tapes that changed his life. He took them from his dad to record hip-hop from the radio, but decided he should listen to them before recording over them. That first listen brought him to tears and he began to translate the message for his friends. One of them ended up attending an evangelistic series with Eston and both decided to be baptized. The life changing moment came for Eston when his street-running-gang-friend-now-baptismal-candidate asked him, "You were raised an Adventist and you knew all this . . . How could you live with yourself?" That was 20 years ago and since then Eston has become a pastor and powerful witness for Jesus Christ. And you may have guessed, those tapes he listened to were a series of meetings from Light Bearers! (Look for his testimony on our blog page.)

What has God wrought?!
Amen.

Events Schedule

- **April 5-6**
ACTS for Christ, Vancouver, BC
Jeffrey Rosario • info@actsforchrist.org
- **April 6-7**
Stone Tower SDA Church, Portland, OR
James Rafferty • (503)232-6018
secretary@stonetowersda.com
- **April 6-15**
Youth for Jesus, Marseille and Auxerre, France
Ty Gibson • www.connectetoi.org
- **April 13-14**
Walla Walla University, College Place, WA
Jeffrey Rosario • (509)995-2558
- **April 14**
Winston SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)679-6255
- **April 14**
Springfield SDA Church, OR
David Asscherick with Songs of Ascent Concert
• songsofascent.org
- **April 19-21**
Hope Fellowship SDA Church, Oklahoma City, OK
Jeffrey Rosario • (405)202-3290
- **April 20**
Vancouver Community SDA
Church, Vancouver, WA
Songs of Ascent Concert • songsofascent.org
- **April 20-21**
ASI Atlantic Union Spring Conference,
Newport, Rhode Island
Ty Gibson & David Asscherick
• asiatlanticunion.netasi.org
- **April 20-28**
Grants Pass SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)476-6313

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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



We Would See Jesus

By Ty Gibson

News about Jesus and His wonderful deeds was spreading. People beyond the immediate vicinity of His ministry were hearing reports that this Man was unlike any other. On the night before the crucifixion of Christ, a group of Greeks came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast. Finding one of the disciples of Christ, they said, "We would see Jesus" (John 12:21). Something extraordinary was happening in and through this person called Jesus. There was something irresistibly attractive about Him. Something so beautiful that people were spontaneously speaking of Him and seeking Him out.

What was it?

What were people seeing in Him that aroused their curiosity and so deeply pulled at their hearts?

"He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9, NKJV), the Savior explained His mission. More precisely, He said, "the Father Himself loves you" (John 16:27, NKJV).

Jesus was giving human beings a completely new and brilliantly illuminating picture of God's character. He was upending everything they had been taught to believe about God. In every message he preached, and in every act He performed, He was conveying the love of God. And the revelation was like water to parched tongues, like a feast of good food set before the starving.

This year's Convocation, July 3-7, will be just that: a spiritual feast of fresh insights to the love of God manifested in Christ. The entire event and all the presentations will

be devoted to the gospel of John. Chapter by chapter, each speaker will contribute to the goal of unfolding the entire book. Our theme, "We Would See Jesus," expresses the heart-cry of those who have heard the news that this Man is like no other and that His revelation of the Father is beautiful beyond compare.

Consider this a personal invitation.

If you have never attended the Light Bearers' Convocation, prayerfully consider making this year your first. And if you have attended before, please make this year no exception. You will be richly edified by the fellowship, the music, the study of God's word and the reprieve from the stresses of daily life.

We hope you'll plan now to attend!

CONSIDER THIS . . .

Christ was approaching the consummation of His work. The great event which concerned not only the Jewish nation, but the whole world, was about to take place. When Christ heard the eager request, "We would see Jesus," echoing the hungering cry of the world, His countenance lighted up, and He said, "The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified." In the request of the Greeks He saw an earnest of the results of His great sacrifice.

These men came from the West to find the Savior at the close of His life, as the wise men had come from the East at the beginning. At the time of Christ's birth the Jewish people were so engrossed with their own ambitious plans that they knew not of His advent. The magi from a heathen land came to the manger with their gifts, to worship the Savior. So these Greeks, representing the nations, tribes, and peoples of the world, came to see Jesus. So the people of all lands and all ages would be drawn by the Savior's cross. So shall many "come from the east and

west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 8:11.

The Greeks had heard of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Some supposed, and had circulated the report, that He had driven the priests and rulers from the temple, and that He was to take possession of David's throne, and reign as king of Israel. The Greeks longed to know the truth in regard to His mission. "We would see Jesus," they said. Their desire was granted. When the request was brought to Jesus, He was in that part of the temple from which all except Jews were excluded, but He went out to the Greeks in the outer court, and had a personal interview with them.

The hour of Christ's glorification had come. He was standing in the shadow of the cross, and the inquiry of the Greeks showed Him that the sacrifice He was about to make would bring many sons and daughters to God.

Ellen G. White,
The Desire of Ages, pp. 621-622



It was my last night of cafeteria food. The next morning I would be leaving ICAP (ECAP) and saying "adios" to the hundreds of young people who had listened to me preach for the last 18 nights. A table of students motioned me over. I recognized two of the girls who had just given the special music. They shared their unsolicited testimonies about the impact of the meetings and when the tears began to fall I realized what God had wrought.

At first I wasn't sold out for Guatemala. Some friends wanted me to go more than I did, but it seemed like a great opportunity for my wife and daughter to be with me in the mission field. They would be working with the dental team and handing out clothes and goodies in the villages. Kierra even ended up pulling a tooth.

In addition, this outreach gave Light Bearers an opportunity to send a container of newly translated Spanish literature to Guatemala through Water for Life. As it turns out, Guatemala is hungry for



literature and before leaving we laid plans for a second container this year (God willing). Water for Life has been drilling wells in Guatemala for years. Words fail to describe the impact this ministry has had, the lives touched and literally saved, and the doors that have opened to the gospel through the untiring efforts of these volunteer well-drillers from all over the U.S.

Guatemala is in Central America bordered by Mexico to the north and west, the Pacific Ocean to the southwest, Belize to the northeast, the Caribbean to the east, and Honduras and El Salvador to the southeast. Its area is 108,890 km (42,043 mi) with an estimated population of 13,276,517.

A representative democracy, its capital is Guatemala de la Asunción, also known as Guatemala City (with a reputation as bad as Los Angeles).

The late 20th century saw Guatemala embroiled in a 36-year-long civil war which ended in 1996 with a peace accord. Following the



war, Guatemala has witnessed both economic growth and successful democratic elections.

ECAP is located in northern Guatemala, in what was mostly gorilla territory, and it became home to many young orphans whose parents were caught in the crossfire of the horrors of war. Today it is a thriving school offering not only academic education, but practical training in trades like mechanics and agriculture to the 500 students who attend this boarding academy.

The immediate fruit of this 18-day evangelistic outreach was unexpected, at least to me. In the first week, a young man whose religious background was Catholic had expressed an interest in baptism. By the close of the second week, four young people were baptized and then another four the following Sabbath morning.

One of those baptized was a young man from the Bronx, New York. He was not attending church at home though he was raised

WHAT HAS GOD WROUGHT?

BY JAMES RAFFERTY